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## **This nonprofit is moving its HQ to Columbus' south side**



Bo Chilton, CEO of Impact Community Action

RICK TITUS



By [Tristan Navera](#) – Reporter, Columbus Business First  
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One of Central Ohio's largest social service nonprofits is on the move.

Impact Community Action is consolidating its headquarters and warehouse spaces to 50,000 square feet of leased space at the 711 Southwood Ave. building, where it will be able to expand its social services while being a larger part of the revival of the city's south side.

"A building that will let us have all of our office and warehouse space together is hard to find," Impact CEO Bo Chilton said.

The new 300,000-square-foot building was a manufacturing operation for a time and then a charter school, but it has been vacant for about a decade.

Impact is the region's 24th-largest social services nonprofit organization, with \$8 million in revenue in 2018, [according to Columbus Business First research](#). It offers rental and utility assistance; workforce development services; home weatherization; financial services and more.

**T H E L I S T**

## **Largest Central Ohio Social Services Nonprofit Organizations**

2018 local revenue

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 nonprofit is today located at 700 Bryden Road and has 80 employees, plus dozens more volunteers at a time.

COO Beth Urban said the larger space allows Impact to expand the scope of the "empowerment services" that it offers - training in things like computer literacy, financial education and vocational certifications. Its home weatherization program will benefit from more space for storage and larger and more flexible classroom space. And the new building has a commercial kitchen.

All in all, the training programs Impact offers help about 24,000 people a year now and Impact expects that number could top 30,000 with the expanded space.

"Moving will add these tools, workforce training and support, in the middle of a neighborhood that could really use those services," she said.

Impact will invest \$500,000 to \$750,000 in the move, but with contributions from its landlord, Tom Bolon, building improvements will be closer to \$2.5 million. Impact was preparing for a capital campaign when the pandemic began, but those plans have since been derailed. So, it will have to draw down some unrestricted cash reserves and fundraise another \$600,000 later. It got some early funding in a \$75,000 grant from the Columbus Foundation.

The nonprofit's work has taken on a new urgency as the Covid-19 pandemic has strained the local social safety net and [rolled back progress on affordable housing](#) initiatives in a growing Central Ohio. Impact recently launched a \$5 million housing stabilization fund

aimed at helping 2,500 Franklin County residents avoid evictions. It's funded with CARES Act funding funneled through the City of Columbus and contributions from Franklin County, Columbus County and Fifth Third Bank.

"We've been doing a lot of this work around housing before the pandemic hit, but that threw it into overdrive," Chilton said. "Now we're worried about a second wave of evictions that could come in the late summer and early fall. We've got to do what we can to make sure our homeless shelter system isn't overwhelmed."

Impact expects to be fully moved into its new home by July.

