



City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Agenda - Final-revised

Climate, Environment & Infrastructure

Councilmember Meeka Owens, Chairperson
Councilmember Mark Jeffreys, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Jeff Cramerding, Member
Councilmember Seth Walsh, Member

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

10:00 AM

Council Chambers, Room 300

PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKERS

Access to Counsel Update

Deanna White - Office of the City Manager, Director of Human Services - City of Cincinnati

Matthew Long - Program Manager - United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Megan Folkerth - Program Director of Health Policy and Systems - Interact for Health

Impact Award Update - Strategies to End Homelessness

Kevin Finn - President/CEO

AGENDA

- [202402211](#) **PRESENTATION**, dated 10/18/24, submitted by Councilmember Owens, from Strategies to End Homelessness, regarding Impact Award update.
Sponsors: Owens
Attachments: [Presentation](#)
- [202402222](#) **PRESENTATION** submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, dated 10/22/2024, regarding the Eviction Prevention Ecosystem Access to Council Project Overview.
Sponsors: City Manager
Attachments: [Transmittal](#)
[Presentation](#)

3. [202402193](#) **MOTION**, submitted by Councilmembers Jeffreys and Johnson, **WE MOVE** that within 90 days the Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) identify 2-3 sites in the City of Cincinnati that can be dedicated for Youth Football Leagues practices and games, as well as any funding that may be needed.
(STATEMENT ATTACHED)

Sponsors: Jeffreys and Johnson

Attachments: [Motion_001](#)

ADJOURNMENT



STRATEGIES TO END HOMELESSNESS

Impact Award:
[Housing Stability Collaborative](#)

Kevin Finn
President/CEO
kfinn@end-homelessness.org



STRATEGIES TO END HOMELESSNESS

Mission: Lead a coordinated community effort to end homelessness in Greater Cincinnati.

Accomplishing this goal by:

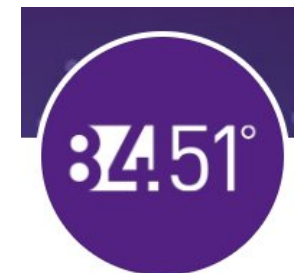
1. **PREVENT:** prevent as many people from becoming homeless as possible
2. **ASSIST:** provide high-quality assistance to help people back into housing
3. **SOLVE:** offering solutions to homelessness through housing



The Opportunity: the “Impact Award”

In 2023, Cincinnati City Council set aside just over \$2 million in funding to be put toward one project with the greatest potential to reduce evictions and housing loss in the city.

Applied for the “Housing Stability Collaborative”, with members including:



The Concept:

Use **predictive data analytics** to identify households in the very **early stages of a housing crisis** –

Even before they realize their situation could lead to housing loss -

And **proactively offer assistance** to resolve the situation.

The Intervention:

1. Predictive data analytics: using multiple data sets from within community to build a predictive data model to identify families at high risk of receiving an eviction notice.
2. Proactive Service Delivery: proactively offering case management, connection to community resources, etc. to address each household's situation well before eviction or homelessness.

How We Moved Forward: DATA

Began pursuing 25+ data sets potentially predictive of housing instability & future eviction

- Data sets being used to develop a predictive data model
- Ranks households based on their likelihood of receiving an eviction notice
- Data updated regularly
- New data sets incorporated into data model quarterly:
 - 1.0 in July 2024
 - 2.0 in October 2024
 - 3.0 in January 2025, etc.



How We Moved Forward: DATA

Data System - Client Insight by Eccovia

- Data system where we can land data from multiple sources, match households across multiple data sources, so as to prioritize households most at-risk of eviction

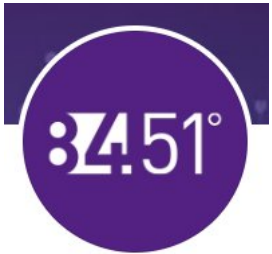
Housing Stabilization Hackathon with



- January/February 2024
- Winning concept for TenantGuard.org website
- Solves three problems:
 1. Updated contact information for households
 2. Consent
 3. Self-report



Key Partners: DATA



- Assisting with analysis of homelessness data since 2017
- Tenant Guard proposed by a group of 84.51 staff

Building & updating the Predictive Data Model

- Dr. Gary Painter, University of Cincinnati



Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunity (LEO) at Notre Dame

- Research design
- Study of project (mid-2025)



Data Sources:

Predictive Data Model 1.0 (July 2024)

- City & County COVID ERA funds data
- Central Access Point helpline- part of CE system
- HMIS data
- Shelter Diversion data
- County Clerk of Courts Eviction data
- St. Vincent de Paul requests for services (ERA, food, pharmacy, etc.)

Data Sources:

Predictive Data Model 2.0 (October 2024)

- PHA data:
 1. New applicants for subsidized housing
 2. "30 day notice, no response" - tenants behind on rent
- Multi-family property sales (MLS)
- TenantGuard.org website
- Enhanced St. Vincent de Paul, including contact info
- Eviction neighborhood/zip code prevalence data



Data Sources:

Predictive Data Model 3.0 (January 2025) & beyond?

Freestore Foodbank applications for services

Public benefits application/cessation

Utility & service disconnect notices

Justice Center data

Food Pantries

Data-identified risk factors



How We Moved Forward: ***SERVICE DELIVERY***

1. Priority List:

Data analysis generates a priority list of households, then referred to partner agencies to begin outreach.

2. Outreach to at-risk households:

Depending on which data sets a household appears in, we will have varying contact information for each household.



Service Delivery:

3. First tier of service:

- Households identified, eligible & accepting of assistance are assessed, then receive **System Navigation** services provided by:
 - Bethany House Services
 - Found House Interfaith Housing Network
 - Lighthouse Youth & Family Services

4. Second tier of service:

- Households identified by their System Navigator as having specific needs will also be connected to:
 - **Legal Aid** - property owner and fair housing issues, benefits assistance, employment issues, eviction notice, etc.
 - **St. Vincent de Paul** - food assistance, pharmacy, Emergency Rental Assistance payments, etc.



Key Partners: *SERVICE DELIVERY*

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

- Dr. Carly Riley
- Developed assessment for System Navigators, inclusive of social determinants of health



Positives from first 3+ months (July to present)

1. Positive response from families contacted

- Overwhelming grateful to be contacted

2. Predictive Data Model is working

- Households contacted validated that housing was/is at risk
- Several had subsequently received eviction notices

3. Agencies now fully staffed with System Navigators

- Not the case July to mid-September
- Active caseloads at Bethany House, Found House, Lighthouse



Areas for Improvement:

1. Contact Information/Low contact rate

- Dependent on family contact information contained within data sets we are using; contact information frequently out of date.
- Households in top quintile: contact rate of less than 10%
- About half of households contacted are no longer appropriate for project (e.g. situation has been resolved, already have eviction notice, etc), so uptake rate below 5%.

Solutions being implemented:

- Data sets being received as of October 2024 will significantly improve quality of contact information:
 - CMHA data:
 1. New applicants for subsidized housing
 2. "30 day notice, no response" - tenants behind on rent
 - Multi-family property sales (MLS)
 - Freestore Foodbank applications for services
 - TenantGuard.org website
 - Enhanced St. Vincent de Paul data, including contact info

Areas for Improvement:

2. Improving Outreach to Families

- Outreach to families by phone, email, etc. being conducted by three organizations = not conducted in uniform way
- Lower uptake rate at some agencies

Solutions being implemented:

- With permanent staff in place, training staff to conduct outreach in more uniform way.
- Considering centralizing outreach with one agency for consistency; families would only be connected to a System Navigator at partner agency AFTER they have been reached, determined to be eligible, consented to participate.



Areas for Improvement:

3. Sufficient Direct Assistance Funding?

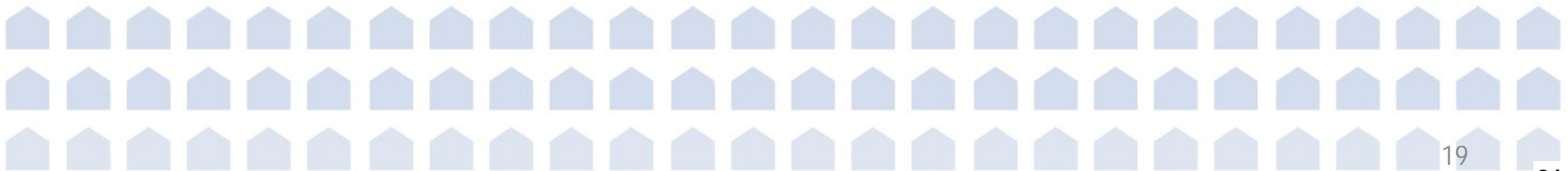
- Success is dependent on finding & engaging families BEFORE they are significantly behind on rent, utilities, etc.
- Program does not have a large budget for Emergency Rental Assistance, etc. & so far about half of households need such direct financial assistance.

Solutions being implemented:

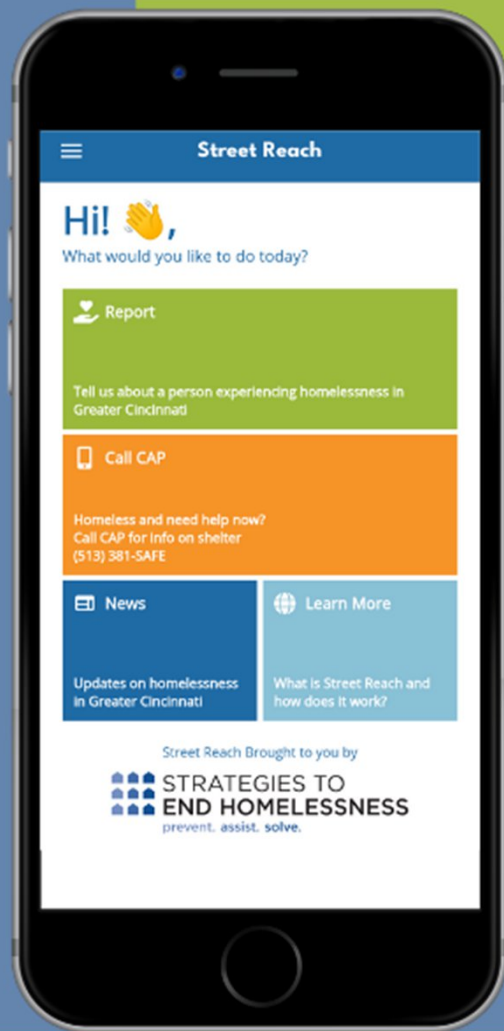
- Fundraising, fundraising, fundraising...
- Pursuing research study to document effectiveness of predictive data model & proactive service delivery.
- Research study will be used to support fundraising efforts & policy change with federal & state funding sources.



Data to Date:



Concerned about someone sleeping outside?



Download the
Street Reach
app to send help!

Kevin Finn, President/CEO
kfinn@end-homelessness.org
strategiestoendhomelessness.org



October 22, 2024

To: Members of the Climate, Environment & Infrastructure Committee
From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager 202402222
Subject: **Presentation – Eviction Prevention Ecosystem**

Attached is a presentation regarding the Eviction Prevention Ecosystem Access to Council Project Overview.

Cc: Virginia Tallent, Assistant City Manager
Deanna White, Human Services Director

Eviction Prevention Ecosystem

Access to Counsel Project Overview

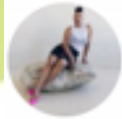
October 22, 2024

In Cincinnati, Hamilton County
97% of tenants walk into eviction court alone.
No attorney.

In June 2024, there were 1,224 eviction filings.
In July 2024, 1,255
In August 2024, 1,143

= Summer 2024: 3,622 eviction filings*

* Source: Eviction Lab, Princeton University



Leah Goodridge
@leahfrombklyn

Follow



I've been a tenants' rights attorney for over a decade and I want to shed some light on what happens to people when they're facing eviction.

6:00 PM · 3/30/23 · **509K** Views



34



1.4K



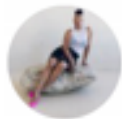
4.2K



928



Most relevant replies ▾



Leah Goodridge @leahfrombklyn · 3/30/23 ...

Any tenant attorney will tell you that many tenants are in shock.

“I've been living here for 10 years. Got along w/ the landlord.”

And we have to tell them it doesn't matter. They're trying to evict you. We spend a lot of time getting them in the headspace to fight back



78



979



40K





Leah Goodridge @leahfrombklyn · 3/30/23 ...

Then as they process they're facing eviction, they begin to start naming issues that they hadn't fought hard before, likely to be a "good tenant."

That looks like:

"But wait, they're suing for rent but I haven't had heat?? They haven't done any repairs. I've told the super."



Leah Goodridge @leahfrombklyn · 3/30/23 ...

“My mother died.”

“I got hurt on the job.”

“They let me go.”

“My partner and I broke up.”

“They cut my pay.”

“I had a baby, they fired me.”

“I became disabled.”



Leah Goodridge @leahfrombklyn · 3/30/23 ...

Lastly, the one thing that's very common in eviction cases?

Tenants freeze.

They're in shock.

They disassociate from what's happening because of trauma.

“If evicted, where will you go?” we have to ask. Then a dazed look. They don't have anywhere esp without family support.

In Cincinnati, Hamilton County
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* Source: Eviction Lab, Princeton University

The City of Cincinnati responds.....

**Keeping people housed is
homelessness prevention.**



Building the Ecosystem of Eviction Prevention 2023

- Ongoing biweekly Eviction Prevention Community Meetings with over 30 stakeholders from social services, housing providers, courts, and private philanthropy convened by CM Owens.
- Ongoing funding for the Legal Aid Society: \$550,000 in CDBG Federal dollars for tenant + homeowner representation and mortgage assistance.
- City's Quality of Life legal team: 6 attorneys & 1 paralegal that focuses on affordable housing preservation and combating blight and substandard housing conditions.
- Pass-through ERA \$ for rent assistance to St Vincent DePaul.



Building the Ecosystem of Eviction Prevention 2023 (continued)

- Awarded \$2.1 million dollars for the first Impact Award to Strategies to End Homelessness to use data analysis to plot the risks of eviction and homelessness in an upstream way so that interventions can be deployed before tenants get underwater with rent.
- Start-up of the monthly Eviction Court Observation experiences: partnered with the Hamilton County Clerk of Court Help Center Nick Zingarelli and CM Owens' office to host the observation of a morning eviction docket, followed by a debriefing and Q&A session with experienced housing attorney. To date: have hosted 8 experiences with over 100 participants.

2024



1

Implementation of the Access to Counsel Ordinance paired with \$1.2MM in funding for 2 workstreams:

Workstream 1	Workstream 2
Helping tenants who receive a 3-day notice to leave the premises	Helping tenants who have an eviction court date with full legal representation.
Provided by by the United Way of Greater Cincinnati	Provided by the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati



Included \$600,000 in rent assistance for tenants in these workstreams



2024



2

Contracted with national expert in Eviction Prevention process build and evaluate our ecosystem:



Stout has done this work in cities including: Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Nashville, Detroit, NYC, Oklahoma City, Columbus OH, Baltimore
And state-wide in: PA, SC, CT, DE

Stout's Transformative Change consultants have collected resources to assist our clients and their communities with understanding the eviction process, its impacts, and impactful solutions to combat the eviction crisis that cities large and small are facing.

Funded by:



2024



Stout's 2-year long work with Cincinnati will have these outputs:

1. Assist with the coordination of all Access to Counsel workstreams to achieve consistent data collection, referrals between workstreams, shared outcome measures.
2. Estimate the cost to implement a scaled, sustainable Access to Counsel program.
3. Estimate of the potential fiscal impacts reasonably attributed to Access to Counsel.
4. Preliminary directional estimates of ongoing need for rent assistance.
5. Independent evaluation report of key findings and recommendations from the comprehensive analysis of Access to Counsel data elements.






2024

3

Funding for the first ever (same day) Limited Legal Representation in eviction court

Workstream 1	Workstream 2	Workstream 3
<p>Helping tenants who receive a 3 day notice to leave the premises</p> <p>Provided by by the United Way of Greater Cincinnati</p>	<p>Helping tenants who have an eviction court date with full legal representation.</p> <p>Provided by the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati</p>	<p>Helping tenants who have an eviction court date and were not able to obtain an attorney before their day in court with limited legal representation.</p> <p>Operates 2 days/week Tuesdays & Thursdays</p> <p>Provided by  Help Center</p>

Early results from 1 month of Limited Legal Representation:

Note: Tuesday & Thursday morning only:

- 23 cases litigated to final outcome
- 19 cases dismissed
 - 16 negotiated dismissals
 - 3 contested trials with judgment for tenant & dismissal
- 4 contested trials with judgment for landlord's possession
- 9 cases removed from electronic access



2024

4 On deck: Landlord Tenant Mediation

Workstream 1	Workstream 2	Workstream 3	Workstream 4
<p>Helping tenants who receive a 3 day notice to leave the premises</p> <p>Provided by by the United Way of Greater Cincinnati</p>	<p>Helping tenants who have an eviction court date</p> <p>Provided by the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati</p>	<p>Helping tenants who have an eviction court date and were not able to obtain an attorney before their day in court.</p> <p>Provided by the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Help Center</p>	<p>Facilitating mediation between landlords and tenants is an upstream approach to intervene earlier in the process.</p> <p>The City is in talks with a potential host entity for this next process.</p>



2024

5 Seeking additional funding:

- Private philanthropy:

INTERACT
FOR HEALTH



- Applied for a \$1.4MM Eviction Prevention Grant



U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban Development

Thank you!





Mark Jeffreys
Councilmember

October 15, 2024

MOTION

Youth Football Field Support

We move that within 90 days the Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) identify 2-3 sites in the City of Cincinnati that can be dedicated for Youth Football Leagues practices and games, as well as any funding that may be needed.

STATEMENT

The City of Cincinnati has dedicated baseball and soccer fields within the city, but we do not have dedicated fields for Youth Football. There are fourteen (14) youth football teams in the City of Cincinnati each with ~100 kids. These teams are mostly staffed with volunteers who piece together funding and dedicate hours of their time to coaching the teams and young athletes. Some teams have space to practice and play games, but others, especially those serving less affluent neighborhoods, do not. For example, teams such as the Evanston Bulldogs carve out space at Owl’s Nest Park and/or Evanston Playground. There is an option of playing on Cincinnati Public School fields, but that is cost prohibitive for most teams to rent that space.

Other cities such as Columbus and Dayton have dedicated Youth Football Fields within their city that include a field for practices and playing games, bleachers for family/friends, restrooms, overhead lights to allow for evening games, etc.

This motion asks that CRC to identify 2-3 sites for dedicated Youth Football fields and funding needed for them. This dedicated space will support teams that are serving the less affluent neighborhoods of Cincinnati give children in those neighborhoods the opportunity to better their circumstances and learn the positive benefits that come with team sports and football.

Councilmember Mark Jeffreys

Councilmember Scotty Johnson