

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE OF GREATER COLUMBUS

2019 ANNUAL UPDATE



The Community Development Collaborative of Greater Columbus (Collaborative or CDCGC) invests in the capacity of community development corporations (CDCs) to revitalize their communities from the ground up.

CDCs were created to address the needs of specific neighborhoods, centering on housing and with a special emphasis on bringing vacant and abandoned houses back to productive use. They play a key role in furthering the Collaborative's mission of developing affordable housing opportunities, supporting revitalization efforts, and bringing new jobs into distressed neighborhoods.

The comprehensive scope of CDC activities includes programs and initiatives like the fresh food market, financial and life skills courses, day and after school care, the free store, neighborhood gardens, job fairs, homebuyer education, community websites, avoidance of predatory practices and foreclosure prevention. These strategies for redevelopment that are now employed by our partner CDCs have helped to transform neighborhoods in Columbus and Franklin County.

We greatly appreciate investments in Columbus and Franklin County neighborhoods. We want to thank the Collaborative members and our funding partners for their continued support and for their unfailing efforts to improve our neighborhoods.



Steven D. Gladman
Executive Director

HOUSING PRODUCTION



The Collaborative was proud to provide support to the following CDCs in 2019:

Community Development for All People (CD4AP)

Franklinton Urban Empowerment Lab (FUEL)

Gertrude Wood Community Foundation (GWCF)

Homeport

Homes on the Hill (HOTH)

Integrated Services for Behavioral Health (ISBH)

We also provided assistance to Franklinton Rising in order to help build their capacity in the area of financial management.

Collectively, the CDCs are in the process of rehabbing and/or constructing 138 housing units acquired in 2019. To date, they have sold 4 units and rented 11.



CONNECT STRENGTHEN SUSTAIN

“The CDCGC grant provides needed support for a housing specialist who serves Community Development for All People (CD4AP) with all the housing programming and planning. In the past the CDCGC has provided us with technical assistance through a grant that allowed us to get additional IT help to increase our capacity as our staff grew. Through previous long range planning which was made possible through the CDCGC support, we have continued to develop strategies to meet the housing needs of the South Side.” ~CD4AP

“As a small organization, the ebbs and flows of project based funding can cause significant administrative and financial burdens. This grant has served as a steady stabilizing factor in allowing this organization to continue to do the work that we have done to support the community of Franklinton over our 26-year history.” ~FUEL

“The GWCF provided resources to residents in the target community that created and improved access to affordable housing and supportive housing services; educated community residents on banking products/services and wellness; and promoted “aging in place” for seniors. The organization joined forces with community leaders to develop strategies to minimize criminal activity in Driving Park and on the Livingston Avenue corridor. The overall impact of these programs and initiatives in the community is: improved access to direct services; raised awareness of local and county resources; and greater visibility of the GWCF as a viable leader and team member interested in the overall improvement of Driving Park and surrounding communities.” ~GWCF

“The Operating Support and Housing Development Grant Program from the Community Development Collaborative has positively impacted Homeport as well as the current and prospective low- to moderate-income homeowners in the Milo-Grogan and American Addition communities of Columbus, Ohio. Furthermore, operational support helped Homeport’s Real Estate Development team to drive two rental development projects toward completion in order to increase affordable housing availability in the communities of Reynoldsburg and Grove City.” ~Homeport

“The grant has allowed Homes on the Hill CDC to expand its development capacity in delivering affordable new and rehabbed single-family homeownership and rental opportunities throughout the southwestern portion of Franklin County. Along with hiring a new staff member dedicated to housing development, Homes on the Hill finds itself well positioned to continue to accelerate its affordable housing development activities.” ~HOTH

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION



- CD4AP formed a new non-profit called All People Arts (APA) that will be located in the 1,500 square-foot retail portion of Parsons Village II. It should open in early summer of 2020. Although it had no current space, APA had ongoing activities throughout 2019. The official launch at the Cultural Arts Center was attended by more than 150 business, professional and community supporters.

- The Residences at Career Gateway Training Center, which CD4AP manages, offers career training programs to individuals from every walk of life. In 2019, CD4AP held 11 career boot camps which led to 56% of participants finding employment and 98% of participants utilizing training center resources.



- The “Avenue for All” event brought together businesses, agencies and people from both sides of Parsons Avenue.
- CD4AP’s fresh market served over 36,000 people throughout the year and the plaza area provided a space for events, nutrition classes and physical fitness classes.
- CD4AP hosted 8 events and over 150 health and wellness classes in the plaza in 2019.



- In 2019, FUEL hosted the Franklinton Job Fair, partnering with the Franklinton Board of Trade and Central High School.
- Franklinton.org continues to grow and add community resources. There are currently 175 resources and events listed. The site has been visited over 26,400 times since its inception. FUEL also rolled out Hilltopusa.org, which went live in mid-July. It’s had over 5,700 views to date and lists over 256 resources and events.
- FUEL decided to build upon the success of their Financial Life-skills program by inviting guest speakers to add their expertise and experience to the classes. This grew into two of those guest speakers (Huntington Bank and the Legal Aid Society of Columbus) returning to hold office hours in FUEL’s space, where they can offer one-on-one assistance to the program’s current and past participants. FUEL has had 80 community members graduate from the Financial Life-skills program.



COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

- **GWCF's Financial Empowerment workshop and Credit Repair program provided community residents with information on programs, products and services that promote financial literacy, stability and empowerment. Participants received support and assistance with repairing their credit in order to be placed in a better position to pursue homeownership.**



- **GWCF and Woda Cooper Development hosted a lease-up session at Bethany Baptist Church for prospective residents of The Livingston, a 45-unit supportive housing facility for seniors. This will facilitate contact with residents at the onset of leasing to determine eligibility for occupancy and prepare them for residency.**

- **In September, GWCF held a Community Housing and Wellness Fair. The Fifth Third E-Bus was on-site at the event along with housing and wellness resource vendors. Fifth Third Bank, Nationwide Children's Hospital and the ADAMH Board of Franklin County served as co-sponsors. Attendees received a free lunch, school supplies for children and gently used clothing items. They also registered for the Financial Empowerment Workshop and residency consideration at The Livingston.**



homeport

- **In June, Homeport and Columbus Realtors hosted the 2019 Realtor Care Day event in Milo-Grogan. Approximately 300 volunteers accomplished a diverse array of community projects. Ten owner-occupied homes received minor repairs and yardwork, and volunteers fenced in a community garden along Cleveland Avenue where they planted flowers and vegetables. Children enjoyed the Kids Zone, which included activities such as face painting, painting/planting flowerpots, and games. This event helped neighbors and volunteers build friendships and strengthen the community.**



- **The Milo-Grogan Community and Area Commission celebrated Brenda Moncrief, Homeport staff member, by choosing her to receive their Service to the Community Award. Homeport conducted community building efforts to increase rapport and access for community members to receive homeowner repairs. Their Financial Capabilities program in the Milo-Grogan community provides home readiness workshops, financial fitness courses, one-on-one credit health and financial coaching services. In 2019, three course sessions were offered on-site at the Milo-Grogan Community Recreation center and 27 residents received housing counseling courses and budget counseling sessions.**

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION



- HOTH partnered with the Community Shelter Board and other community groups to increase access to housing through their Landlord Engagement Network. They offer code enforcement remediation assistance, helping homeowners access resources such as the City of Columbus’s repair programs, Habitat for Humanity’s home repair program and MORPC’s weatherization program in order to resolve code violations.



- Working through the Westside Coalition, HOTH helped to provide services for seniors with a focus on transportation. They successfully lobbied to be added as a stop on the circulator bus route provided by The Greater Hilltop Shalom Zone, which will give seniors the opportunity to take advantage of HOTH’s free financial coaching, housing counseling, home repair information and fair housing advocacy programs.

- In 2019, HOTH counselors assisted over 60 clients with post-purchase counseling that included providing information about resources for repairs.



INTEGRATED SERVICES for behavioral health

- ISBH received an extension for the Community Transition Program (CTP), which works to house ex-offenders by working with private landlords in Columbus and providing tenant assistance, including bus passes and utility deposits. To date, CTP has housed approximately 120 individuals.
- ISBH was awarded funds for the Frequent Users Systems Engagement (FUSE) program, which works to house ex-offenders with higher rates of offense. FUSE works with private landlords and provides tenant assistance and, so far, has housed 10 clients.
- Partnering with Equitas Health, ISBH increased their outreach efforts for the Live Healthy Kids program, which covers a wide range of topics from identifying feelings and emotions, to learning simple cooking skills and learning about different cultures around the world. In 2019, events were held at Westmoor Middle School that included preparing foods from their own garden and a Thanksgiving feast.
- ISBH successfully opened a “pop up shop” to provide clothing, household items, toiletries, etc. to clients. The items are free and consist of donated items from the community, staff, and the Dominican Sisters of Peace. ISBH also adopted a local family and assisted them with household items, clothes, and presents during the holiday season.
- A client appreciation day occurred in July for potential clients of the “From Stable Housing to Independent Living” program to meet the ISBH staff. Participants were given baskets with household items and updated information on the program that they received through the Community Housing Network.

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