



## For Immediate Release

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### **Coburn Place Safe Haven Teams Up With Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) to Create Housing Toolbox**

*Resource will help identify housing options for survivors of domestic violence in Indianapolis*

**Indianapolis, IN** – Coburn Place, with funding support from the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) has created a robust Housing Toolbox that outlines strategies that Coburn Place staff, board members and service providers can utilize to increase their capacity and sustainable offering of housing options to serve those affected by homelessness, and specifically those impacted by domestic violence. The hope of Coburn Place and CHIP is that the Housing Toolbox will lead to a greater collective work to end homelessness for survivors of domestic violence and for anyone who is affected by the issue, and that these strategies can be replicated and scaled into any community. Some of the tools and strategies include:

- *Securing funding for and implement a Domestic Violence Housing First program, including program evaluation and documentation.*
- *Establishing a Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program to assist survivors in securing off-site housing appropriate to their security needs and offer supportive services.*
- *Exploring partnerships with private developers to rehab scattered site facilities to assist more survivors.*
- *Working with the Indianapolis Housing Agency to establish a policy preference for survivors of domestic violence.*

According to the most recent National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, **1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men**, in their lifetime, have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, **549,928 people** were homeless on a given night in the United States in January 2016. This number is no shock to those working with homeless individuals and families in Indianapolis. “Homelessness is a community wide problem and we must work collaboratively to end this epidemic. This is why we’ve joined with Coburn Place to develop and share resources with our community partners working to end homelessness,” said Alan Witchey, executive director at CHIP.

In 2016, Coburn Place faced crushing cuts in HUD funding for its over-capacity transitional housing program for survivors of intimate partner violence. Already considering how to meet the ever-growing demand for its housing services, Coburn Place turned the loss into an opportunity and decided to explore comprehensive housing options that might be relevant for intimate partner violence survivors but also the community at large. “A lack of safe and affordable housing options are a barrier to those facing homelessness in our community, regardless if the circumstance

is caused by intimate violence”, shares Julia Kathary, executive director of Coburn Place. “This lack of options can lead to an increase in chronic homelessness and an increase in intimate partner violence if survivors do not have a safe and sustainable permanent housing choice away from their abuser.”

Last year, Coburn Place housed 82 adult survivors of domestic violence and 139 children, while assisting another 459 individuals through housing-waitlist and outreach services. You can read more successes and impact in their 2016 Impact Report that can be found at <http://coburnplace.org/get-to-know-us/our-annual-report/>.

HUD’s move to shift funding from transitional housing for homeless populations has left providers of transitional housing for domestic violence survivors in a challenging position in communities across the country, including Indianapolis. An unintended consequence of the shift in federal priorities left many providers of transitional housing for domestic violence victims in the lurch, including Coburn Place. But, transitional housing for survivors of abuse is a successful and necessary housing model which gives victims a longer period of time than traditional emergency shelters to address the trauma and safety concerns they are facing as they flee from violence and abuse. Transitional housing is typically provided for six to 24 months versus a traditional shelter stay of 30 to 45 days.

By the end of 2017, Coburn Place will have increased the capacity to provide housing support and service by nearly 100% from 2015. All without significantly growing the agency’s budget. And the organization is not done yet. It has intentions to incorporate all but one of the strategies outlined in the Housing Toolbox into its overall strategic plan and has already begun the work. Coburn Place is focused on developing a host of robust and comprehensive housing options for survivors of domestic violence in Indianapolis and sharing its experience with programs across the country.

**Coburn Place and CHIP will be releasing the Housing Toolbox to the community on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at the following event:**

**Indianapolis Continuum of Care meeting  
1pm, Ruth Lilly Family Board Room A  
United Way of Central Indiana  
2955 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis**

It is the hope of Coburn Place and CHIP that the Housing Toolbox will lead to a greater collective work to end homelessness for survivors of domestic violence and for anyone who is affected by the issue. It is Coburn Place and CHIP’s belief that these strategies can be replicated and scaled into any community. The entire Housing Toolbox can be found at [www.coburnplace.org](http://www.coburnplace.org).

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**About Coburn Place:** *The vision of Coburn Place Safe Haven is of a world where every adult and child may live free from intimate partner violence, housed stably and safely, with adequate financial resources. It aims to make that vision reality through its mission of empowering victims of intimate partner violence to live as survivors. Coburn Place is Indianapolis’ largest and most comprehensive provider of transitional housing, community-located housing, and support services to survivors of domestic violence in the state of Indiana. It is a nationally-recognized model program in breaking the cycles of domestic violence, poverty, and homelessness. The organization has provided life-changing support to more than 1,800 adults and children since 1996. For more information, visit [www.coburnplace.org](http://www.coburnplace.org) or @coburnplace.*

**About CHIP:** *The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention (CHIP) mobilizes, advocates, and empowers community collaboration towards ending homelessness and fosters an effective system of homelessness prevention and intervention in the greater Indianapolis area. For more information, visit [www.chipindy.org](http://www.chipindy.org) or @CHIPIndy.*

Additional Homelessness Statistics can be found at National Alliance to End Homelessness: ([http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/snapshot\\_of\\_homelessness](http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/snapshot_of_homelessness)).