

Ohio CDC Assoc. names new exec. director

Nate Coffman of Ohio City Near West Development Corp. to begin Dec. 1

COLUMBUS - The Ohio CDC Association, a statewide membership organization of community development corporations, has chosen a Cleveland CDC leader with private-sector housing experience as its new executive director. Nate Coffman, executive director of Ohio City Near West Development Corporation (OCNW), will begin work Dec. 1, 2009 at OCDCA's offices in downtown Columbus.

"We're thrilled that Nate Coffman has accepted the job of leading our members through the significant challenges our communities face in all parts of Ohio," said Stephen Torsell, the association's president and executive director of Homes on the Hill Community Development Corporation in Columbus. "Nate brings a track record of success, deep experience in private-sector housing and an urban as well as rural perspective. Through his work with developers, he has gained a thorough understanding of the business side of housing. That perspective will help our members, most of which are nonprofits, as they tackle the many business issues in operating housing as well as other economic development programs."

A native of southeastern Ohio, Coffman joined OCNW in February 2008 after serving eight years as executive director of the Home Builders Association of Greater Cleveland and previously as its government and community affairs manager. He also worked several years in Columbus for U.S. Senator John Glenn and as an aide at the Ohio Senate. Coffman serves on the boards of the Living in Cleveland Center and the City of Cleveland Building and Housing Advisory. He has been recognized as a "Forty under 40" by Crain's Cleveland Business.

"The housing crisis requires our full attention on innovation and a business approach to meet the new challenges our members face in their communities," Coffman said. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to make an impact on a statewide level and look forward to helping our members increase their capacity to improve the lives of the residents they serve."

Coffman will assume the position of Patricia Barnes, executive director of the Ohio CDC Association since its formation in 1984. After Dec. 1, Barnes will begin a new career as a consultant in community development.

"Patricia Barnes has had a substantial impact on our work in Ohio," Torsell said. "Under her leadership, OCDCA has secured and maintained special state funding for CDCs, led the effort to create the Finance Fund and built one of the largest Individual Development Account (IDA) collaborations in the country, among other achievements. We thank her for 25 great years with our association and wish her the best in the next chapter of her community development work."

The Ohio CDC Association is a statewide membership organization of Community Development Corporations that engages in capacity building, advocacy and public policy development that fosters socially and economically healthy communities. OCDCA's vision is the creation of a community development environment that comprehensively improves the life opportunities for all residents. For more information, visit OCDCA's website at www.ohiocdc.org

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