

H O M E B A S E



Newsletter

March 2019

Year in Review

During 2018, we completed a major rebranding, expanded our board and created a new prototype report to capture our members' community impact. A central part of our effort was focused on increasing pass-through funding to our members. We implemented new training programs, expanded our outreach, and accomplished key advocacy measures. We activated our housing down payment program, moved forward with our back office program, grew the scope of our networking events, redeveloped our website, developed media coverage, and grew our social media presence, all to support our member's important revitalization work. For the full report go to [2018 Annual Report](#) on our website.

First Quarter Update

We are only three months into the new year and so many great things are happening. The first quarter was packed with opportunities to present our new brand, collaborate with our regional community development partners, engage with students and our educational partners, and expand our networking events.

As we explored new ways to convene and connect our members and partners, we decided to add new information to our website (<https://homebasecincy.org/>) for job postings, small business training and funding opportunities, and residential funding down payment assistance opportunities.

As we move forward into the next quarter, we anticipate our advocacy efforts will continue to be even more urgently needed. Hearing from you remains important - please see the Property Tax Working Group Public Forum below, and our other advocacy announcements.

To further our connections, make sure you're connected with us on our twitter: @Homebasecincy & our Member Listserv.

Basecamp!

Board

Robie Suggs,
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Vice President
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Alena
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Clifton Heights
CURC

Mike Cappel
College Hill CURC

Jody Robinson
City of Bellevue,
Kentucky

Sara Sheets
Madisonville CURC

Michael Berry
FORM Building
Solutions



Our Board Member Kevin at the first BaseCamp networking event

We were excited to kickoff our first Basecamp Networking event this year. Last month, a diverse group of community partners gathered at Novel Networking Space to hear a brief presentation on Safe Streets from Colerain Township's Geoff Milz and to network with our partners. We look forward to continuing these new monthly happy hours. Thank you Yard & Co. for helping make this happen!

Jule Kucera
Author

Jermaine Carter
Megen
Construction

Staff

Denise Hamet
Executive Director

Dejah Rawlings
Project
Coordinator

CDC Express

Wow, we learned about so many great projects happening in our neighborhoods as we initiated our first CDC Express. Thank you Urban Land Institute for working with us to share concepts for this informative and fun event. And thank you Interact for Health for hosting us and US Bank for sponsoring the event. Our CDCs highlighted current projects and gave insight into future projects. The presentations reflected the urgency of the work our partners do, as well as the challenges and opportunities they face.

Quality of Life Roundtable

Norwood Quality of Life Plan presentation



Thank you LISC for partnering with us to bring CDC Directors together to present their successes and hurdles developing Quality of Life Plans. The work LISC does supporting development of these plans is critical to helping CDCs plan and execute their community strategy. Each speaker gave insights about their obstacles and triumphs they faced while creating these plans with their unique communities.

Save the Date

PROPERTY TAX WORKING GROUP PUBLIC MEETING

April 2nd, 2019 | 6 - 8 p.m. | William H. Taft Elementary School
270 Southern Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 25219

The Property Tax Working Group is studying trends related to property taxes in order to make recommendations aimed to help keep senior citizens on a limited income in their homes and communities. **Come and share your experience with property taxes in your neighborhood.**



Visit cincinnati-oh.gov/propertytaxproject
for more information + to submit comments or contact
Samantha McLean at samanthamclean@cincinnati-oh.gov | 513-352-4886.

Property Tax Working Group Public Forum

How can we hold property tax costs down to help LMI seniors age in place? Share your comments and concerns at the upcoming public forum hosted by the new Property Tax Working Group. **April 2, 2019 6:00pm - 8:00pm** at William H. Taft Elementary.

Food Access & Community Health RoundTable

We invite you to share in the dialogue as we explore the resources available to CDCs to help improve residents' health through nutrition. We appreciate the **Port** hosting our next RoundTable on **April 23 at 11:30am**. Jan Harper-Jackson from Buckeye Health and Alisha Stevenson from 4 Awareness will highlight new resources for CDCs.

April Basecamp- Wednesday, April 23th, 2019

More information to come

New Housing Models Roundtable

Join us in May as Steve Kenat of GBBN and Bradley Cooper, author of Start Small and a People's Liberty Fellow highlight housing prototypes for affordable, urban housing. **May 16th** at GBBN. Tentative time **12:00-1:30**.

Annual Bus Tour

We are excited to announce that our ever popular Annual Bus Tour will be feature **Price Hill and S.Cumminsville**. Mark your calendars for **June 7th 12:00-4:00 pm**. Come for lunch and stay for happy hour! More info to follow.

Project Announcements



Congratulations to **Madisonville CURC** on their recent ribbon cutting celebrating the completion of 5207 Ravenna, a single family affordable housing project accomplished by the public and private collaboration of many community partners. MCURC is continuing to develop a new phase of affordable homes.



Congratulations to **WIN** on their groundbreaking for their 25 new Net Zero Urban Village homes and the kickoff of the Neighborhood Enhancement Program in South Cumminsville and Camp Washington.



Congratulations to **Camp Washington Community Board** for now officially owning the U.S Chili building. The community board received a grant from the City of Cincinnati to help purchase and stabilize the property. This is a signature gateway building whose rebirth will help continue the positive development of Camp Washington. Camp Washington conveyed their appreciation of the City of Cincinnati Economic Development staff for their leadership implementing this grant, and Camp's civic and business supporters who worked to make the project happen.

Advocacy

SB36: Legislation in front of the Ohio Senate that would be seriously detrimental to the LIHTC program in Ohio. The legislation would change the way LIHTC projects are appraised, raising property taxes with no increase in revenue. We encourage you to write your senator with your own concern, and to look for a sign on letter that will be circulated this week. See our website for talking points. The letter will be sent to Senator Terher, Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Federal Funding and Policy Advocacy: Homebase brought together their first **bipartisan** meeting between CDCs and staff of Representative Brad Wenstrup, Senator Rob Portman, Representative Steve Chabot, & Senator Sherrod Brown. We appreciated our attendees from MCURC and from Avondale who came and shared their concerns about several key issues including the negative consequences of the Cliff effect, concerns with the implementation of Opportunity Zones, and the need for increasing Federal funding support for affordable housing. It was an especially meaningful meeting because we heard several personal stories from residents that ACDC brought to the meeting.

We attended **additional meetings with staff from Senators Portman and Brown in Washington DC**, hosted by **NCRC**. We increased our speaking voice through joining with Ohio community partners to discuss defending CRA from any efforts to weaken it, protecting Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's affordable housing mission and affordable housing goals in any reform, and improving access to affordable home ownership. We thank Senator Brown for personally attending, and also the staff of Senators Brown and Portman for their time.

Local and State Housing Trust Funds: Homebase joined with many community members to advocate for the City to create and do initial funding of a new local housing trust fund. We will continue to press for mechanisms to grow the fund. We are also working with the **Ohio CDC** and statewide partners to seek increased funding for the state housing trust fund.

Section 4 Capacity Building and Affordable Housing Program: Homebase joined with over 1000 other organizations to support the effort spearheaded by LISC, Habitat for Humanity, and Enterprise to expand **Section 4 funding** to \$40 million. **As the only federal program that is exclusively focused on increasing the effectiveness of local community development organizations, Section 4 is needed now more than ever so that low- and moderate-income families can prosper in communities that are safe, and good places to live, work and raise healthy children.**

City of Cincinnati Property Tax Working Group: Homebase was invited to participate as a member on the new task force formed to explore alternatives to help LMI seniors age in place. Carol Gibbs (Executive Director for Mt. Auburn CDC) is co-directing this group. The collaboration between the City and a wide group of community members will help drive this project forward, but we need community input (see the upcoming public forum event).

Welcome new members

We are happy to announce new members from our higher education institutions. Welcome **Regina Livers** from **Cincinnati State**, and **David P. Varady** from **Northern Kentucky University**.

We welcome our new member the **Brewery District CURC**.

We welcome **Dejah Rawlings** to the Homebase team as the new Project Coordinator.

Best Wishes

Congratulations to **Sara Sheets** who is moving on from MCURC to work for the **Cincinnati Development Fund**.

Thank you to our sponsors!



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