



## Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies

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### Media Advisory

December 10, 2015

#### Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies' Self-Sufficiency Standard for Ohio and Exploring Economic Security Pathways in Ohio Reports

**What:** Press conference releasing Self-Sufficiency Standard Report, Exploring Economic Security Pathways in Ohio Reports, and Online Calculator

**When:** December 15, 2015 at 10:30 a.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 University of Washington School of Social Work, Center for Women's Welfare, will hold a press conference on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. to release The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Ohio 2015 Report and demonstrate the updated and expanded online calculator. The report, which will be released in conjunction with the Exploring Economic Security Pathways in Ohio report, measures the income households must earn to meet basic needs, build an emergency fund, and then, once self-sufficient, adds the element of asset-building.

“The standard factors in realistic life expenses and demonstrates what self-sufficiency truly looks like in a variety of family compositions,” said Philip E. Cole, executive director of OACAA. “This year, we went two steps further to consider what happens after basic needs are met to eliminate the threats of returning to poverty.”

The updated report and calculator, which was developed by Dr. Diana M. Pearce, considers additional real-life factors in a household's budget including transportation, taxes and tax credits, health care, and more. The online calculator will be available on OACAA's website and will allow visitors to calculate the income necessary for their family and location to meet the first, second, and third steps to achieving long-term self-sufficiency without outside assistance.

Mr. Cole and Dr. Pearce will provide additional insights into the methodology and use of the standard during the press conference. A demonstration of the online calculator will also be made.

“To end poverty, the first step is to stabilize a family by ensuring they can provide their basic needs,” said Cole. “After that, the second step is to assist people away from the slippery slope of poverty, from basic self-sufficiency to a real level of financial security.”

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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 50 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 800,000 Ohioans annually.*