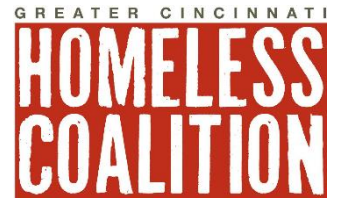


04-28-2020



Dear Mayor Cranley, City Council Members, Manager Duhaney, Director Carter and Assistant Manager Bigham,

We know that city Administration is currently working on the City's fiscal year 2021 budget and will likely submit a proposed budget in the next couple of weeks. We understand this is a particularly difficult budget to draft, and eventually finalize, because of the projected deficit and overarching future uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. With an acute awareness of the current crisis and its enormous impact on our community, neighborhoods, government and our people, we are writing to make an urgent call for our City, in our fiscal year 2021 budget, to **not** make any cuts to organizations or programs receiving City "Leveraged Support" and "Human Services" funding that specifically provide services or assistance to individuals and families with children experiencing any of the following:

- Homelessness,
- Low incomes,
- Housing insecurity,
- Racial marginalization,
- Trauma or violence,
- Addiction,
- Medical and physical health needs,
- Mental health needs,

Not making cuts to these programs and services includes **not** utilizing existing or **in-**coming state or federal funds that are already meant to fund the organizations operating these programs. To do so, would simply be moving the cut from one source to another, while the cut and its impacts remain.

If you are evaluating where to make cuts within the category of "Leveraged Support" for fiscal year 2021, we are calling on you to prioritize adults, families and children experiencing the situations listed above over all programs within "Leveraged Support" that do not specifically provide services or assistance to people experiencing these situations. We understand that people with differing experiences place differing valuation on the various types of programs within "Leveraged Support", but we are hopeful we can agree that the most basic of life-saving needs described here, must take priority. In addition, we are confident that for-profit organizations and organizations more closely associated with for-profit business, have greater access to alternative means of revenue and the ability to sustain a cut without the risks to human life that would result from cuts to the programs we are calling to be prioritized.

Cuts to programs responding directly to the needs of individuals and families facing the struggles listed here would cause long-lasting trauma for so many people, and magnify the pain caused by COVID-19 within our community. From a revenue perspective, cuts would have a ripple affect in making it less feasible for organizations to receive other funds they also rely on, given the requirements many of these sources have that a percentage of grants be matched.

To add some perspective, this is a non-exhaustive list of examples of what cuts to these most basic of services would require on the parts of agencies and subsequent results:

- Decrease in shelter capacity for families with children, men, women and youth in a time when the number of people living outdoors is increasing drastically and increased need is inevitable because so many people have lost their jobs.
- Loss of programing that provides after-care to families who have exited shelter and homelessness, resulting in more families and children eventually returning to the trauma of homelessness.
- Significant decrease in the prevention of eviction at a time when households will be facing evictions to a greater extent than we have possibly ever seen.
- Less ability for shelters to continue to provide shelter at hotels and thus increasing the threat of a COVID-19 outbreak among people experiencing homelessness.
- Fewer safe options for individuals and families with children fighting to survive domestic violence, while reports show that COVID-19 is leading to an increase in domestic violence.
- A decrease in the number of street-outreach workers joining people living outdoors in their efforts to enter permanent housing, while again, the number of people outdoors is reaching new highs.
- Increased shortage of programs to assist people suffering from the disease of addiction as they seek detox, harm reduction, sobriety and recovery.
- Reduced opportunity for seniors to remain housed and keep social distance.
- Reduced access to health care during a pandemic.
- Reduced supports for people dealing with mental health concerns in a time of exacerbated stress, fear and uncertainty.
- Increased struggle for households to make ends meet.
- Even fewer paths to secure and sustain affordable housing.
- Increased risk for the contraction of COVID-19 and decreased resources to respond when contracted.

We understand our City's budget needs to be fiscally balanced, and given the deficit, this will require cuts, but these cuts must be made without forcing women, children, men, youth and senior citizens into deeper poverty, increased trauma, and decreased medical and mental health. Before the COVID-19 pandemic struck, we were already in an affordable housing and poverty crisis, with programs unable to respond to the quantity of resulting hardships. Now these needs are further increasing. We must not respond to the budget crisis caused by this pandemic, by making cuts to programs that so many people who are socially and economically marginalized will rely on, in many cases as their only means of reducing the risk of contracting the virus.

[NOTE: SEE PAGE 3 FOR LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS AND SIGNERS. SEE PAGES 4 AND 5 FOR CC LIST]

Addiction Services Council:

Bradly Hale LPCC-S' Clinical Program Director

Bethany House Services:

Susan Schiller, Chief Executive Officer

Peg Dierkers, Chief Operating Officer

Cancer Justice Network: Health Justice for All:

Steve Sunderland, Executive Director

Caracole:

Linda Seiter, Executive Director

Center for Addiction Treatment:

Bob Mecum, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Michael Rosen, Vice President of Clinical Services

Center for Respite Care:

Laurel Derks Nelson, Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Bob Donovan, Medical Director

Central Community Health Board:

Gwen Jones, President

Cincinnati Health Network:

Kate Bennett, Executive Director

Dr. Joe Kiesler, Medical Director

Cincinnati Veterans Administration Medical Center:

Sally Hammitt, Director, Community Outreach Division

City Gospel Mission:

Roger Howell, President

Josh McBride, Vice President of Homeless Services

Crossroads Center:

Jamahal C. Boyd, Sr, Chief Executive Officer

Easterseals Serving Greater Cincinnati:

Pam Green, President & Chief Operating Officer

Marsha White, Financial and Housing Instructor

First Step Home:

Margo Spence, President and Chief Executive Officer

Interfaith Hospitality of Greater Cincinnati:

Stacey Burge, Executive Director

Lighthouse Youth and Family Services:

Paul Haffner, Chief Executive Officer

Bonita Campbell, Service Area Vice President

Lydia's House:

Mary Ellen Mitchell, Director

Mary Magdalene House:

Cary Powel, Executive Director

Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Greater Cincinnati:

Margaret A. Fox, Executive Director

Off the Streets & Anna Louise Inn, Cincinnati Union Bethel:

Viann Barnett, Managing Director

Our Daily Bread:

Georgine Getty, Executive Director

Prospect House:

David Logan, Executive Director

Salvation Army:

Major Everett Henry, General Secretary

Sarah Wagner, Director of Social Ministries

Onika Davis, Housing Manager

Shelterhouse:

Arlene Nolan, Executive Director

St. Francis Seraph Ministries:

Christine Schuermann, Executive Director

Michelle Dunne, Development Director

Strategies to End Homelessness:

Kevin Finn, President and Chief Executive Officer

Talbert House:

Neil Tilow, President and Chief Executive Officer

James Wilson, Vice President of Housing

YWCA of Greater Cincinnati:

Barbara Perez, President and Chief Executive Officer

Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition:

Josh Spring, Executive Director

CC:

Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley
Bobbi Dillon, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Holly Stutz Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff/Communications, Office of the Mayor
Yasmin Chilton, Public Affairs Aide, Office of the Mayor
Jessica Baker, Director of Constituent Affairs, Office of the Mayor
Rahiel Michael, Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Mayor
Bridget Patton, Director of Community Affairs, Office of the Mayor
City Manager Patrick Duhaney
Markiea Carter, Director, City of Cincinnati Department of Community and Economic Development
Health Commissioner Melba Moore, City of Cincinnati
Interim Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman, Hamilton County Public Health
Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus
Hamilton County Commissioner Stephanie Summerow Dumas
Hamilton County Commissioner Victoria Parks
Cincinnati City Council Person David Mann
Cincinnati City Council Person Chris Seelbach
Cincinnati City Council Person PG Sittenfeld
Cincinnati City Vice Mayor Christopher Smitherman
Cincinnati City Council Person Jeff Pastor
Cincinnati City Council Person Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
Cincinnati City Council Person Betsy Sundermann
Cincinnati City Council Person Wendell Young
Cincinnati City Council Person Greg Landsman
City of Cincinnati Assistant City Manager Chris Bigham
City of Cincinnati Finance Director Karen Alder
Nicollette Staton, Director, City of Cincinnati Performance and Data Analytics Department
City of Cincinnati Fire Chief Michael Washington
John Dunham, City of Cincinnati Health Department, Center for Public Health Preparedness
Joy Pierson, Hamilton County Planning and Development
Roy Hackworth, City of Cincinnati Community and Economic Health Department
Kelly Carr, City of Cincinnati Assistant to the City Manager
City of Cincinnati Assistant City Manager John Juech
Gina Marsh, Hamilton County Human Services Chamber
Ohio Governor Mike DeWine
Ohio Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted
US Senator Sherrod Brown
US Senator Rob Portman
Connie Laug, Rob Portman's Office

Tom Leach, Director, HUD Columbus Field Office
Bill Faith, Executive Director, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless
Columbus Coalition for the Homeless
Megan Hustings, Managing Director, National Coalition for the Homeless
John Parvenski, Interim Director, National Coalition for the Homeless
Donald Whitehead, Board President, National Coalition for the Homeless
Bobby Watts, Executive Director, National Healthcare for the Homeless
Ohio Hospital Association
National Association of Social Workers- National, State, Regional
Black Nurses Association of Greater Cincinnati
Southwest Ohio Nurses Association
Peg Fox, Executive Director, Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati
National Association of Community Health Centers
Catherine Ingram, Ohio State Representative
Steve Wilson, Ohio State Senator
Cecil Thomas, Ohio State Senator
Amy Weber, United Way
Rickell Howard Smith, Senior Director, Community Strategies, Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Michael Coffey, Senior Program Officer, Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Cincinnati Public School Board of Education
Julie Sellers, President, Cincinnati Federation of Teachers
Carolyn Cypret, Media Contact, Office of Lt. Governor Jon Husted
Dr. Mark Hurst MD, Medical Director, Ohio Department of Health
Dr. Amy Acton MD, MPH, Director of Health, Ohio Department of Health
Russ Kennedy, Deputy Director of Health, Ohio Department of Health
Gene Phillips MPH, MBA, RS, Bureau Chief, Ohio Department of Health
Rebecca Sandholdt, Bureau Chief, Ohio Department of Health
Michael Snee, Chief, Ohio Department of Health
Quanta Brown, Bureau Chief, Ohio Department of Health
Sietske de Fijter MS, Bureau Chief, Ohio Department of Health
Mandy Burkett, Chief, Ohio Department of Health
Betty Southall, Office of Sherrod Brown
Nan Cahall, Office of Rob Portman
Lori Beiler, Senior Grants Manager, Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Ellen M. Katz, President/CEO, Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Robert Killins, Jr., Director, Special Initiatives, Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Phillip P. Lanham, Chief Philanthropy Officer, Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Laura S. Menge, Sr. Philanthropic Advisor, Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Denisha Porter, Director, All-In Cincinnati, Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Moirra Weir, CEO, United Way of Greater Cincinnati