

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Brian Gage, Executive Director

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) has served the families and communities in Summit County since 1938. I am proud of the legacy that AMHA has created in our community through its stewardship of the public housing and housing choice voucher programs. We are one of the few public housing agencies accredited by the Affordable Housing Accreditation Board and have consistently been recognized by HUD as a High Performer for decades. AMHA is not just about programs. What makes AMHA a great agency is the people, both the people that live in the housing we provide and the employees that continue to dedicate their lives to public service and making our community a better place.

Through the last five years we have made substantial progress in making Summit County a better place. We have assisted more families in the voucher program than we ever have in the history of the agency. We have helped hundreds of families become self-sufficient. We have prepared our children for kindergarten, and have taken care of the health and wellness of our seniors and families with disabilities. We created better and safer living and working environments by prohibiting smoking, installing carbon monoxide detectors and installing technology to improve the air we breathe.

Looking forward, we can proceed knowing that we have the experience, perseverance and wisdom to overcome any challenges we encounter and have a greater tomorrow. The community counts on us to ensure families peacefully enjoy their homes, and to ensure that we have the capital to maintain, sustain and improve their living environments for the long term. This five year plan not only highlights our passion for excellence, but also outlines our strategy for our programs, processes, people, and community. We strive to help all families overcome their obstacles and create equitable practices that become a “Foundation for Success”.

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The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority provides quality, affordable housing and services as a platform to develop people, property and community.

We envision a community that fosters individual development and growth through stable and affordable housing, empowering all to reach their full potential.

PEOPLE - We envision a community where all have access to health, education and employment opportunities to position themselves out of poverty.

PROPERTY - We envision a community where our investments in Summit County stabilize neighborhoods and increase housing opportunities.

COMMUNITY - We envision a community where minority and low-income families are treated equitably in their access to housing and services.

GOAL 1 Preserve and Expand Quality Affordable Housing

GOAL 2 Maintain Operational Excellence While Pursuing Innovation and Efficiencies

GOAL 3 Improve Resident Quality of Life

GOAL 4 Positively Impact Community Change

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IMPROVE RESIDENT QUALITY OF LIFE

By providing families with residential stability, affordable housing provides an ideal platform for delivering a variety of health and social services. Recent studies have shown that when families are provided with residential stability along with affordable housing there is positive impact on numerous life outcomes including education, health and employment. Through various partnerships AMHA will provide access to a variety of services to increase the educational opportunities for children, increase employment for residents, increase services to access health care and decrease the digital divide. These programs will not only help families and children achieve better life outcomes, but will also improve the surrounding community and benefit Summit County's economy.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Utilize Building for Tomorrow (BFT) to Support Service Programs and Expand Opportunities

- Create infrastructure for long-term fundraising success to sustain services not funded by federal programs.
- Align marketing messaging between AMHA and BFT.
- Educate and train board members and volunteers how to communicate and raise money effectively for BFT.
- Improve donor relations through coordinated donor communications.

2. Ensure Resident Housing Stability

- Assist with lease and program compliance that prevents eviction.
- Strengthen communication and supports between housing programs, resident services, participants and residents.
- Identify and address non housing basic needs of residents.
- Encourage and empower residents to strengthen communities.
- Enhance supports for special populations.

3. Enhance Resident Programming and Initiatives

- Support youth educational achievement that focuses on kindergarten readiness and after school opportunities.
- Support health and wellness initiatives that align with resident needs.
- Expand workforce development and self-sufficiency initiatives.
- Decrease the digital divide by increasing access to internet connectivity, affordable and reliable devices and education to improve the technical skills of our residents.



