

## **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Ross County intends to apply to the Ohio Department of Development for funding through the fiscal year 2010 Ohio Community Housing Improvement Program, a federally funded program administered by the state of Ohio. Ross County received \$500,000 through this program in fiscal year 2008 and anticipates that it will receive a comparable amount in FY 2010, providing it meets applicable program requirements.

Ross County, if successful in obtaining these funds, intends to operate three programs:

1. **A Homeownership Program** designed to provide downpayment/closing cost assistance to first-time homebuyers in Ross County whose incomes are at or below 80 percent of the area median income as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The program will require the applicants to provide at least \$500 from their own resources. The program will provide funds as downpayment and closing costs assistance with an approximate average of \$30,000 per household. These downpayment funds will be combined with rehabilitation assistance. The home must meet OHCP's Residential Rehabilitation Standards after repairs are completed, at least within six months of the closing date. A total of two households will be assisted through this program for an estimated total of \$60,000 in HOME funds.

**A Homeownership Program** designed to provide downpayment assistance to first-time homebuyers in Ross County whose incomes are at or below 80% of the area median income as determined by HUD. The program will require the applicants to provide at least \$500 from their own resources. The program will provide funds for downpayment and closing costs with an average of approximately \$5,000 per household. The home must meet OHCP's Residential Rehabilitation Standards at the time of closing. A total of four households will be assisted for an estimated total of \$20,000 in HOME funds.

**A Homebuyer Counseling Program** will be mandatory for all participants in the Homeownership Program. In addition, possibly this homebuyer counseling will be open to all income-eligible families on the Ross County waiting list. Ross County expects to serve two households through the Homeownership Program (rehab portion); and four families through Homeownership Program (downpayment assistance without rehab); each family must attend a HUD-certified counseling

program.

2. **A Home Repair Program** for owner-occupied homes in all Ross County villages and townships. The County proposes to use Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for actual repair services. A total of twenty units are expected to receive grant assistance at an average cost of approximately \$5,000 per unit for an estimated total project budget of \$100,000. The program is for families who are below 80 percent of the area median income. This program will grant the funds, not loan them, to approved households.
3. Ross County proposes to undertake and operate a scattered-site, single-family, **Private Owner Rehabilitation Program** throughout the county. The county CHIS states that homes with the greatest need should be addressed regardless of location. The county proposes to use approximately \$180,000 in HOME funds for rehabilitation activities on six houses. Families will be eligible for approximately \$30,000 as an average in rehabilitation assistance. The maximum rehabilitation assistance is estimated to be \$35,000 recognizing that if lead paint is present in the home, the additional funds may be needed to treat the lead paint hazard. These amounts have been established to recognize the impacts of the Lead- Based Paint regulations that went into effect during the FY 2002 CHIP.

**A public hearing will be held Monday, March 22, 2010 at 9:30 A.M. at the Ross County Board of Commissioners' conference room located in the Ross County Courthouse, Chillicothe, Ohio. This meeting is intended to supply citizens with pertinent information about the CDBG/HOME/OHTF programs, including an explanation of eligible activities and program requirements. These funds can provide a broad range of activities including: economic development projects; street, water supply, drainage and sanitary sewer improvements, park acquisition and improvements; demolition of unsafe structures; and rehabilitation of housing and neighborhood facilities. The activities must be designed to primarily benefit low-to-moderate income residents, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight, or meet an urgent need of the community. HOME funds must be used to bring houses of eligible families up to existing code requirements.**

**Citizens and local officials are encouraged to attend this meeting on March 22, 2010 to provide their input on Ross County's CHIP program.**

**By order of the Ross County Board of Commissioners**