

MARCC Response to Consolidated Plan 2010-1014

The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, MARCC - a coalition of 17 judicatories/denominations of Muslims, Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Greek Orthodox and Unitarians, wants first to acknowledge all the work staff and community organizations have done to contribute to this Consolidated Plan 2010-2014. Our coalition 2009 Concerns are Homelessness/Affordable Housing and Justice Reform. In light of these concerns our judicatories' comments address two goals of the plan, Housing and Quality of Life.

Housing Goals: **Expand the diversity and quality of the housing stock.**

1. MARCC feels strongly that the development and retention of Affordable Rental Units needs to be given priority over home ownership. Years-long waiting lists for rental assistance, unemployment, under-employment, and housing foreclosures exacerbate the urgent need for affordable rental units for individuals and families.
2. MARCC participated in the development of the Homeless to Homes, 2009 report accepted by City Council and urges the incorporation of the findings and recommendations of the Report in the Consolidated Plan – including increasing transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, emergency shelter, and housing for disabled people.

Quality of Life Goal: **Promote sustainable neighborhoods through elimination of blighting influences and improved health and safety.**

Quality of Life Objective 4: MARCC recommends expansion of this goal to include coordination assistance and resources for public safety community strategies including Block Watch, Citizens on Patrol, Community Problem Oriented Policing (CPOP), Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV), Ceasefire Cincinnati, Out of the Crossfire, and efforts made by departments to improve safety in neighborhoods.