AMHA Executive Director’s Statement on Our Inclusive Future

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) understands the historic injustice of housing policy in America. Redlining, discrimination, and evictions are all well documented examples of the ways in which housing policies have historically contributed to the problems we face today.

While AMHA has come a long way, we are still evolving and learning, and we hope to continue to face our history while creating a more inclusive future.

Today, I would like to make you aware of our increased commitment to our residents and our community to continue to fight and eradicate racism and injustice in our work.

1. In February, an internal Diversity and Inclusion Committee was created to review our internal hiring practices and policies.

2. We have been reviewing our lease cancellation and eviction data to identify areas in which we can offer additional social services and support to families in housing, rather than taking immediate legal steps.

3. Our senior staff has been trained on trauma informed care and we will be implementing additional trauma informed care training curriculum to give our staff the tools to have difficult conversations and confront their own biases.

In closing, AMHA stands firmly against racism and discrimination. We are a diverse agency with diverse clients and we recognize our responsibility to do more and do better. To our residents: if you have other ideas about how we can do better in the future, please fill out our anonymous Resident Survey. AMHA is proud to be a part of the solution.

Stay safe,
Brian Gage
Executive Director Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

AMHA Reopening Information

Effective June 1st, AMHA has reopened its offices for APPOINTMENTS ONLY. Walk-in appointments are still prohibited.

Additionally, the Reach Opportunity Center is also open for computer lab/printing services and service coordination by APPOINTMENT ONLY.

At in-person appointments, you will be asked to wear a face covering. If you do not have one, one will be provided to you. If you are unable to wear a mask or if you or someone else in your home have been sick, you will be asked to reschedule or make other arrangements to complete the appointment.

Effective June 8th, 2020 our maintenance department will begin addressing HVAC, electrical and plumbing work orders. Additional work orders will be addressed in phases. Essential or emergency work orders will continue to be addressed.

Stimulus Payment Alert!
Watch for Prepaid Cards!

If you qualify for an Economic Impact Payment, the government might mail you your money on a prepaid VISA debit card issued by MetaBank. Do not throw this card away. You will need it to access your Economic Impact Payment.

We answer common questions and provide tips to help you access your money and use your card.

Click Here to Learn More about the Prepaid Debit Card
The City of Akron will be offering Summer Camps starting June 15th. Camps will be outdoor discovery/nature play based. Registration starts soon, and limited space is available so register now!

Camp options can be viewed at: Akron.recdesk.com/community/program

To sign in or create a recdesk account to register, go to https://akron.recdesk.com/Community/Member/Login

These camps are free for any child in AMHA Public Housing that is on the household lease. Unfortunately, LHA and HCVP are not eligible due to HUD funding. Eligible families should select “AMHA Public Housing” as the fee; camp staff will confirm eligibility with AMHA.

Free Summer Camp for Children in Public Housing

Summer Youth Employment Program Goes Online. Register ASAP!

Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro has announced registration is underway for a new program designed to assist county youths this summer. The 2020 Summer Youth Virtual Education Program is available to qualifying youths between the ages of 16-18 who have not yet graduated from high school.

Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this new program is online-only and, for this year, replaces the traditional summer youth program previously administered by the Department of Job and Family Services.

To be eligible for the program, a youth must meet the following requirements:
• Must be a Summit County resident aged 16-18 as of April 1st, 2020.
• Still in high school for the school year beginning this Fall.
• Household income must not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
• Must be available to participate online from mid-June through late July.

Parents and guardians can register online now by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/VSYEP. Each youth participant may earn up to $500 if all programming is completed as assigned and required. Interested youths’ parent or guardian must register online for a first-come, first-served chance to participate.

AMHA is planning for the next five years. We are committed to using resident voices and guidance to help us determine our priorities and goals for the future. This survey is anonymous and will be used to identify areas for improvement or increased resources.

Complete the full survey for a chance to win a free laptop and internet hotspot! Visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L3jT2fX to enter.

We Need to Hear From You!

Read To Find Out How to be Entered to Win a Laptop