

NO GOING BACK

LOCKED DOWN FOR A BETTER FUTURE

NORTHEAST OHIO
COALITION FOR
THE HOMELESS

2020
ANNUAL
REPORT



**EVERYONE HAS A SAFE &
STABLE PLACE TO CALL
HOME WHERE THEY CAN
ALSO EMBRACE THEIR
OWN POWER AND DIGNITY**

STREET OUTREACH

- Hosted 22 Outreach Collaborative meetings to coordinate outreach services to approximately 200 unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in our community
- Touched over 10,000 people through our outreach services, including 258 people who were accompanied from homelessness to housing
- When COVID-19 started, NEOCH immediately rented rooms at a hotel and managed that space to offer people experiencing unsheltered homelessness a place to quarantine
- Helped 460 people obtain identification, birth certificates and Social Security cards
- Referred or accompanied 636 people to behavioral health and medical services
- Provided housing assistance and/or prevented evictions for over 100 people
- Expanded our street outreach team to provide services to the growing number of people sleeping on the streets and we closely tracked a by-name list of all people sleeping unsheltered in Cleveland to provide person-centered accompaniment, which reduced the number of people sleeping unsheltered by 30% in 2020

ADVOCACY

- Registered 200 people to vote who were experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. We also developed and implemented a process for people staying in emergency shelters to vote-by-mail during the pandemic
- Advocated statewide to urge Gov. DeWine to issue a statewide moratorium on residential evictions with tenant supports through a 'Faces of Eviction' campaign, which gained national attention from the *New York Times* and National Public Radio, and prevented eviction for the people involved in the project
- Called on local elected officials to address critical gaps in Cuyahoga County's COVID-19 homelessness response
- Called for action to preserve an equal access rule at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for transgender people seeking safe shelter
- Hosted our Virtual Annual Homeless Memorial for 58 people who died during 2020 in the homeless community
- Continued to advocate for a Pay to Stay ordinance to protect renters and housing insecure people across Northeast Ohio

EDUCATION

- Published and distributed 10,000 street cards to individuals, community organizations, hospitals, and churches across Cuyahoga County
- Published 4 issues of Cleveland's street newspaper, *The Cleveland Street Chronicle*, which is written, purchased and sold by a dozen vendors with lived experience of homelessness
- Hosted an in-depth, week-long immersive learning experience for college students to learn about undoing racism, poverty, and homelessness in Cleveland
- Hosted 7 webinar series for 648 people, including social workers, service providers, outreach workers, and community advocates with a focus on LGBTQ cultural competency and ending structural racism
- Hosted a summer internship cohort with 3 students who developed skills in advocacy, social action and justice
- Hosted a webinar for the community to keep them updated on changing CDC guidance, emergency rental assistance, eviction moratoria, and shelter options during the pandemic

ORGANIZING

- Organized a public action at City Hall in January 2020 to call on City Council to address NIMBYism in the Denison neighborhood where Denison United Church of Christ was providing overnight hospitality to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the area. Denison UCC was able to keep its doors open and the spotlight on our community's lack of adequate shelter options during the cold winter months. This resulted in a more coordinated and effective Cleveland cold weather plan prioritizing seasonal shelter in the winter for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- Hosted 7 in-person and 8 virtual Homeless Congress meetings to center the voices of people living in shelters and those who are unsheltered. The Homeless Bill of Rights Committee of Homeless Congress drafted a Homeless Bill of Rights with support from the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland to finalize in 2021
- *The Cleveland Street Chronicle* published its second annual "Wrap Up Homelessness" wrapping paper edition featuring holiday artwork designed by people with lived experience of homelessness. In addition to being sold by our vendors at the West Side Market and downtown, over 1,000 copies were sold online, and 8 local retail stores offered it for sale and promoted it online to help our vendors earn income during the winter months
- *The Cleveland Street Chronicle* joined the Northeast Ohio Solutions Journalism Collaborative, a group of 19-plus Greater Cleveland news outlets working together to cover the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on marginalized communities. As a result, local journalists and media outlets published multiple stories centering the experiences of people experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, and utility shut offs in our community
- Hosted 11 Cuyahoga Alliance on Affordable Housing meetings to study and track local trends in affordable housing and to share emerging updates on COVID-19 relief legislation
- Raised and dispersed \$15,450 among 37 predominantly BIPOC-led grassroots volunteer groups through our COVID-19 Mutual Aid Fund in response to poverty and housing insecurity caused by the pandemic

FUNDRAISING AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

- Hosted fundraising events throughout the community in partnership with CODA, Reverb, Storytime Cleveland, 3-19 Coffee, and many faith and community groups listed in our supporters list below
- Engaged a consultant to develop a new five-year strategic plan with revised goals and strategies to deepen our organizing, advocacy, education, and street outreach work
- Updated our mission, vision and values to reflect our current work and act as a guide for the future

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AWARD WINNERS

Each year, NEOCH honors those that have demonstrated exemplary commitment to serving the interests of people experiencing homelessness. We have presented awards to volunteers, elected officials, city leaders, lawyers, organizers, outreach workers, service providers, and more.

Social Justice Advocate of the Year - Cleveland Democratic Socialists of America

DSA's work of protecting people from eviction during the pandemic has been important to the Cleveland Community, especially those that are on the verge of homelessness. NEOCH also recognizes the additional work they do defending the rights of targeted communities by highlighting racist policies and defending tenants. This is not an easy task, but they continue to relentlessly advocate and defend our community.

Homeless Advocate of the Year - Jennifer Kocan

Jennifer Kocan has dedicated years of work at NEOCH, the YWCA, and in her faith community. Her diligence, compassion, and love for the people in our community is so important. From her days at NEOCH to today, she has remained committed to ending homelessness in our community. The work is hard, and she has done it well.

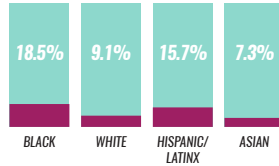
THE FEDERAL POVERTY LINE IS

\$12,760

FOR AN INDIVIDUAL AND

\$26,200

FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR



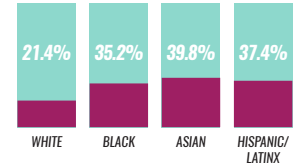
ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT CENSUS DATA, THERE ARE

34 MILLION
PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY,
WHICH IS 10.5% OF THE
TOTAL POPULATION.

OHIO LACKS

256,875
UNITS

OF AFFORDABLE RENTAL
HOMES TO ACCOMMODATE
ALL RENTERS WHO ARE
DEFINED AS EXTREMELY
LOW-INCOME



THE ESTIMATED TOTAL
POPULATION OF THE CITY OF
CLEVELAND IS 370,709, WITH
30.8% (114,178)
OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS
LIVING IN POVERTY.

SOURCE: THE 2019 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

WHILE THE NUMBER OF
TOTAL EVICTION FILINGS
DECREASED DURING 2020
LOCAL AND FEDERAL
EVICTION MORATORIA,
THERE WERE STILL

4,015
EVICTION
FILINGS

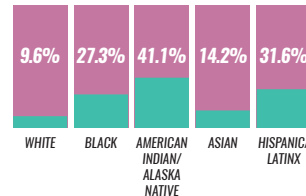
MADE IN THE CITY OF
CLEVELAND IN 2020

ACCORDING TO
THE NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION,

29%
(455,993)

OF RENTER HOUSEHOLDS
ARE CONSIDERED EXTREMELY
LOW INCOME IN OHIO

THE ESTIMATED TOTAL
POPULATION OF CUYAHOGA
COUNTY IS 1,208,988, WITH
16.1% (194,647)
OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS
LIVING IN POVERTY.



SOURCE: THE 2019 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

67%

OF EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME
RENTER HOUSEHOLDS ARE
CONSIDERED SEVERELY
COST BURDENED, BASED ON
HOW MUCH INCOME THEY
PAY TOWARDS RENT.

A SINGLE PARENT WOULD
NEED TO WORK

**74 HOURS
A WEEK AT
MINIMUM
WAGE**

TO AFFORD A 2 BEDROOM
HOME IN OHIO

ACCORDING TO THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(HUD), THERE ARE
APPROXIMATELY

**567,715
PEOPLE**

THAT EXPERIENCE
HOMELESSNESS IN THE U.S.

NEOCH ESTIMATES THAT
THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY

**19,000
PEOPLE**

WHO EXPERIENCED
HOMELESSNESS IN 2020
IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY

ACCORDING TO LOCAL HOMELESS
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
SYSTEM DATA REPORTED
THROUGH CUYAHOGA COUNTY'S
OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES,

**5,470
INDIVIDUALS**

UTILIZED EMERGENCY SHELTER
IN 2020

**3,805
ADULTS**

AND

**1,292
CHILDREN**

WENT THROUGH
COORDINATED INTAKE
(THE "FRONT DOOR" OF
OUR COMMUNITY'S
HOMELESS SYSTEM)
IN 2020

**680
PEOPLE**

REPORTED SLEEPING IN
PLACES NOT SUITABLE
FOR HUMAN HABITATION
FOR A PERIOD OF TIME

CLEVELAND PUBLIC
SCHOOLS RECORDED

**2,271
HOMELESS
STUDENTS**

IN 2020. 263 WERE STAYING
IN LOCAL SHELTERS AND
2,008 WERE DOUBLED UP
WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS

DESPITE THE NEED FOR
LONG-TERM AFFORDABLE
HOUSING FOR PEOPLE
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
IN CLEVELAND, THERE ARE

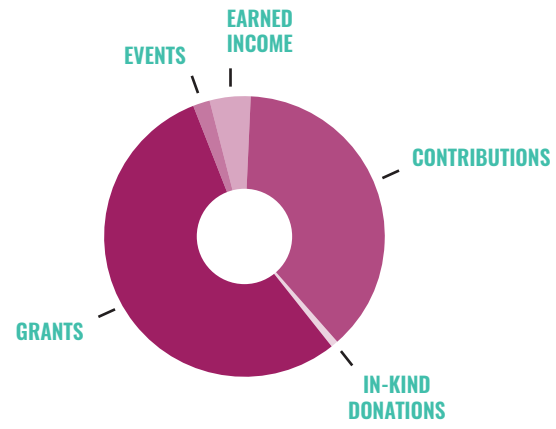
**ONLY 884
UNITS**

OF PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING IN OUR COMMUNITY

REVENUE

Contributions \$368,516
Earned Income \$43,931
Events \$22,836
Grants \$531,513
In-Kind Donations \$2,525

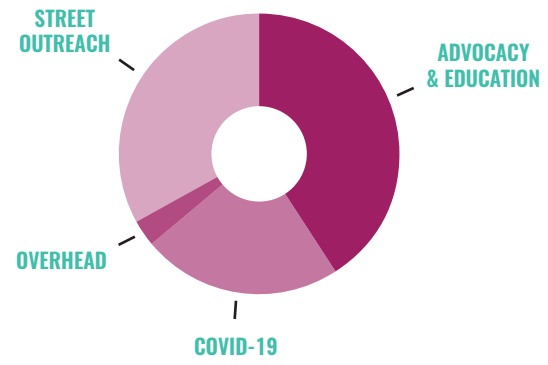
\$969,321



EXPENSES

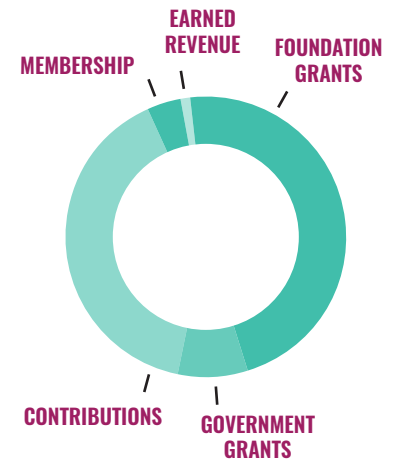
Advocacy & Education \$242,914
COVID-19 \$134,692
Overhead \$18,199
Street Outreach \$196,019

\$591,824



REVENUE SOURCES

Contributions 40%
Earned Revenue 1%
Foundation Grants 47%
Government Grants 8%
Membership 4%



PARTNERSHIPS

- Partnered with the Office of Homeless Services and Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries with support from the Community West Foundation to open up a seasonal shelter as an alternative for people living unsheltered during the winter
- Partnered with Ohio City Incorporated and the Ohio City Improvement Corporation to provide street outreach services to people experiencing homelessness in Ohio City
- Participated in the Fair Housing Working group, part of the County Housing Stakeholder Group, to move source of income protections forward in the City of Cleveland
- Partnered with Cleveland Democratic Socialists of America and the Legal Aid Society of America to provide project support to a Housing Campaign to organize tenants during the pandemic and beyond
- Partnered with FrontLine Service to provide outreach services to veterans experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Partnered with A Place4me to provide outreach services to young adults and LGBTQ people experiencing a housing crisis



SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to the Community West Foundation and their SocksPLUS program. Their dedication to this program and to people experiencing homelessness helped us distribute more than \$184,666 worth of necessities to people experiencing homelessness in our community.



THE MISSION OF NEOCH

**NEOCH EXISTS TO ELIMINATE THE ROOT
CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS WHILE
LOVING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY
THROUGH ORGANIZING, ADVOCACY,
EDUCATION, AND STREET OUTREACH**

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