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Impact Community Action moves into new headquarters, expands its mission at a crucial time (slideshow)



Impact Community Action is consolidating its headquarters and warehouse spaces to 50,000 square feet of leased space at 711 Southwood Ave.



By Tristan Navera – Reporter, Columbus Business First Jul 29, 2020

Impact Community Action's move to its new headquarters on the south side couldn't come at a better time for the people it serves.

The nonprofit is settling into 50,000 square feet of leased space at 711 Southwood Ave., in an industrial complex that gives it room to grow and puts it in close proximity to many other businesses and people who need its services.

"This whole space will give us flexibility to adapt and expand everything we do," CEO Bo Chilton said during a tour of the site.

Impact serves 24,000 people a year with its programs. That's set to expand to more than 30,000, Chilton said.

The new facility allows Impact Community Action to consolidate warehouse space, office space and training programs under one roof.

More importantly, it also allows the organization to update its technology, with more screens and more tools to allow it to connect with people remotely. That helps it reach more people as the Covid-19 pandemic keeps some at home. And that technology also lets Impact Community Action extend its support programs beyond the pandemic itself.

The organization is the 24th-largest social services nonprofit in the region, with \$8 million in revenue in 2018, according to *Columbus Business First* research. It offers rental and utility assistance, workforce development services, home weatherization assistance, financial services and more. It has about 100 employees.



Largest Central Ohio Social Services Nonprofit Organizations

| Rank | Prior Rank | Organization name/prior rank |
|----------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | National Church Residences |
| 2 | 2 | Ohio Living |
| 3 | 3 | Mid-Ohio Foodbank |
| View This List | | |

The space allows the nonprofit some wiggle room to create new programs and expand others. For example, it is considering using the building's cafeteria to host popup food operations as an entrepreneurship program for the people it serves, said COO Beth Urban.

And it's expanding rental assistance, thanks to \$10 million in CARES Act funding from the city of Columbus.

"Now is as important a time as ever for us to be able to offer these kinds of help for people, especially when we can be in the neighborhoods and closer to them," Urban said.