

STRYVE ACTION COUNCIL

STRIVING TO REDUCE YOUTH VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE

Stable Housing Creates Stable, Safer Families

CDC's Division of Violence Prevention released [A Comprehensive Technical Package for the Prevention of Youth Violence and Associated Risk Behaviors](#), a collection of strategies based on the best available evidence for what works to prevent or reduce youth violence.

WHAT IS THE LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT?

The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) is one way in which communities can reduce exposure to youth and community violence. The LIHTC provides incentives in the form of tax credits for investing in affordable housing and, nationwide, accounts for nearly 90% of affordable rental housing. LIHTC counters a community's exposure to violence by making safer, more affordable rental housing available and revitalizing distressed neighborhoods. As the concentration of poverty is reduced, so too are violent crimes and assaults, including youth violence.

POLICIES INTO PRACTICE: OHIO

In Ohio, tax credits for investing in low-income housing have been used to develop and manage community housing that provides a safe and supportive environment for those who are chronically homeless, in recovery from alcohol or drug addiction, or unable to make a wage adequate to pay for non-subsidized housing.

Over-the-Rhine Community Housing (OTRCH) develops and manages 420 housing units in Cincinnati, OH. For years and across multiple generations, OTRCH has offered stability and support to those in need.

Bridgette, a survivor of addiction now celebrating over seven years of sobriety, received critical support from OTRCH, which helped her assert her independence by providing her with her very first apartment. A stable, safe, and affordable place to live made all the

difference in her recovery. Since then, Bridgette has received job training and ongoing emotional support. As a result, she has steadily earned more responsibilities at work and successfully pursued her General Education Diploma (GED). She is proud to be a member of the OTRCH Board, and marvels that other Board members value her opinion. "When I talk, everyone looks at me. They want to hear what I have to say," she says proudly.

Linda is another OTRCH success story. After taking custody of her three grandchildren, she worried about how she would be able to provide a stable home for them. OTRCH has helped her grandchildren flourish in a safe place, under their grandmother's watchful, loving eye. This fall, Linda's oldest grandchild is off to college and his younger brother will soon follow in his footsteps.

LOCAL IMPACT: ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Bridgette, Linda, and hundreds of other OTRCH residents attribute their successes in large part to OTRCH and the services and support it provides. Hundreds of people whose recovery and future prospects would be jeopardized by more fragile, unstable housing situations can now focus on their goals and achieve their full health and life potential. OTRCH residents hope other areas of Cincinnati and in cities across the country will implement similar housing programs that can uplift distressed neighborhoods, reduce poverty, and provide protection from violence.

For more on the **STRYVE Action Council** visit <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/stryve/actioncouncil.html> and <https://www.safestates.org/page/STRYVEAC>

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