



FY 2024 Annual Report

President

David Stillwagon
CCA, Inc.

Executive Director

Lusanne Green

OCCA Agency Members

Alvis - Columbus,
Dayton, Chillicothe, Lima,
Toledo

Community Assessment &
Treatment Services, Inc. -
Cleveland

Community Corrections
Association, Inc. - Youngstown

Community Correctional Center,
Talbert House - Lebanon

Community Restoration Centers
of Stark County, Inc. - Canton

Community Transition Center -
Lancaster

CROSSWAEH CBCF, Oriana
House, Inc. - Tiffin

Judge Nancy R. McDonnell
CBCF, Oriana House, Inc. -
Cleveland

Mahoning County CBCF,
Community Corrections
Association, Inc. - Youngstown

Oriana House, Inc. - Akron,
Cleveland, Marietta

Salvation Army Harbor Light -
Cleveland

Summit County CBCF Oriana
House, Inc. - Akron

Talbert House - Cincinnati

Turtle Creek, Talbert House -
Lebanon

Volunteers of America Ohio &
Indiana - Cincinnati, Dayton,
Mansfield, Toledo

Message from the President



I am pleased to share the Ohio Community Corrections Association's 2024 Annual Report with you. In these pages, you will find highlights of the year in community corrections as experienced by the nine non-profit community corrections agencies that comprise the OCCA.

Our members operate halfway houses and community based correctional facilities (CBCFs) in urban and rural communities across Ohio. OCCA member agencies provide residential and non-residential services to criminal justice-involved individuals including both those returning from prison and those who are sanctioned in the community in lieu of prison. Our commitment is to first assess **EVERY** individual and then deliver the tailored, evidence-based programming the research shows reduces recidivism in a structured, secure environment.

The clients we serve continue to present with higher, more complex needs than ever before, and we have expanded our capacity to meet those needs. We provide an effective alternative to jails and prisons as our clients receive cognitive behavioral and chemical dependency treatment, and other supportive services. Our emphasis is on preparing our justice-involved clients to join the workforce, assisting them in gaining employment, and ensuring they are able to secure safe, affordable housing when they exit our facilities.

OCCA supports these efforts through a mission centered on training in best practices and advocacy for policies that reduce recidivism. We are making a difference in community corrections.

- ♦ Halfway house and community based correctional facility (CBCF) residents joined the workforce in communities across the state. In the process, they earned over \$10 million and paid over \$1 million in taxes, while completing programming and treatment.
- ♦ Ohio's halfway house and CBCF residents accepted responsibility and began the journey to productive lives as they provided over 350,000 hours of community service across Ohio, while also paying court fines, restitution, and child support.
- ♦ Over 300 individuals attended OCCA's annual conference in 2024, and an additional 200 were provided training facilitated by OCCA throughout the year. Training participants were drawn from across the community corrections field.

We remain committed to ensuring the individuals we serve receive the supervision, programming, and support they need to turn their lives around and successfully reenter their local communities. OCCA members stand at the ready to work with legislators and other key stakeholders on common sense criminal justice reforms and to ensure returning citizens have access to the resources necessary for success, including sustainable employment and safe, affordable housing.

We look forward to continuing to work with you!

Sincerely,

David Stillwagon
OCCA President

Mission

The Ohio Community Corrections Association provides to member community corrections service providers the opportunity for advocacy and professional development which enhances their ability to reduce repeat criminal offending.

OVERVIEW

Our association represents two types of residential community corrections programs. The first are non-profit operated **Community Based Correctional Facilities – or CBCFs** – which are funded 100% by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and divert felony offenders from entering prison. The Common Pleas judges directly sentence individuals to these CBCFs for a period not to exceed a six month stay. The average length of stay is typically four months, during which time residents participate in treatment programs including cognitive behavioral programming, chemical dependency counseling, vocational rehabilitation, and educational classes including GED testing. In Fiscal Year 2024, there were 18 CBCFs operating in the state. OCCA represents five non-profit operated CBCFs. Facility Governing Boards oversee these facilities.

Halfway Houses are residential programs that provide supervision and treatment services for program participants. There are 33 halfway house facilities throughout Ohio. The primary focus is to transition participants back to the community and assist with obtaining employment, stable housing and connecting them to support services they can access independently. Specialized services for substance abusers, sex offenders and the mentally ill may be offered. Most participants enter halfway houses in the following ways:

- ◆ **Direct Sentence.** A direct sentence allows a judge to sentence a person directly to a halfway house. This allows appropriate individuals to be diverted from prison and placed in local community corrections programs while creating space in prison for violent and dangerous individuals who need to be separated from society. If community corrections options are not available, local judges will have no choice but to sentence these persons to prison.
- ◆ **Probation or Parole Violation.** With failure to meet the technical conditions of their probation or parole, (housing, employment, abstinence from drugs and alcohol) some may need to be placed temporarily in a more structured environment, with a higher level of supervision but not necessarily in prison. These violators need to be stabilized and understand the conditions of their probation or parole. This alternative sanction keeps the individual from going to prison and enables him or her to transition back to the community successfully.
- ◆ **Parole/ Post Release Control/ Institutional Referrals.** These clients have completed their prison sentence and are released into the structured environment of the halfway house to receive services and remain under the supervision of the Adult Parole Authority as they transition into the community.
- ◆ **Treatment Transfer.** This program transfers eligible non-violent individuals serving a year or less with substance use disorders to halfway houses where they receive comprehensive treatment including chemical dependency treatment, aftercare and relapse prevention, self-help groups, and drug and alcohol testing.
- ◆ **Transitional Control.** Transitional control participants spend the final months of their sentence, first in a halfway house and later in their homes with electronic monitoring.

2024 CLIFF SKEEN HALFWAY HOUSE WINNER

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION, INC.



David Stillwagon (center), CEO of CCA, Inc. poses with CCA staff and Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) leaders after receiving the 2024 Cliff Skeen Halfway House Award.

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction presents the Clifford Skeen Award annually to residential and non-residential programs in recognition of excellence in community corrections.

The 2024 Cliff Skeen Halfway House award winner is Community Corrections Association, Inc. (CCA) located in Youngstown.

DELIVERING CRITICAL SERVICES

CBCF/HALFWAY HOUSE PROGRAM SERVICES PROVIDED

Alcohol / Drug Services:

- Chemical Dependency Treatment
- Aftercare / Relapse Prevention
- Self Help Groups
- Prevention
- Drug & Alcohol Testing

Cognitive Skills:

- Criminal Thinking
- “Thinking for a Change”
- Restorative Justice
- Victim Impact
- Anger Management
- Family / Parenting

Education Services:

- Literacy/Tutoring
- Adult Basic Education (ABE)
- General Equivalency Diploma (GED) Preparation and Testing
- Vocational Services
- Computer Training

Employment Services:

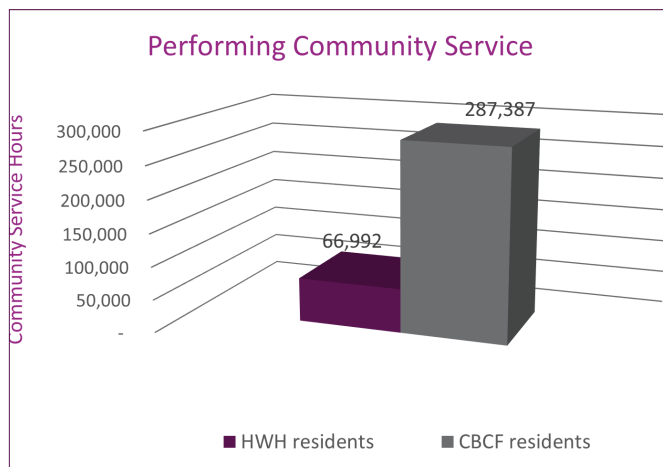
- Job Readiness
- Jobs Assistance/Placement/Retention

Special Services:

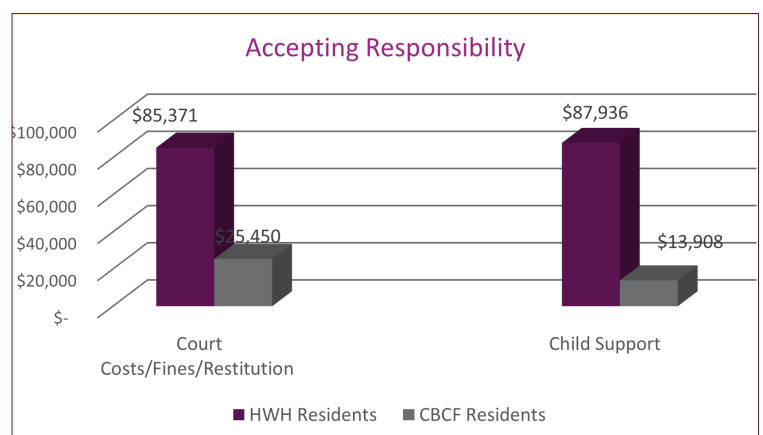
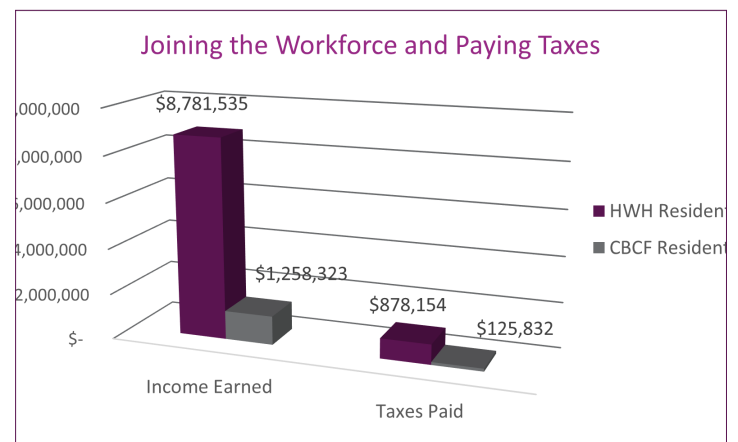
- Mental Health
- Sex Offender Treatment
- Developmentally Disabled
- Dual-Diagnosis Treatment
- Domestic Violence Services
- Veteran Services
- Geriatric Services
- Human Trafficking Victims
- Children/Family Programs

NOTE: Not all services are provided by all Halfway Houses or CBCFs

Fiscal Year 2024 All Residential Community Corrections* Program Benefits



*The data reflected in the graphs represent all Ohio community based correctional facilities, including the five that are member agencies of the OCCA.



FISCAL YEAR 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In fiscal year 2024, the OCCA fulfilled its mission of advocacy and professional development by:

- **CONDUCTING THE OCCA 21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE** in 2024. Over 300 individuals participated. Conference highlights included keynotes by Stan Partlow (*Leading through Strategic Communication*) and Dr. Joanne Lunceford (*Responsivity and the Role of Systemic Issues*) as well as a roundtable centered on meeting the housing needs of criminal justice-involved individuals.
- **OFFERING DAY TRAININGS** that feature evidence-based practices shown to reduce recidivism. The OCCA Training Committee conducted a survey to determine training needs and oriented its training calendar around the identified areas. The association sponsored regular user training for community corrections professionals on the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) tool and targeted additional training to the community corrections managers and supervisors who oversee direct service provision to clients and make a difference in frontline staff retention. OCCA is authorized by the state of Ohio to provide credentialing hours through the Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Board and the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board - a designation we have held for over twenty years.
- **INVESTING IN THE FUTURE** to ensure the OCCA is prepared for the challenges facing community corrections and the criminal justice involved by conducting an annual strategic planning retreat. The OCCA is focused on developing additional training for those who work with clients who are presenting with more complex needs, providing advocacy for common sense justice policies, and improving the housing outlook for individuals with justice involvement.
- **BUILDING ONGOING RELATIONSHIPS WITH POLICY MAKERS AND THEIR STAFF** by hosting an annual reception at the Statehouse complete with educational literature. OCCA also testified in support of efforts to provide individuals leaving prison with the identification documents and education/certification records needed to obtain employment and housing and engaged with the Senate Select Committee on Housing on the impact of Ohio's housing crisis on individuals with criminal histories. OCCA participates in the Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness, the statewide Stepping Up Initiative, and the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections.



Josh Arnold, Talbert House President and CEO, meets with Representative Adam Bird at the 2024 OCCA Legislative Reception.



Participants enjoy the outdoors while setting the course for the OCCA at the OCCA Strategic Planning Retreat at Geneva-on-the-Lake State Park.



OCCA Members Charlette Osterland, Beau Hill, Mike Randle, Matt Bechtold, and Deb Winston meet with Ohio Senator Nathan Manning and Representative Gayle Manning.

SECOND CHANCES START AT HOME

The Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA) has long been dedicated to addressing the complex needs of Ohio's criminal justice-involved population. One of the most pressing challenges faced by this demographic is securing stable housing. In FY 24, OCCA members were hard at work establishing partnerships, providing training, and engaging in advocacy to meet the housing needs of individuals with a criminal justice background.

Individuals involved in the criminal justice system are ten times more likely to experience homelessness than the general public. This stark statistic underscores the significant barriers these individuals face when seeking housing including stigma, legal restrictions, and a lack of affordable housing options. Many landlords are reluctant to rent to individuals with criminal records, and housing policies can further complicate the search for housing. Additionally, the behavioral health needs of this population often require specialized housing solutions not readily available.

Housing instability has a profound impact on recidivism rates. Studies have shown that formerly incarcerated individuals who lack stable housing are significantly more likely to reoffend.

OCCA has formed a Housing Committee dedicated to tackling these issues head-on. The committee has grown to include staff from member halfway houses and partners from organizations such as the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), HUD, and the Ohio Justice & Policy Center. This collaborative effort ensures a comprehensive approach to addressing the housing needs of our clients.

OCCA presented a workshop on housing for the criminal justice-involved population at the 2024 COHHIO conference. The workshop was attended by a packed room of stakeholders, highlighting the widespread interest and urgency of this issue. The session provided an opportunity to share best practices, discuss challenges, and explore potential solutions with a diverse audience. To further support community corrections professionals, OCCA is bringing housing training to the forefront of our own training agenda with additional sessions aimed to better equip community correctional professionals with the knowledge and tools needed to assist clients in securing stable housing.

OCCA's commitment to addressing housing challenges extends to the legislative arena. In 2024, OCCA Past President Linda Janes testified in front of the Ohio Senate Select Committee on Housing, and OCCA members shared information about housing needs at our annual legislative day to ensure the challenges faced by the justice-involved are not overlooked by policy makers.

The OCCA is dedicated to addressing the housing challenges faced by Ohio's justice-involved population. As we move forward, OCCA remains committed to collaborating with Ohio's legislators, partners and stakeholders to create a more inclusive and effective housing system for all Ohioans.



In May 2024, OCCA members toured the Connect Housing Blocks manufacturing facility to learn more about an innovative approach to increasing Ohio's supply of affordable housing. This visit provided valuable insights into how modular housing solutions can be leveraged to address the housing shortage and offer stable living environments for our clients.



OCCA Past President Linda Janes testifies in front of the Senate Select Committee on Housing to share information about the additional barriers justice involved individuals experience in finding safe, affordable housing.

LEADERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

2024 OCCA President's Award Christopher Galli



2024 OCCA President's Award winner, former Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Bureau of Community Sanctions Chief Christopher Galli addresses the audience at the 2024 OCCA Conference.

2024 OCCA Membership Award Jason Varney



2024 OCCA Leadership Award winner Jason Varney, Vice President at Oriana House, speaks about his career-long commitment to caring for those in need of support and second chances.

2024 OCCA Legislative Achievement Award



OCCA President David Stillwagon congratulates Ohio Representative Bill Seitz at the April 2024 OCCA Annual Legislative Reception.

The OCCA leadership, members, and staff used the occasion of the 2024 OCCA Annual Legislative Reception to recognize Representative Bill Seitz for his long-time advocacy for common sense sentencing reform. Throughout his career in both Ohio chambers, Representative Seitz championed legislation aimed at making the criminal justice system more effective, reducing recidivism rates, and promoting alternative dispositions that provide true second chances while increasing public safety.

No Shelter, No Second Chances

Ohio's Housing Crisis and the Justice Involved

Ohio is confronting an unprecedented housing crisis with an estimated deficit of 264,083 affordable rental units. At least 11,759 Ohioans were homeless in January 2024.

Formerly incarcerated individuals are **10 times** more likely to be homeless than the rest of the population.

Individuals experiencing housing instability or homelessness are far more likely to recidivate than individuals with stable housing.

Restored citizens face additional barriers when seeking stable housing including skyrocketing rents, gaps in employment history, bad credit, landlords unwilling to rent to those with criminal histories, exclusionary practices in public housing, and the lack of supportive services to address addiction and mental health needs.

JUSTICE SERVED, HOMES FOUND

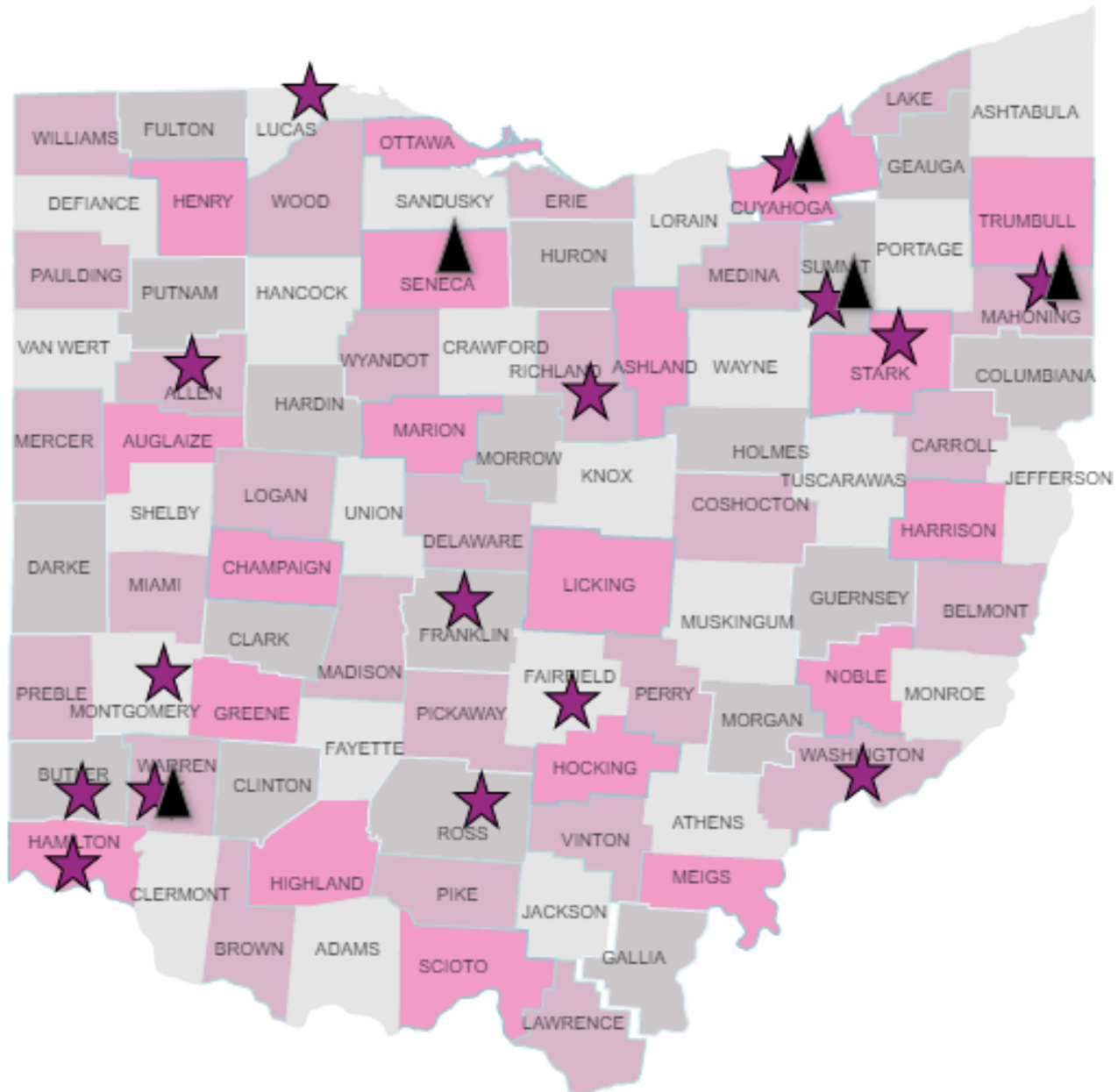
BREAKING THE HOMELESSNESS TO RECIDIVISM CYCLE

Housing instability and homelessness negatively impact reentry and lead to much higher likelihoods of committing new crimes. When we increase access to affordable, stable housing for Ohioans with justice involvement, we provide meaningful second chances. In the process, we also increase public safety for all Ohioans. Overcoming the housing barriers faced by Ohio's restored citizens will require innovative and comprehensive solutions. Let's start with the following:

- ◆ Address housing barriers for the criminal-justice involved in any comprehensive Ohio housing reform.
- ◆ Support creative solutions like master lease programs where an intermediary is the responsible party between landlord and tenant.
- ◆ Increase funding for housing and wrap around behavioral health services for those with justice-involved backgrounds.



SERVING COMMUNITIES ACROSS OHIO



OCCA Member Halfway House Location(s)

Each star represents one or more halfway house facilities in the county. The network of halfway houses works to provide services to criminal justice-involved individuals across all 88 counties.



OCCA Member CBCF Location