cornerstone renter equity®

Staying Strong

Winter 2022 Newsletter

+ 2021 Annual Report

A Message from the Director:



Despite the year starting off like a whirlwind for the Cornerstone team, with three staff diagnosed with COVID-19, everyone is on the mend, and we are back in action to serve residents in Over-the-Rhine.

Enrollment in the Renter Equity Program is growing, and we have increased equity-earning potential. This year, members have the opportunity to earn up to $155 per month and up to $2,000 annually. A current breakdown of how members can earn equity and the amounts they can earn is bulleted below.

- Housing Equity - Paying rent on time ($30)
- Personal Equity - Working with a coach on specific goals ($50)
- Community Equity - Attending community meetings and contributing to the community (up to $50)
- Financial Equity - Working with the financial coach or attending financial literacy classes ($25)
- Health and Wellness Equity - Attending healthcare appointments and health and wellness classes ($25)
- Social Equity - Working with another member to offer neighborly support ($25)
- Program Equity - Completing annual paperwork and quarterly assessments (up to $140 annually).

We continue to expand upon these opportunities, engaging community partners such as YEP Fitness, Ohio State University, Cincinnati Police District 1, and others to provide fitness programs, nutrition classes, and events that promote healthy behaviors and drug/violence prevention.

We have also maintained our partnership with PWC to deliver personalized financial planning classes to our members, and we are expanding financial literacy to include credit building education.

Today, we are more committed than ever to staying strong in Over-the-Rhine to provide a safer, more financially fit community. Thank you for staying strong with us, and for your continued support of our work and the families we serve.

Sincerely,



Cornerstone Renter Equity Board of Directors

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Aaron Byers
Bernice Cooper
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Kurt Hibbett
Deb Kelley
Robert Maly
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Expanding Health and Wellness Equity



Fitness in the Park & National Night Out 2021:
With support from YEP Fitness, Cornerstone hosted Fitness in the Park events at Findlay Park this past summer, where Renter Equity members learned yoga and line dancing. In addition, Cornerstone co-hosted "National Night Out" with District 1 Cincinnati Police, which provided information on drug and violence prevention, and promoted health and wellness activities.



COVID-19 Vaccination Events 2021:
With support from the Hubert Foundation, Mary Magdalen House, and Crossroads, Cornerstone organized two COVID-19 vaccination events at St. Anthony Center in Over-the-Rhine.
Renter Equity members and Cornerstone staff volunteered at the events, distributing backpacks, toiletry items, grocery gift cards, and household essentials to those in need.

Recognizing that improving and maintaining health is crucial to achieving economic self-sufficiency, Cornerstone recently increased equity-earning opportunities in the Renter Equity Program to include Health and Wellness activities.

With access to healthy activities and incentive to participate, families can maximize their earnings while simultaneously improving themselves and their community.

Currently, families in the Renter Equity Program can earn Health and Wellness Equity when they attend healthcare appointments, receive vaccinations, and participate in fitness and/or mental health programs.

This year, Cornerstone will provide additional activities with our community partners such as nutrition classes (led by Ohio State University) and exercise programs (led by YEP Fitness).

By expanding Health and Wellness Equity, we hope to improve health, promote positive behaviors, and help keep families on the path to overall stability.

Interested in getting involved and/or supporting Health and Wellness Equity at Cornerstone?

We are actively seeking volunteers, sponsors, and donations to provide events and ongoing programs that engage families in meaningful ways.

For more information, contact Tara Riley, Community Specialist at triley@csequity.org or call 513-369-0114.

Cooking Classes for Renter Equity Members

In partnership with Ohio State University's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, Cornerstone will provide cooking classes, as well as the ingredients and supplies to cook healthy meals at home to Renter Equity members over the course of 9 weeks. Classes begin Wednesday, April 6th at 6pm in the Community Room at 1535 Race Street in Over-the-Rhine.

For more information, contact Tara Riley, Community Specialist at triley@csequity.org or 513-369-0114.

Renter Equity

Benefits Over-the-Rhine Community Housing Residents

More than 20 years ago, Cornerstone Renter Equity began partnering with Over-the-Rhine Community Housing (OTRCH) to serve families in affordable housing, helping to build a more inclusive, equitable community.

Since then, Cornerstone has worked closely with families to understand and address their needs. We developed a Renter Equity Program that, in addition to improving financial health, provides opportunities for people to take control over their lives and invest in their future.

Today, the program benefits 27 residents from OTRCH properties, including Katona Coulter, who says, "Cornerstone has helped me numerous times with staying on track financially, and is a great equity program to get involved in the community."



OTRCH resident and Renter Equity Member Katona Coulter (left) with her grandson and Cornerstone Renter Equity Community Specialist Tara Riley (right)



"We are proud of our decades-long partnership with Cornerstone Renter Equity," says Mary Burke Rivers, Executive Director of OTRCH. "Residents in the Renter Equity Program are engaged in their community, and it is an honor to be part of something that not only provides opportunities for engagement, but also promotes health and quality of life."

Become a Renter Equity Sponsor!

Cornerstone Renter Equity is committed to helping renters of affordable housing achieve better lives for themselves and their families.

Through our Renter Equity Program, we offer unique, non-traditional ways to earn equity and build assets. Instead of investing money, families invest in themselves and their community.

Members of our program can earn equity by attending community meetings, volunteering, engaging in healthy activities, and more. After three years they are vested, and can withdraw funds to purchase a home, reduce debt, pursue education, grow or start a business, or continue saving.

Support this crucial program by becoming a Renter Equity Sponsor today!

Renter Equity Sponsorship = $2,000
(provides equity funds, one-on-one coaching, and financial planning services for one family)

To become a Renter Equity Sponsor, or for more information, call 513-369-0114, or email cornerstone@csequity.org

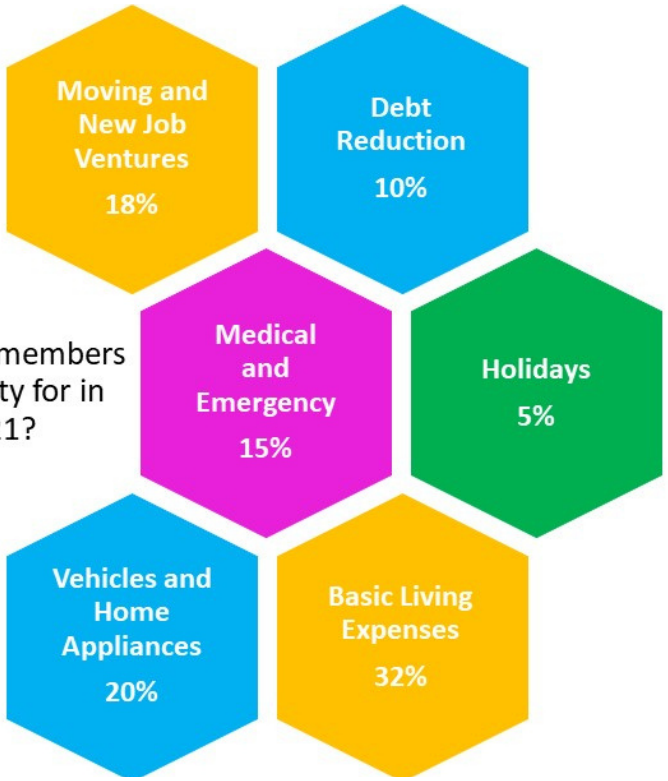
2021 Annual Report

By the numbers...

Equity earned in 2021: **$40,110**

Equity paid out in 2021: **$36,104**

What did members use equity for in 2021?



Renter Equity Member Demographics

154 adults, 22 of which are disabled



68 children



Matched Savings Continues to Grow!

The Matched Savings Program, which officially began in 2021, offers 2:1 and 1:1 matched savings opportunities along with one-on-one support from Cornerstone's Family Financial Coach. Since then:

2 families have completed the program (one used their savings to pay down a car loan and one is currently looking to buy a home)

10 families are currently enrolled in the program

10 new spots have opened in the program thanks to donor support

We are grateful to the individuals and foundations who supported our efforts last year to improve the economic health and wellbeing of families in Over-the-Rhine. Thank you for believing in us, and for investing in the people of our community!

Individual Donors

Jonathan Bennie
Alisa Berry
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