



April 11, 2024

Ian Thomas  
Ohio Department of Development  
Columbus, OH 43231

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Program Year (PY) 2024 Ohio Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan and the National Housing Trust Fund Allocation Plan. The Ohio Housing Council (OHC) is a statewide association of affordable housing professionals whose goal is to make a difference in Ohio's affordable housing industry. We advocate and educate on behalf of our members to increase the quality and supply of affordable housing in the State of Ohio. As a diverse group representing many different interests, when we come together in consensus to speak on policy, we hope to deliver a powerful message.

As you are aware, Ohio is facing a severe housing shortage, particularly for low- and moderate-income families. Governor DeWine and the state legislature have both made addressing this a priority, most notably by creating a state workforce tax credit. If we are going to deliver on the Governor's vision of making Ohio the best place to live, work, and raise a family, it is more important than ever that Ohio continue to fund gap funding programs administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) at the same or higher levels. These funds are critical to filling funding gaps that are increasing as inflation continues to drive construction costs upward. While the challenge is widespread, it is exacerbated in rural communities where the financing challenges are even greater.

Thanks again for considering our comments and for the Department's continued support of efforts to meet the challenge of our time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan Gleason". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Ryan Gleason**  
Executive Director