

PRESS RELEASE
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CONTACT: Mary Kay Meagher
(614) 224.8446

Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing Hosts Professional Housing Delegation from Uzbekistan

(Local government and private sector housing officials meet to discuss development of the housing sector in Uzbekistan as part of a three-week program)

Columbus (OH)--- Ten professionals from different regions of Uzbekistan, participating in a three-week program in the United States to gather experience and new ideas to support the development of the housing sector in Uzbekistan, will gather at Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH) this week to meet with various local government and private sector housing officials.

While in Columbus, the delegation from Uzbekistan will meet with the following organizations: the Ohio Department of Development, (ODOD); the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, (OHFA); the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, (OCCH); Columbus Housing Partnership, (CHP); and the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, (COHHIO).

The delegation includes leaders of associations comparable to United States associations, such as homeowner/condo associations and property management companies. These leaders are hoping to gain insights into the role of government in affordable housing, how partnerships between private/public and non-profit partners can be developed in the housing sector, aspects of urban planning, housing policy, and regulations in housing management, among other topics.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) developed this exchange program to assist Uzbekistan in reforming its housing sector. This type of professional program for various partners of the housing sector is very much needed for Uzbekistan's housing and communal services reform process. The exchange program hopes to provide the delegates with knowledge of a democratic approach and practice in housing management and the tools necessary to strengthen their associations and their service to their members through dialogue with government bodies for the purpose of furthering reforms in the housing sector in Uzbekistan and increasing the accountability of the local government to its citizens.

“OCCH is excited to host this unique meeting that provides an opportunity to create a professional linkage between our local community and the Uzbekistan community,” said Joe Pimmel, Assistant Chief of Staff at OCCH. “We are pleased to share our collective experiences and knowledge within the housing industry with these delegates who aspire to create positive economic changes.”

OCCH was created in 1989 by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. As a now independent and self-supporting 501©3 nonprofit organization with its own Board of Directors, OCCH has become the largest locally controlled syndicator of Low Income Housing Tax Credits in the nation. Since inception, OCCH has raised over \$1.5 billion in private capital for investment in over 400 projects with more than 20,000 homes.