

Dear Friend,

As many of you know, CAA along with Talbert House and Freestore Foodbank received a grant from Hamilton County to assist residents who have experienced hardship due to COVID-19 with their rent and utilities. Since the announcement, all of our agencies have been flooded with calls and emails from families seeking assistance.

This week the Enquirer published an opinion piece that I wrote calling on the Hamilton County Municipal Court to impose a moratorium on evictions. Our staff is working hard every day to process applications, but the need is overwhelming. We need the Court's help. In fact, it will take all of us in the community working together to see us through this pandemic and its aftereffects.

Best,  
Mark B. Lawson, Esq

**The Cincinnati Enquirer Opinion: Economic, social costs of evictions staggering**  
- Mark B. Lawson, Esq.

Hamilton County Municipal Court should impose a moratorium on evictions. The situation is dire. We are in the midst of an unprecedented global pandemic. And people are suffering from the resulting economic collapse that we have come to find has had a much harsher effect on people than the Great Recession.

People have lost their jobs in industries that are showing no signs of coming back. The supplemental unemployment assistance from the federal government has expired, and the federal moratorium on evictions has expired – all of which will cause even further hardship to those already struggling.

We need time – time to connect those struggling and seeking assistance with agencies that have the funding to help.

And there is help available. Hamilton County commissioners have allocated \$3.5 million of CARES Act funding to eviction prevention programs at Community Action Agency (CAA), Talbert House and Freestore Foodbank. This funding comes just at the right time, but all of our agencies are overwhelmed with the increased demand for rental assistance. Over the last few days, CAA has seen a five-fold increase in applications for rental and utility assistance. We currently have over 900 people in the pipeline waiting for help, with more contacting us for help every day. And Talbert House and the Freestore are having a similar experience.

[Read the entirety of the op-ed written by CAA's President/CEO Mark B. Lawson, Esq. in The Cincinnati Enquirer here.](#)

**Thank You Union Savings Bank/ Guardian Savings Bank**

Thank you to the generous employees and leaders at [Union Savings Bank](#) and [Guardian Savings Bank](#) for donating backpacks to our Head Start students moving forward to kindergarten.



Support CAA Today

**CARES Rental & Utility Relief Program**

Hamilton County Commissioners are teaming up with the Freestore Foodbank, Talbert House, and CAA to help cover the rent and utility costs for eligible Hamilton County families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to:

- Grants can cover up to \$2,500 or 3 months of rent/utilities
- Low and moderate-income families are eligible (80% of Area Median Income, e.g., a family of 4 with annual income at or below \$69,050)

[Click here to learn more.](#)



**Head Start Enrollment**

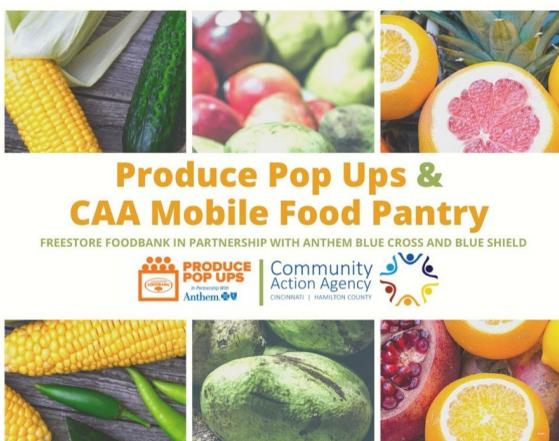
Head Start leaders are working to open our Head Start classrooms safely this Fall. Our decisions and plans will be based on guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, and any state direction that is provided in the next several weeks. All parents will receive quick communication regarding our plans.

You can now enroll your child in our Head Start or Early Head Start programs by calling 513-569-4510 or visiting [www.cincinnatiheadstart.org](http://www.cincinnatiheadstart.org).



**Mobile Food Pantry**

At our Mobile Food Pantry, we distribute fruit, vegetables, and baked goods on a first-come, first-served basis. Our next mobile food pantry will be held on Tuesday, August 11, from 11 am - 1 pm at [The Welcome Project](#) (2936 Colerain Ave.). [Click here](#) for a complete list of upcoming pantry dates.



**Everybody Counts**

Please respond to the 2020 Census today to help make sure your community does not miss out on funding and representation for the next ten years.

Visit [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov) or call 1-844-330-2020 to complete your census today.



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