



**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 10, 2015 at 10:00 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 Community Research Partners (CRP) will release its State of Poverty in Ohio Report on March 10, 2015 at The Ohio Statehouse Ladies Gallery. The report will illustrate the effects of poverty in an effort to understand economic hardships today and over the last fifty years.

"Studying poverty and the affect it has on millions of Ohioans is not as straightforward as looking at chronic and generational poverty issues. The official poverty rate in Ohio is 16 percent though the episodic poverty rate is 32 percent," said Philip E. Cole, executive director of OACAA. "Each person faces challenges and for people in poverty those challenges have different causes and consequences. Unanticipated life events along with a lack of support systems and resources, even if only temporary, make long-term planning secondary to survival."

The report will dispel commonly held myths and misconceptions about poverty utilizing graphics, case studies and data. During the press conference, OACAA executive director 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.

"A family of four needs nearly twice the annual income of the federal poverty level in order to be self-sufficient in Ohio," said Cole. "The goal of this report is to shine a light on the issues of poverty and bring out of the shadows the people who are the statistics."

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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 800,000 Ohioans annually.