

## Phase III Exit Strategy

### **Background**

The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation and Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville (the Foundations) recognize the importance of providing support and funding, over a period of time, to help in the development and sustainability of efforts designed to prevent and end homelessness. In the Foundations' rural service areas, this has been accomplished through the Rural Homeless Initiative for Southeast and Central Ohio (RHISCO). RHISCO is comprised of four (4) phases and spans a seven year period (2005-2011), with direct and indirect support totaling over \$2.7 million. The four (4) phases, include:

***Capacity Building Phase:*** support directed to the development of comprehensive, coordinated plans to end homelessness, with local planning led by county-level coalitions, assisted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

***Implementation Phase I:*** funding, coupled with a support from Fannie Mae, focused on three overarching strategies: prevention, coalition development, and data systems.

***Implementation Phase II:*** funding focused on successful homeless prevention strategies and continued coalition development.

***Phase III Exit Strategy:*** funding will support direct service prevention programming and efforts designed to enhance capacity at the provider and/or system level to coordinate and deliver direct client services.

### **Exit Strategy**

RHISCO was designed to help build capacity at the local level through planning and implementation funding, with the goal of efforts and strategies sustained and maintained within the local communities beyond the funding provided by the Foundations. It was intended that each participating county will have increased knowledge, networks and capacity to implement sustainable strategies designed to prevent and end rural homelessness.

The purpose of this document is to outline the strategy for the final year of Foundation funding for the RHISCO Initiative, which will include support for direct service and capacity efforts that can demonstrate sustainability beyond funding from the Foundations. The Foundations' will allocate up to \$700,000 (OHF: \$350,000 and OHFN: \$350,000) for the final phase and twelve (12) coalitions representing fifteen (15) counties will be eligible to apply for up to \$50,000 each.

### **Phase III Exit Strategy Framework**

The final phase of the RHISCO Initiative will include support for direct services provided at the local level and continued capacity building at the provider and coalition level. Support will be allocated in two categories: **Direct Service** and **Capacity**. The categories will allow coalitions to demonstrate a sustainability plan for direct client services, beyond funding from the Foundations, and to enhance capacity relative to indicators of high performing rural coalitions.

## **Program: Direct Service**

*Expected Outcome:* Increase in the number of at-risk individuals and families that maintain stable, affordable housing and/or move to affordable and permanent housing.

Foundation support of direct service strategies will be focused on one or more of:

- the continuation of existing successful and sustainable components funded during Phase I and Phase II;
- demonstrated measureable results;
- alignment with 10 year plan priorities, Foundation, county, state and/or federal priorities, to prevent and end homelessness.

Funding will be directed to strategies which align with prevention and rapid re-housing priorities, including but not limited to, rental assistance, utility assistance, case management, landlord outreach and mediation, home repair, transportation, family asset development (e.g. Benefit Bank, job skill building, financial management), information and referral, housing re-location, search assistance, and re-location costs. No more than \$35,000, per coalition, will be allocated to support sustainable direct service components.

## **Capacity: Provider and System**

*Expected Outcome:* Increase the number of systems and organizations that improve service delivery and coordination such that more impact is achieved for more persons in less time.

Funding will be considered for strategies designed to enhance provider and system capacity relative to one or more of the six (6) key elements for highly performing rural coalitions. Each element includes specific indicators related to aspects of highly performing rural coalitions.

### ***Six Key Elements of Highly Performing Rural Coalitions***

1. Local and Regional Provider Planning and Coordination
2. Local Plans to Prevent and End Homelessness
3. Service Intervention
4. Service Coordination and Access
5. Housing Coordination and Access
6. Data Systems

The current funding and policy environment provides unique opportunities for highly performing rural coalitions to realize new and/or increased resources for sustained homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing strategies. These opportunities align with the Initiative's design for successful coalitions to have greater capacity to access state and federal grants beyond funding from the Foundations.

Each participating county will assess its coalition's provider and system capacity relative to the key elements above and specific indicators and develop strategies to enhance and/or sustain high performance levels. A minimum of \$15,000, per coalition, will be allocated to support sustainable capacity components, and may include, but is not limited to: consultants for training/technical assistance, staff time, conference/educational session attendance, and needs assessments.