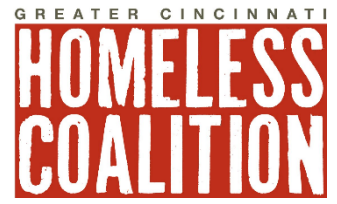


04-08-2020



Dear Mayor Cranley, City Council Members, Manager Duhaney, Commissioner Moore, Chief Winston and Directors Denning, Betts, Bailey and Kish,

As you know, our dozens of organizations have been coordinating daily to strategize and implement action to mitigate the threat of an outbreak of COVID-19 among individuals and families with children experiencing homelessness. In this, we have collaborated with the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, United Way of Greater Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

All of this has resulted in the establishment of a quarantine shelter for single adults experiencing homelessness who have been tested for COVID-19 and the movement of approximately 371 people from shelters to hotel rooms. This accounts for approximately 43 percent of the people in shelter prior to the pandemic. This week we will be moving at least 25 to 50 more people out of shelter and into hotel. While more hotel rooms and the funding to pay for them is still needed, this movement creates more opportunity for social distancing among people who are still in shelters.

Collectively, we have identified an important problem in need of **intervention from the city. The number of people experiencing homelessness outdoors is significantly and quickly increasing.** As a result of the pandemic, this growing number of people have **very little and in some cases no access to drinking water and water to clean hands** and no one in this situation can access a shower or laundry. We need to city to step in and provide for these basic needs to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Our hospitality members have converted their typical daily meal services to boxed meals available for pickup at their facility doors. As a result of this pandemic and the economic and access consequences of the wise decisions to close businesses, these organizations have seen a very significant increase in the number of people in need of meals. On 03-24-2020 Our Daily Bread served 164 lunch meals, on 04-07-2020 they served 350 lunch meals, **113 percent more.** While numbers of meals fluctuate daily, they are staying consistent at approximately double where they were before the pandemic. Nearby, St. Francis Seraph Ministries (SFSM) is serving at least 250 breakfast and dinner meals. SFSM reports that typically their numbers would decrease this time of the month, but instead are **steadily climbing.** Our hospitality organizations, street outreach workers and other service providers are reporting **very significant increases in the number of people living outdoors.**

Our Daily Bread and Mary Magdalene House have set up a port-o-let with hand washing capabilities outside of both of their facilities. Last Friday, 04-03-2020, Greater Cincinnati Water Works set up two clean water spigots outside of Our Daily Bread for folks nearby to be able to access drinking water. While these provisions are steps forward, they can only meet *some* of the basic needs of *some* of the people living outdoors who are within the vicinity of these two close locations.

Therefore, because public restrooms have been closed, water fountains turned off and facilities have had to close, the significantly increasing number **of people experiencing homelessness outdoors in our city have little and in some cases, no access to restrooms, water to drink or water to clean their hands. Nobody living outdoors has access to showers or to launder their clothes.** While we understand the reason for turning off water fountains and some of the other limitations, we know **that people have to be able to drink, clean their hands, their bodies and their clothes.** These are, of course, basic needs all of the time, but are of even **greater importance as we attempt to prevent illnesses and the spread of COVID-19.**

Without access to clean water to drink and clean oneself with, the threat of **scabies, Hepatitis A, trench-foot,** various **infections** and especially **COVID-19** increases exponentially. To provide for these most **basic of life-saving needs**, we need the City of Cincinnati to step in. We are calling on the City to finance and ensure placement and service of the following in public locations throughout the city:

- **Port-o-lets or restrooms with hand-washing capabilities.**
- **Hand-washing stations with soap and water.**
- **Clean drinking water spigots for filling containers.**
- **Shower trucks with soap and shampoo.**
- **Laundry facility for cleaning of clothing.**

This is an immediate need, that if provided will help to **curb the spread of COVID-19**, especially as we are all hearing that soon the number of cases of the virus will increase. We know these are necessary to **prevent outbreak among people experiencing homelessness**, to decrease spread throughout our City and ultimately **save lives**. We also understand that there is a **relatively low monthly cost** associated with renting most of these serviced items.

We, the undersigned present this immediate need and are **ready to have conversation** with city staff about where these provisions should be placed geographically.

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

**Our Daily Bread:**

Georgine Getty, Executive Director

**Mary Magdalene House:**

Cary Powel, Executive Director

**St. Francis Seraph Ministries:**

Christine Schuermann, Executive Director

Michelle Dunne, Development Director

**Cincinnati Health Network:**

Kate Bennett, Executive Director

Dr. Joe Kiesler, Medical Director

**Caracole:**

Linda Seiter, Executive Director

**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

**Center for Addiction Treatment:**

Bob Mecum, Interim CEO

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 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

**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

**Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Greater Cincinnati:**

Margaret Fox, Executive Director

**Prospect House:**

David Logan, Executive Director

**Salvation Army:**

Sarah Wagner, Director of Social Ministries

Onika Davis, Housing Manager

Major Everett Henry, General Security

**Shelterhouse:**

Arlene Nolan, Executive Director

**Strategies to End Homelessness:**

Kevin Finn, President

**Talbert House:**

Neil Tilow, President

James Wilson, Vice President of Housing

**YWCA of Greater Cincinnati:**

Barbara Perez, President and CEO

**Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition:**

Josh Spring, Executive Director

**CC:**

Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley  
Area Hotels, Universities, Colleges, Apartment Property Owners  
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 Duhane  
Health Commissioner Melba Moore  
Greg Kesterman, Interim Health Commissioner, 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 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  
Michele Lemon-Kearny, Future Cincinnati City Council Person  
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  
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  
Ross Meyer, Interim CEO, United Way of Greater Cincinnati