

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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17TH ANNUAL OHIO HOUSING CONFERENCE EXPLORES HOW AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES

Raising the Bar for Better Communities Begins December 1 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center

COLUMBUS – The nation's largest statewide housing conference begins Tuesday, December 1 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, and will be hosted by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) and the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH).

The conference offers more than 1,700 attendees from 27 states more than 50 industry-related sessions along with daily plenary sessions focused on current state, federal and economic policies affecting the affordable housing industry.

"The issue of affordable housing in Ohio has never been more vital than it is now," said OHFA Executive Director Doug Garver. "The Ohio Housing Conference facilitates an ongoing dialog about the many aspects of the affordable housing industry and the role it plays in shaping communities for future generations. We look forward to providing an open forum to present, discuss and evaluate current and future challenges."

"Ohio residents, communities, and the economy are greatly impacted by the affordable housing industry and this conference provides opportunities to explore innovative strategies, discuss challenges, and highlight best practices of the affordable housing industry," said Hal Keller, OCCH president.

The conference opens on Tuesday, December 1 with the Housing Policy Plenary moderated by Keller, sponsored by NeighborWorks America and featuring Michael Novogradac, Managing Partner, Novogradac and Company, LLP; Denise B. Muha, Executive Director, National Leased Housing Association; William Faith, Executive Director, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio; and Paul Weech, President & Chief Executive Officer, NeighborWorks America.

The Ohio Economic Forecast, scheduled Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., is moderated by Garver and explores current and ongoing affordable housing issues and their impact on Ohio. Speakers include Edward (Ned) Hill, professor at the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University; Beth Riley, senior vice president of George K. Baum & Company's Housing Group based in Denver, Colorado; and Robert Vogt, partner at Vogt Strategic Insights.

Urban revitalization strategy consultant, real estate developer and Peabody Award-winning broadcaster Majora Carter will deliver Wednesday's luncheon keynote address.

Visit www.ohiohome.org/ohc15 to learn more about the conference.

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About the Ohio Housing Finance Agency

OHFA is a self-supporting quasi-public agency governed by an eleven member board. The Agency uses federal and state resources to provide housing opportunities for families and individuals through programs designed to develop, preserve and sustain affordable housing throughout the state of Ohio. OHFA is also the administrator of the state's foreclosure prevention program, Save the Dream Ohio.

About the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing

OCCH is an independent, mission-driven nonprofit corporation that works with private and public developers to create affordable housing opportunities. OCCH's mission is to cause the construction, rehabilitation and preservation of affordable housing. Since its inception, OCCH has raised and invested more than \$3.25 billion in private capital in 700 projects with over 35,000 units of affordable housing.