



# Metropolitan Housing Coalition NEWSLETTER

July/August 2010

## Change Local Transportation Policy

Are you happy with our public transit system? Here is **YOUR CHANCE- IT ONLY COMES EVERY FOUR YEARS-** to give your input on transportation planning for our Metro Louisville area. The U.S. Department of Transportation only checks with the public every four years to see if our local planners are doing a good job, even though hundreds of millions of dollars are used during those four years. Four years ago hundreds of people wrote or attended and change occurred.

This is your chance to create change again. The U.S. Department of Transportation is seeking public input during the federal review of the metropolitan transportation planning process for the Louisville Metropolitan Planning Area that takes place once every four years.

**A public meeting will be held August 10, 2010 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the South Louisville Community Center, 2911 Taylor Blvd.**

MHC knows that public transportation is a key part of fair and affordable housing. MHC has, for years, proclaimed that the current planning meetings take place in secrecy because they happen mid-day at Decimal Drive, virtually excluding those who use public transit or ride their bicycles- or anyone else from the public, for that matter. Here we are in 2010 and the meetings where multi-millions of dollars are spent are not even televised. How can we advocate for public transit at meetings that are not accessible by public transit and not available for view? The public relations staff wrote Cathy Hinko saying that it **only** took an hour and a half to get to the meeting by transit.

Come talk about these issues and more.

Written comments may also be submitted until August 25 to:

**Greg Rawlings**

**FHWA**

**330 West Broadway**

**Frankfort, KY 40601**

or by e-mail to [Gregory.Rawlings@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:Gregory.Rawlings@fhwa.dot.gov).

For those needing special accommodation, please contact Josh Suiter at (502) 266-6084 at least three days prior to the meeting.

The results of the FHWA/FTA 2006 transportation planning review can be found at <http://www.kipda.org/Transportation/MPO/FederalCertificationReview2010.aspx>.

They are also available by calling Josh Suiter at (502) 266-6084.

## A Coordinated Response to Children's Homelessness

A stark fact demonstrating our need for more affordable housing is that 10,555 children in Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) experienced homelessness during the 2009-2010 school year, an increase of 1,977 from 2008-2009. In 2009, MHC published *Where Do You Live: Louisville's Homeless Children and the Affordable Housing Crisis*, an in-depth examination of homelessness experienced by Jefferson County Public Schools JCPS students. For this report, MHC used data collected by JCPS but not fully utilized by the system. MHC provided a new, comprehensive picture of homelessness experienced by students and its impacts.

As a result of this research, MHC, the Coalition for the Homeless, and the Making Connections Network are partnering with JCPS, Family Court, and the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services (Child Welfare) to organize a September 2010 in-service training on child homelessness for front-line workers. With our partner non-profits, we engaged leaders in each of the three systems involved in the conference to assess their needs and concerns regarding the impacts of homelessness on their work.

This conference will educate workers from these systems about how a *housing* problem affects their work and outcomes with children. It will feature information about homeless policies and resources, as well as a video and testimony about the experiences of homeless children. Barbara Duffield, the Policy Director for the National Center for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, will be the event's keynote speaker.

Following the keynote address, breakout sessions will let members of each system collaborate on specific recommendations for increasing efficacy between systems in their work on behalf of homeless children. Through this collaboration, these systems will increase their awareness of how homelessness affects their ability to serve children.

Slots are by invitation only, so please contact Natalie Harris at the Coalition for the Homeless if you want to know more or would like to suggest someone to attend at [nharris@louhomeless.org](mailto:nharris@louhomeless.org) or 589-0190 x11.

## Nonprofit Housing Production and Repair Loan Program

Metropolitan Housing Coalition has administered the Nonprofit Housing Production and Repair Loan Program (NHPR) since 1998. Since that time, NHPR has provided 27 loans to 10 organizations worth \$2,576,940. The funding currently comes from yearly allocations from Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC), the housing finance agency for Kentucky. The allocations are made competitively after application by authorized regional nonprofit associations. MHC is one of only eight such groups.

The loan fund is made available to MHC nonprofit member organizations engaged in producing or rehabilitating housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The units can be ownership or rental, single- or multi-family. Each unit is counted separately. Rehabilitation is defined as any rehabilitation, renovation, alteration or reconstruction work undertaken in an existing building. For reporting purposes, the completed units must be habitable and located in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The value of housing units produced or rehabilitated under this program must not exceed a purchase price limit of \$150,000.

All persons served through this program must be considered low-income. Of the total of persons assisted, 60 percent must be at or below 60 percent of the area median income. All persons served must be at or below 100 percent of area median income.

Since these funds from KHC are considered a loan, MHC must pay back these loan funds at 1% interests over a twenty year period. Some funds are designated as operational funds based on completing and reporting on the contracted total of housing units. These funds are not to be paid back, assuming contract goals are met. MHC has met its goals each year.

Of the approximately \$1 million available state-wide, MHC received an allocation of \$279,451 to finance, acquire, construct, rehabilitate and/or repair 166 units. Of the 166 units, 150 will be for costs exceeding \$25,001 and 16 will be for costs between \$10,001 and \$25,000. MHC expects that the bulk of the total money used will come through various other sources put together by the nonprofit doing the work. The current fiscal year for this program is through December 31, 2010.

At present, MHC has outstanding active loans being used by River City Housing, New Directions Housing Corporation, Housing Partnerships, Inc. and the Louisville Metro Housing Authority. MHC is currently processing three requests from nonprofit members.

## Housing Justice Reading Group

The Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research at the University of Louisville (ABI) organized a Critical Reading Group to begin an interdisciplinary exploration of housing justice in Louisville in February 2010.

The group brings together community leaders, educators, and scholars from many perspectives, in hopes of advancing a wider public discussion of the diverse issues related to housing as a social justice issue. One of the positive results so far is the new research collaborations created through the group. A sub-group of the larger reading group is currently working on a grant proposal for a project that would examine the community impacts of HOPE VI revitalization in Louisville.

The group meets every three to four weeks depending on members' schedules. Readings discussed so far range from in-depth examinations of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOPE VI program to broader discussions of the possible causes of current residential racial segregation.

We have many people already at the table, but could always benefit from more voices in the conversation.

If you are interested in learning more about the Housing Justice Critical Reading Group, as well as ABI's other efforts, contact program coordinator Amber Duke at 852-6142 or by email at [AGDUKE01@louisville.edu](mailto:AGDUKE01@louisville.edu).



## Schedule of Events

**August 10 - Fair Housing Coalition Meeting.** New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**August 10 - Neighborhood Public Art: The Creativity Rising Project.** A panel discussion, artists' talk, and presentation of "Creativity Rising", a multi-site public art project in the Phoenix Hill neighborhood. 21c Museum, 700 W. Main, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

**August 17 - Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign Meeting.** Presbyterian Community Center, 701 South Hancock, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**August 22 - Coalition for the Homeless Poverty Simulation.** An interactive, role-playing experience that helps participants understand what life is like below the poverty line. This simulation moves people to think about the harsh realities of poverty and discuss how communities may address the issues. Registration is required by Aug. 15. Call Mary Fusting, 239-5178 x128 to register or for more information. St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall, 1960 Bardstown, 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

**August 26 - Addressing the Achievement Gap and Fostering Community Leadership New Voices, Fresh Ideas: Exploring Innovation 2010.** The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis invites you to a public policy dialogue to discuss the implications of these issues on society. For more information, call Emily Lape at 568-9282. 101 S. 5th St., Suite 1920, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**August 28 - West Louisville Community Health & Wellness/Community Eats Festival.** Featuring: cooking classes, food sampling, gardening tips, food literacy, fitness tips, and dinner. Hosted by LAMP. Volunteers needed! For more information call Pat Williamson 819-4403. 227 S. 26th St., 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Sept. 16 - Nonprofit Housing Alliance Meeting.** New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**Sept. 24 - The Race to End Homelessness 2010 5K.** Benefits the Coalition for the Homeless. Get more information and register at [www.racetoendhomelessness.org](http://www.racetoendhomelessness.org). Cherokee Park Scenic Loop, 9:00 a.m.

**October 13-15 - Kentucky Commission on Human Rights 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Civil Rights Conference.** For more information go to [www.kchr.ky.gov](http://www.kchr.ky.gov). Kentucky International Convention Center, 221 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

**October 15 - St. John Center 14th Annual Benefit Golf Scramble.** Features a silent auction and prizes for golfers. For more information or to register, call Bill Lockard at 491-2807 or Dan Lockard at 212-0602 by Oct. 1. Shelbyville Country Club, 47 Smithfield Rd., Shelbyville, 11:30 a.m.

**October 26 - Hammers, Hardhats & Hope.** A benefit for Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville. Habitat is celebrating 25 years! For more information, call the Habitat Development office, 805-1409. Kentucky Center for the Arts, 501 W. Main, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

**October 28 - ACLU Bill of Rights Dinner.** Features the Executive Director of the National organization, Anthony Romero. Save the date now, more details to come.

### Louisville to Host the 2010 Kentucky Affordable Housing Conference September 22 & 23, 2010

Kentucky Housing Corporation is hosting the 2010 Kentucky Affordable Housing Conference at the Louisville Marriott Downtown on September 22-23, 2010. The theme of the conference is "The Power of Housing at Work" and it will provide attendees with valuable up-to-date information about affordable housing in Kentucky from industry experts and leaders. The conference will help keep people focused on a common goal – helping Kentuckians have and keep a safe, quality, affordable place to live.

Conference workshops are divided into the following tracks:

- Energy Awareness
- Homeownership Counseling and Education
- Homeownership Mortgage Lending
- Housing Finance and Construction-Homeownership Production
- Housing Finance and Construction-Rental Production
- Specialized Housing Resources

For more information or to register, go to <http://conferences.kyhousing.org>.

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To submit your community events, please email Curtis at [curtisstauffer@metropolitanhousing.org](mailto:curtisstauffer@metropolitanhousing.org).



## Remember MHC this summer!

### As an MHC Member you:

- **Support** the creation of long-term solutions to our community's affordable housing crisis.
- **Join** the diverse coalition of 200 individual and 180 organizational members which make up our far-reaching base.
- **Receive** our monthly newsletter and published reports on timely housing issues that touch the Metro Louisville region and beyond.
- **Advertise** your events in our printed and electronic newsletters and link your website to ours.
- **Most important of all**, you will have your voice heard at this historic and critical time!

For membership questions, please call the office at (502) 584-6858 to talk to Curtis.  
 To make an online donation, visit us on the web at [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org).



Metropolitan  
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 Coalition

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