



## **Housing as a Pathway to Justice**

### **Ohio Work Group**

#### **Program and Application Information**

#### **ABOUT ENTERPRISE**

Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. (Enterprise) is a national community development intermediary that supports the development and preservation of affordable housing through public-private partnerships with financial institutions, governments, community organizations and other partners. Since 1982, Enterprise has raised and invested nearly \$14 billion in equity, grants, and loans to help build or preserve 300,000 affordable rental and for-sale homes to create vital communities and more than half a million jobs nationwide.

#### **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

Criminal legal system reform is one of the most pressing civil rights issues of our day. People with a conviction record and/or history of criminal legal system involvement often struggle with housing discrimination, income instability, family reunification, and a need for employment services.

In our criminal legal system, Black and Brown individuals, are overrepresented in our prisons and jails and are more likely to be policed and arrested, compared to a white person. This is driven in part by discriminatory policies and discretionary processes throughout the U.S. criminal legal system – from disparities in policing practices and arrest, through pretrial bail decisions, to disposition, sentencing, and parole determinations. This discrimination has been consistent and pervasive throughout the history of the U.S. criminal legal system.

Once released, people face debilitating restrictions, from discrimination in housing to the struggle to find a job. This has created a system where people formerly incarcerated are 10 to 13 times more likely to experience homelessness than people who have not been incarcerated.

In response to the system gaps, Enterprise Community Partners has created a model of facilitated peer sharing and session topics that are tailored for traditional affordable housing developers, property managers, emerging developers, faith groups, and service providers, to support housing opportunities for people affected by the criminal legal system. We believe housing providers can actively work to dismantle some of these restrictions and create access to opportunity.

The Work Group will introduce 5 - 10 participants to basic and advanced issues, barriers, and strategies to address people with conviction records, and/or affected by the criminal legal system. Throughout the topic sessions, participants will learn about the barriers people with conviction records face, and pragmatic solutions and opportunities to house and support this population successfully. Interactive work and assignments may help participants develop a plan to incorporate the material into their work.



Participants can also connect with a technical assistance consultant to help refine organizational goals, internal processes, or development plans to house people affected by the criminal legal system.

### **WORK GROUP STRUCTURE**

The Work Group will meet for six 90-minute, **bi-weekly sessions**<sup>1</sup>:

1. Overview of the Criminal Justice System: Disparate Impacts
2. The Importance of Good, Safe, and Stable Housing, and the Housing Barriers Encountered by People with Criminal Justice System Histories
3. Risks, Myths, and Half Truths
4. Community Engagement and Building Consensus
5. The Importance of Supportive Services
6. Identifying, Accessing, and Leveraging Resources

### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The Technical Assistance Consultant will assist Work Group participants to achieve the scope, work activities, and deliverables that best align with their goals. This application will help identify organizational needs and preferences; specific work activities and deliverables can be further refined with the Consultant(s).

Suggested technical assistance work activities and deliverables might include:

- Development of a comprehensive development plan or feasibility analysis
- Identification of a social service partner or developer partner and the development of a joint business plan for successful implementation and expansion
- Review of policies and procedures to reduce access barriers and include humanizing language
- Creation/modification of staff training plans/programs to provide trauma-informed supportive services
- Development of a stakeholder matrix of resources and services for residents
- Identification of potential funding sources
- Development of a service plan, dashboard, and evaluation to monitor the operational health of a housing portfolio and effectiveness in servicing people formerly incarcerated
- Setting of goals and implementation of action plans for pilots targeting people formerly incarcerated

### **WORK GROUP BENEFITS**

1. A better understanding of the current barriers that people affected by the criminal legal system.
2. Tools, solutions, and resources needed and available to address the housing barriers

---

<sup>1</sup> In consideration of the Christmas and New Year holiday season, the break between the first and second session will be four (4) weeks. The remaining sessions will occur biweekly.



experienced by people affected by the criminal legal system.

3. Increased awareness of policies and procedures rooted in best practices.
4. Consensus-building skills to strengthen community commitment and involvement.
5. Greater awareness of resources available to fund housing for people affected by the criminal legal system.
6. Increased awareness of services--and stakeholders that supply services—available to people affected by the criminal legal system.
7. Relationship building with other practitioners interested in addressing systemic barriers to housing people affected by the criminal legal system.
8. Access to technical assistance that will help tailor specific organizational workplans designed to help advance specific projects that expand access to housing for people formerly incarcerated.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

We expect participants to attend all sessions and participate in any interim assignments.

**Participants who miss more than one unexcused session will not receive a Certificate of Completion, or the TA award .** The work group commitments include:

1. Attending Sessions. **The Work Group will begin with an Orientation on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, from 10:00 – 11:00am. The bi-weekly topical sessions will begin on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 and conclude on Tuesday, July 11, 2023.** Note: The schedule of the sessions may be adjusted. Timely updates will be sent out if any session is rescheduled.
2. Interim Course Work. There may be minimal assignments between sessions. Participants are expected to review pre-session materials.
3. Engagement with TA (Technical Assistance) for a period of time to be determined.

There is an expectation that all participants have a collective interest in using the information learned in the course to advance their organization’s work. Participants are expected to provide Enterprise with information on the impact of what was learned in the Work Group, up to six months after program completion. We also encourage Work Group members to further develop relationships identified during the course.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible applicants are employees of for-profit and non-profit organizations in the affordable housing industry, and service providers looking to expand their services or develop new partnerships, including:

1. Novice affordable housing developers interested in developing housing for people who are formerly incarcerated.
2. Traditional affordable housing developers interested in serving people who are formerly incarcerated.
3. Property Management companies interested in learning about, and enacting, more



inclusive policies

4. Service providers looking to expand their services or develop new partnerships.

Please note that we recommend the participation of senior staff from your organization, e.g., CEO, Director of Housing, Director of Development, as well as the participation of no more than two program/project managers—up to 3 representatives per organization. If an organization designates more than one representative, all representatives need not attend all sessions. At least one representative from the organization should attend every session.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Applicants may apply via SlideRoom. To start an application, please use:  
<https://enterprise.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/71549>

**IMPORTANT:** SlideRoom will automatically save the Applicant's work. That means that even if the Applicant loses internet connection or has computer problems, the work will still be saved. Applicants can also log in and out as many times as they need to complete their application. However, once an Applicant submits their proposal, they cannot go back to make any edits. Applications received outside of SlideRoom or after the deadline will not be accepted.

**Application Deadline: March 31, 2023, at 11:59 pm.**

For any questions, please contact James Walker, at [jwalker@enterprisecommunity.org](mailto:jwalker@enterprisecommunity.org).

## **THE APPLICATION**

We ask applicants to supply the information and answer the questions listed below.

General Applicant Information:

1. Name of Applicant Organization
2. Name of Primary Point of Contact (Person)
3. Primary Email
4. Primary Phone Number
5. Name of Secondary Point of Contact (Person)
6. Secondary Email
7. Secondary Phone Number
8. Organization's Years of Experience in the Housing Industry

Content-Specific Questions: (Please limit your responses to 250 words per question.)

1. Briefly describe the work and mission of your organization. Please provide brief information about the demographics and income of the people you currently serve.
2. Does your organization already work with people impacted by the criminal legal system? If so, please describe.
3. What barriers has your organization experienced while working (or trying to work with) this population?
4. List and describe the role of the individuals that will be representing your organization.



5. Has your organization established a commitment and/or specific goals to advance racial equity? If so, please describe what these are. In what ways will this course align with your organization's mission to advance racial equity?
6. Why is your organization motivated to learn more about the intersection of housing and the criminal legal system, and why do you believe it is a significant societal challenge?
7. What would your organization like to learn or take away from participating in a work group that will specifically focus on people impacted by the criminal legal system?
8. Specifically, what technical assistance would you find most helpful in order accomplish your organization's goal at providing housing to the justice-involved population?
9. Please list the staff members that will participate in the Work Group. Describe the team's availability and commitment to participating in all sessions throughout the Program.

### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Up to ten organizations will be selected to participate in the course. Applications will be evaluated on the following characteristics:

1. Completed application (10 points).
2. Demonstrated commitment to learning more, and readiness to implement change, pertaining to the intersection between the criminal legal system and the affordable housing sector (40 points).
3. Organizational commitment to advance racial equity (40 points).
4. Geographic and/or organizational diversity (10 points). Enterprise may award points to ensure we have representation from various geographic areas in Ohio and different organizations (developers, property managers, and service providers).

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Academy Application Opens: 3/6/2023**

**Informational Webinar/Q & A: 3/16/2023 @ 10:30 am [Register Here](#)**

**Academy Application Closes: 3/31/2023 @ 11:59 pm**

**Acceptance Notifications: Week of 4/3/2023**