



**Ohio Association of
Community Action Agencies**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Advisory
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Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies' State of Poverty Report

What: Press conference releasing annual State of Poverty in Ohio Report

When: March 23, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Where: The Ohio Statehouse, Ladies Gallery
1 Capitol Square, Columbus, OH 43215

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA) in cooperation with Community Research Partners (CRP) will release its annual State of Poverty in Ohio Report on Thursday, March 23, 2017, at The Ohio Statehouse Ladies Gallery. The report highlights trends and factors contributing to poverty in order to understand how circumstances affect Ohioans.

“Many times, Ohioans are faced with unexpected challenges that cause them to slip into poverty,” said Philip E. Cole, executive director of OACAA. “Whether it be a sudden job loss, grandparents unexpectedly becoming primary caregivers or a number of other circumstances, families and individuals can find themselves in financial positions they had not anticipated.”

Utilizing graphics, data, and case studies, the *2016 State of Poverty: Portraits of Ohio Families* will illustrate trends and circumstances which have caused Ohioans to slip into poverty. During the press conference, Cole and CRP executive director Lynnette Cook will provide highlights of the report's findings and answer questions. Copies of the report will be available in print and online.

“There are 40,000 grandparent caregivers in Ohio, and there are many who fill that role who are unable to access the financial supports available only to those with permanent guardianship,” said Cole. “The research conducted to develop this annual poverty report and identify trends across Ohio is a necessary step to developing solutions to alleviate poverty. One of our goals is to bring these issues to the forefront of discussions to help Ohio’s families and individuals.”

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Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other. Community Action Agencies work to alleviate poverty and empower low-income families in their communities. The Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies represents 48 agencies around the state serving the needs of low-income people in all of Ohio’s 88 counties. CAAs provide education and training, emergency services, and other assistance programs to over 700,000 Ohioans annually.