

RECORD OF LEGISLATION

No. 09.66.2025

Passed 9-2, 20 25

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF OPIOID FUNDS TO THE CENTRAL OHIO LIVING FREE, DBA THE COVERING.

WHEREAS, OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding provides a mechanism for the distribution of any opioid settlement funds and outlines how the funds can be used. 30% of the funding will be paid directly to local governments for approved purposes as delineated by the Memorandum; and

WHEREAS, Opioid Funds can be used on programs that address prevention, treatment and long-term recovery; criminal justice; and public awareness costs that promote the overall health and well-being of Ohioans, and the Local Government share can also be used for past expenditures consistent with the Approved Purposes; and

WHEREAS, Central Ohio Living Free, DBA The Covering has requested funding assistance for removing and replacing old and broken flooring and assistance with utility costs for two program houses in Pickaway County; and

WHEREAS, Central Ohio Living Free, DBA The Covering will request the amount of \$15,500 as long as Opioid Funds are available and will distribute to the Central Ohio Living Free, DBA The Covering, \$5,500 as a one-time payment for flooring repairs and \$10,000 annually for utility costs assistance for two program houses located in Pickaway County, provided they apply and meet all requirements for annual appropriations of opioid funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE, STATE OF OHIO,

SECTION I: Central Ohio Living Free, DBA The Covering is requesting the Opioid Dollars of \$15,500 as long as Opioid Funds are available.

SECTION II: Please reference the attached Request for Proposal for the details of the use of the funds (Attachment A).

SECTION III. Central Ohio Living Free, DBA The Covering shall be required to email a report at the end of the year to the Mayor, Auditor, Council President and Finance Committee Chairperson. This report is then to be reviewed by the Finance Committee with this Committee to provide a summary to the full Council. At a minimum the report shall provide for each non-profit:

- a) A description of the program
- b) How the money was spent
- c) The number of citizens that participated or were served
- d) If the program will continue in the following year, and/or any major changes planned
- e) The request for funding for the following year

SECTION IV: That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period permitted by law.

PASSED: 9-2-2025
DATE

Bruce J. Kelly
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: Melissa Johnson
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: 9-2-2025
DATE

Michelle Y. Blanton
MAYOR

APPROVED AS FORM:
Kendra C. Kinney
KENDRA C. KINNEY - LAW DIRECTOR

Proposal for One Ohio Recovery City of Circleville Grant

Project Title: Securing Safe Housing for Homeless Families

Applicant Name: Central Ohio Living Free DBA The Covering

Applicant Type: Nonprofit

If a nonprofit, answer the following. Applicant affirms current registration status with:

- **IRS:** Yes
- **Secretary of State:** Yes
- **Attorney General:** Yes

Upload your 501c determination letter.

Does your organization have an annual independent audit? No

Does your organization have and use a conflict-of-interest policy for board and staff? Yes

Applicant affirms it is certified and accredited to provide the services for which it is seeking funding: YES

Applicant address (street address, city, state, zip code)

12017 Spangler Rd., Circleville, Ohio 43113

Primary Contact (name, title, email, telephone)

Jenny Hill, Executive Director

jhill@thecovering686.org

740-505-0209

Applicant website: thecovering686.org

Current fiscal year budget total: \$304,575

Program approved purpose (indicate all that apply):

- Prevention
- Education
- Recovery

Funds Requested (Maximum per year): \$20,500

Indicate if this is:

- o Continuation of an existing program

Indicate the length of the program:

- o Single year and On-going:
The primary program is 12 months (Residential phase). However, after graduation, most participants (and their children, when applicable) move into the open-ended Transitional Phase for ongoing support, mentorship and community while obtaining sustainable, independent housing.

If program is a continuation, describe how it will improve or increase the program AND how this request does not supplant current funding:

Since its beginning, The Covering has relied on support through grants and generous donations in order to provide ongoing supportive housing to women (and their children). These women and families would otherwise be caught in the cycle of homelessness, domestic violence, mental health struggles, drug and alcohol dependency, and other life-controlling issues. This funding will meet two essential needs:

1. \$5,500 will help ensure The Covering's ability to provide a safe and clean environment by removing and replacing old and broken tile in the kitchen with laminate flooring as well as the purchase of a table to accommodate the program ladies and children in that space.
2. \$15,000 will help ensure The Covering's ability to continue daily operations by paying the utility costs of both program houses for one year.

What other funding do you receive for this organization:

The Covering is sustained through fundraising, including an annual Banquet, church, business and personal donations, grants and resident program fees.

Amount of other funding: January 1, 2025- June 30, 2025: The Covering has received \$75,292 in donations, \$43,760 from the Annual Banquet and \$60,991 in program fees, for a total of \$180,044.

Program Start Date: The Covering Program is ongoing. For the purpose of this grant funding the start date would begin once funding is received.

Program End Date: The Covering Program is ongoing. For the purpose of this grant funding the end date would be 12 months following the date funds are received.

Describe the local needs to be addressed and how those needs have been identified:

The Covering program addresses the needs of at-risk and homeless women including, but not limited to homelessness and housing insecurity, food insecurity, alcohol and drug addiction, and safety and stability for themselves and their children. Additionally, the Covering team provides

hands on support for obtaining regular employment, obtaining a driver's license, settling outstanding fines, reunification with their children and families, getting out of debt and building savings to change the trajectory of their futures and that of their children. The ladies and children at The Covering benefit from a loving and structured family environment where healthy relationships are both practiced & modeled: mom, sister, friend, etc. Certified Biblical Counselors provide discipleship and counseling, encouraging women to grow spiritually, to find healing from the past and embrace hope for the future.

These needs have been identified through lived experience of some of the staff themselves, work experience in other recovery programs, as well as professional training and education in the field.

Describe the structure of the program and people to be served, including how population demographics (i.e., age, gender, culture) and if applicable, social determinants of health (e.g., housing stability, adverse childhood experiences/trauma, food instability, insurance status, proximity to quality services) will be addressed. Include the number of people, ages and cultural demographics of the populations to be served.

The Covering Program is structured to occur in two phases. The first is the initial 12-month Residential Program Phase, consisting of intense personal engagement and oversight. It is designed to address immediate needs such as food, medical, shelter and employment, as well as getting to the root of addictions and life controlling issues. The first 3-6 months is crucial in establishing trusting relationships, changing unhealthy behaviors, addressing and healing of experiences/trauma and mitigating the challenges preventing the woman from being healthy in every area of her life. Among other things, the Covering staff set up and transport residents to appointments, assist in obtaining driver's licenses and help establish medical insurance and medical care; including vision and dental as needed. At-risk women who are 18 years or older are welcomed into the Residential Program after meeting with a program coordinator to determine if it is a good match for them. Often the woman comes directly from the streets (homeless) or is referred by a concerned family member or community agency. Women may also come directly from incarceration.

Upon completing the Residential Program Phase, the woman may enter Phase two -Transitional Living, if she chooses. At this point, she can bring her children to live with her (if applicable) at the "Big House," while pursuing sustainable housing and independent living with the continued support of the Covering family.

There are currently two homes, one for the Program Residents and one for the Transitional Residents, with 13 women (ages 19 years- 63 years) and 6 children (ages 8 years- 15 years), of whom 11 are Caucasian and 8 are Black. There is no discrimination regarding race, age or gender as the Covering's mission is based on "rebuilding family." In order to protect the ladies and promote the healing process, the program is currently ministering only to women and their children in the two current homes. It is our hope to provide a men's home in the future.

Describe the program, including the activities, services and assessments:

The Covering provides wrap-around services from day one. The woman's basic immediate and long-term needs are assessed and addressed including safety, medical, housing, nutrition, etc. However, the heart of the program reaches beyond meeting the socioeconomic needs of the woman and her children to caring for the mind, body and spirit. When you are part of the Covering, you become part of a family that cares, supports, helps, teaches and remains consistent in the ups and downs - something many have never experienced. Each person is treated with respect and is encouraged to become whole and helped to regain what they have lost through wrong choices and life circumstances.

The Covering's mission is "redeeming women's lives through the gospel of Jesus Christ in a Christian home: rebuilding family," with the vision of "equipping and empowering families in God-centered homes." This spiritual foundation is demonstrated through activities such as biblical counseling, Bible study, personal discipleship and weekly worship services. The ladies and their children also engage in meaningful volunteer opportunities and enjoy family-focused activities such as game nights, outdoor sports (especially volleyball), and celebrate birthdays, holidays, special events and accomplishments together. For those in the Transitional Phase, their children are encouraged to participate in school sports and activities – many of which are attended by others to show their care and support.

Once established in the program, each woman is assisted in finding appropriate employment. The Covering partners with various local businesses who are willing to offer the resident ladies this opportunity for a fresh start. Transportation and other necessary resources are supplied through the program. The staff provide practical training on how to handle money and make wise financial decisions, as well as other important life skills including how to have healthy relationships, set boundaries, learn to cook, parent well, homemaking and more.

Throughout the program spiritual, mental, emotional and socioeconomic progress is assessed with the woman and plans are evaluated and established to keep moving toward success. Graduation from the Residential Program Phase is not solely based on time but also consists of tangible milestones and true readiness to move into a more independent Transitional phase. The Transitional Phase is "open-ended," meaning there is no set time the woman must move out completely on her own. The Covering is family based and works in tandem with the woman to prepare for the next stage. Upon leaving the Covering, the alumni are welcome to continue relationships and return to the "Big house" often. Many become support staff for the Residential Phase and mentors for newer residents.

Indicate/describe the evidence-based practices being followed in the program: Abatement strategies/evidence-based resources:

The Covering Biblical Counselors utilize the Christ-centered 12-Step curriculum "Stepping Into Freedom" that is used by world renown Teen Challenge programs. Abatement strategies such as Motivational Interviewing, Creating a Supportive Environment and Lifestyle Change are key

and used consistently throughout the program as well as during the Transitional Phase. Developing and Applying Coping Skills such as Assertive Communication, Problem Solving and Stress Management are also essential to encourage and support long term freedom from addiction.

Describe the anticipated annual outcomes of the program, including metrics to be gathered and monitored:

The anticipated annual outcomes of the program are:

- There will be at least 9 new ladies join the Residential Program Phase in the 12-month period.
- At least 7 women will complete and graduate the 12-month program during this period.
- Eighty percent (80%) of women who complete the program will be reunified with their children if estranged upon entering the program.
- Every woman who enters the program without a diploma or GED will be enrolled and actively participating in GED classes either during the Residential or Transitional Phase, based upon their readiness.
- Every woman will be gainfully employed within four (4) months of entering the program unless a disability is present. Upon which, the woman will be active in appropriate, consistent volunteer opportunities.

The metrics for each of these annual outcomes will be monitored monthly by the Residential Director and quarterly by the Executive Director and Residential Director. Progress for each metric will be assessed and appropriate interventions made to meet these outcomes.

Describe the organization's capacity, experience and readiness, including key personnel qualifications:

The capacity of the Residential House (Phase 1) is twelve (12) women. Seven (7) women are currently enrolled, creating the capacity for five more (5). In addition, as the Residential women graduate and move into the Transitional House (Phase 2), there will be increased capacity. There is currently capacity for an additional four (4) women (and children) in Phase 2.

The Covering Team has a combined experience of 17 years ministering to those in addiction and life-controlling issues. Two of these staff have personally experienced addiction and the process of becoming free and having their lives and families restored. The Executive Director previously worked and volunteered with local recovery programs Teen Challenge and The Refuge respectively, along with two staff members who went through The Refuge program and worked there following. With two certified Biblical Counselors and a certified Peer Supporter on board, the team is well equipped to care for those coming into the program.

Describe how grant activities will be monitored for meeting program requirements, including staff roles:

Grant activities and metrics will be monitored monthly by the Residential Director and reviewed quarterly by the Executive and Residential Directors.

Describe how the grant will be monitored for meeting fiscal requirements:


This will be determined by the Executive Director upon receiving the guidelines of fiscal requirements with receipt of the grant.

Describe how the project will be sustained beyond the period for which funding is requested:

The Covering will continue to hold fundraising events, seek financial partnerships, grant funding and donations while maintaining program fees throughout the year.

Un-allowable expenses:

- Food and beverage costs are allowed for program participants if integral to program or service being provided.
- Alcoholic beverages
- Entertainment

Authorized Signature  _____
Title Executive Director _____
Date 8/12/25 _____



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

CENTRAL OHIO LIVING FREE INC
9280 SANDPIPER COURT
ORIENT, OH 43146

Date:
09/10/2021
Employer ID number:
81-4410536
Person to contact:
Name: Customer Service
ID number: 31954
Telephone: (877) 829-5500
Accounting period ending:
June 30
Public charity status:
509(a)(2)
Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required:
Yes
Effective date of exemption:
June 15, 2021
Contribution deductibility:
Yes
Addendum applies:
No
DLN:
26053567003771

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements