

CHARLES D. HILLMAN
President & CEO, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority

There is an affordable housing crisis in Central Ohio, with 54,000 families unable to find an affordable place to live. Charles has charged his team at the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) to take a leading role in finding solutions to this crisis.

Charles assumed the role of President & CEO of CMHA in 2010. Since then, CMHA has grown its footprint to house over 15,000 families in Central Ohio; and Charles has set a goal of growing the agency by an additional 2,000 housing units over the next five years. Charles is committed to not just providing clients an affordable place to live but also providing access to services to help clients stabilize and grow towards self-sufficiency.

Under Charles' leadership, CMHA has also strengthened and stabilized its financial position. In 2016 CMHA decreased operating expenses dramatically while increasing total assets by approximately \$38 million. This stability has enabled Charles and his team to explore new and innovative ways to provide affordable housing throughout the community.

HUD awarded CMHA a \$30-million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant in 2014. This grant, along with local public and private-sector commitments, will result in 450 new units of mixed-income family and elderly housing and over \$250 million invested in Columbus' Near East Side, a predominately African American neighborhood that has suffered from years of neglect.

Continuing CMHA's neighborhood revitalization efforts, Charles also forged a partnership with Casto, the Robert Weiler Company, and the City of Columbus to redevelop another former public housing site, this time in the Franklinton neighborhood. This project, known as River & Rich, is a mixed-income, mixed-use development with over 250 units of housing, 36,000 square feet of commercial space, and a 300-space parking garage. Under Charles' direction, CMHA first came back to Franklinton in 2014 when the Agency partnered with Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing to open Franklin Station, a 100-unit permanent supportive housing development for adults with physical and mental disabilities and individuals who have experienced homelessness.

In addition, Charles is leading the way in bringing new affordable housing to neighborhoods of opportunity outside of the City of Columbus. Since 2016, CMHA has acquired over 350 new units in suburban school districts. Charles' goal is to acquire at least 1,000 more. CMHA will provide workforce housing and other affordable housing options at these sites.

His leadership abilities and housing expertise stem from his 25 years of experience in the development, construction and operation of private and publicly-assisted rental housing. As a Senior Vice President of Asset Management for the Chicago Housing Authority, Charles was responsible for overseeing a diverse portfolio of 16,000 units. This portfolio was managed by his staff of 42 professionals with an annual budget of \$130 million.

Charles is an active Board Trustee of the Franklin Park Conservatory, member of the MORPC Housing Advisory Board, member of the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) Advisory Council and member of United Way of Central Ohio's Key Club.

In 2016, Charles received the Public Service Ambassador Award from the Greater Columbus Community Helping Hands, Inc., the Outstanding Community Partner Excellence in Service Award from the YWCA and Columbus Business First Outstanding Diversity Role Model award. In 2017 and 2018 he was awarded Ohio's Healthiest Employers of Central Ohio from Columbus Business First. In 2018, he received the Columbus Urban League's Empowerment Service Award and Columbus Business First CEO of the Year Award.

Charles resides in Bexley, Ohio, and has two daughters, Channing and Chelsea.