

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 3, 2015

**Conference Offers Different Perspective on Affordable Housing**  
*OHFA and OCCH to Bring Together Researchers,  
Academics, Public Officials and Others*

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) is proud to partner with the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH) to present *Starting at Home: Using Philanthropy, Research and Practice to Build a Better Ohio*. This two-day event will take place at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel on Wednesday, April 29 and Thursday, April 30.

“This conference is truly the first of its kind in that we will bring together people from all walks of life who are passionate about affordable housing – from philanthropists and researchers to policymakers and politicians – to set an interdisciplinary agenda that will guide future partnerships,” said OHFA executive director Doug Garver. “Research shows that affordable housing is a powerful social determinant of health, education, financial stability, neighborhood revitalization and local governance.”

Headlining the event are keynote speakers Christopher Krehmeyer, president and CEO of Beyond Housing, a NeighborWorks America organization in St. Louis, Mo., and Chris Estes, president and CEO of National Housing Conference in Washington, D.C. Conference sessions will feature over 40 national, state and local speakers.

The two-day event will showcase housing-related sessions focused on the implications affordable housing has on education, healthcare and community stabilization, plus strategic discussions about how to identify opportunities for collaboration and policy development.

“OCCH is pleased to partner with OHFA on this unique and innovative conference,” said Hal Keller, OCCH president. “This event will focus on how affordable housing serves as a platform for the delivery of other critical services in our communities.”

- Continued -

For more information on the conference including hotel accommodations, visit [www.ohiohome.org/StartingAtHome](http://www.ohiohome.org/StartingAtHome).

# # #

***About the Ohio Housing Finance Agency***

*OHFA is a self-supporting quasi-public agency governed by an 11 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 throughout all of Ohio. Since its inception, OCCH has raised and invested more than \$3 billion in private capital in 675 projects with over 33,500 units of affordable housing.*