



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2020

Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority sets agency record with \$200+-million investment in 2020

“Promises made. Affordable housing delivered.” Charles Hillman, CMHA CEO

(Columbus, OH) – The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority today reported that it has acquired or developed more than \$200 million in affordable housing in 2020, setting a record for the most activity in one year in the agency’s 86-year history. The investment expands to over 4,000 the number of units owned by CMHA, providing housing stability throughout Central Ohio.

“CMHA’s achievement is not just about hitting our metrics; it’s about living our mission,” said President and CEO Charles Hillman. “When people are stably housed, they can strive and thrive.”

This year, CMHA is serving nearly 3,500 additional residents in Columbus and surrounding communities as the result of acquiring six apartment communities and constructing and rehabilitating eight properties, totaling 1,509 units. CMHA has more than doubled its portfolio of affordable housing over the last five years.

More than a year ago, CMHA committed to acquiring, developing, or rehabbing at least 500 units of housing per year for the next five years. Hillman noted that the agency nearly tripled that benchmark in 2020. “Promises made. Affordable housing delivered. We committed ourselves to our mission and invested in stability and building for the future,” he said.

CMHA’s aggressive strategy for meeting the community’s affordable housing needs calls for acquiring apartments buildings in “neighborhoods of opportunity,” with access to Columbus and suburban schools, jobs and transportation.

Up to 50% of the apartments are set aside as workforce housing for families earning at least 80% of area median income, which in 2020 was \$47,150 for a single person and \$67,350 for a family of four.

Scott Scharlach, CMHA chief operating officer, said, “Due to the economic downturn and the global pandemic, many families are experiencing hardships. These circumstances coupled with the current shortage of affordable housing in our community only increases the need to develop and preserve units as affordable. CMHA housing, combined with needed service supports, prevents families from slipping through the cracks and becoming homeless while preserving affordability.”

Hillman added, “CMHA is a forward-thinking public housing authority that has worked hard over five years to reach this milestone. We could not have done this alone, and we’re grateful to our public and private partners that have made it possible to expand affordable housing opportunities for our community.”

MORE

Expanded access to affordable housing



1,509

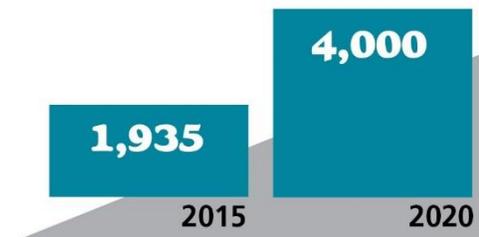
CMHA-owned units acquired or rehabbed in 2020

822 Acquired and developed
687 New units constructed or underway

Served more low-income households



Doubled CMHA-owned units over five years



About the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority: Our mission is to serve the community by helping people access affordable housing. By working with our collaborative partners, we develop, renovate and maintain housing, promote neighborhood revitalization, and assist residents in accessing needed social services. The purpose of CMHA is not only to provide housing, but also to build a healthy community environment in which our residents can live with safety, comfort and dignity.

www.cmhanet.com

###

CMHA Contact:

Charles D. Hillman
President and CEO
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
614-421-6400
chillman@cmhanet.com

Media Contact:

Linda Siefkas
Siefkas Public Relations LLC
614-486-3100 (office)
614-404-4374 (cell)
linda@siefkaspr.com