

# Coalition of Housing and Homeless Organizations (COHHO)

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May 14, 2008

Mr. Clarence Carter, Director  
DC Department of Human Services  
64 New York Avenue, NE, Sixth Floor  
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Draft Permanent Supportive Housing Plan

Dear Mr. Carter:

The Coalition of Housing and Homeless Organizations (COHHO) is a membership organization of homeless services providers and homeless individuals in the District of Columbia. A membership list is attached to this letter.

COHHO endorses the written comments provided to you by the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development (CNHED) on May 8, 2008, regarding the District's Draft Permanent Supportive Housing Plan. In addition, COHHO makes the following recommendations:

1. The PSH draft plan is a fine framework. However, it is evident that further specifics are needed. In order to implement the framework effectively, further input from community partners about site locations and about the nature and availability of supportive services will be needed.
2. The funding mechanisms for implementation of the draft plan need to be more precisely identified and refined. Some of the contemplated resources are not actually available. The plan needs to identify what steps need to be taken in order to obtain the requisite financial resources for its implementation.
3. Questions remain about how the plan will be implemented from the viewpoint of the consumer. For example, how will clients access the housing? What will be the eligibility criteria? Which vouchers will be used? Are there sufficient vouchers to meet the needs of persons who will be eligible for PSH and persons on the DCHA waitlist including those who could be housed with Local Rent Supplement Program funds? Does the plan acknowledge and accommodate that there is a time lag of several months to find housing even after one receives a voucher? COHHO stands ready to assist in working on these and other issues.

**Mr. Clarence Carter**

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**May 14, 2008**

Thank you for your attention to our comments. Feel free to contact us, via Nechama Masliansky, 202-797-8806 ext. 2107, [nmasliansky@some.org](mailto:nmasliansky@some.org) .

Very truly yours,

Julia Smith Simerly  
COHHO Co-Convener

Melvin Watkins  
COHHO Co-Convener

Nechama Masliansky  
COHHO Acting Secretary

cc: Laura Zeilinger, Esq.  
Ms. Sanja Partalo