



**Ohio Association of
Community Action Agencies**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

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OACAA responds to federal budget proposal

COLUMBUS — The Trump Administration’s proposed federal budget released yesterday suggests eliminating the flexible Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) removing \$27.4 Million from Ohio and threatening \$446 Million in leveraged funds. The proposed budget also eliminates \$148 Million in the Home Energy Assistance funds and \$11.7 Million in Weatherization Assistance—programs that provide vital services which keep Ohioans safe and warm while also reducing energy costs.

“CSBG, LIHEAP, and WAP may be a small portion of the overall federal budget, but their elimination would have a major impact on Ohioans,” said Philip E. Cole, executive director of the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies. “The funding provides not only direct services for low-income households, but Ohio’s agencies directly employ over 6,500 people and support local small businesses who provide valuable products and services.”

Ohio’s Community Action Agencies (CAAs) served over 700,000 Ohioans, including over 270,000 children, last year. The range of offerings are unique to each local community which makes a greater impact on the unique needs of Ohio. The proposed federal budget, which eliminates resources that aid Community Action Agencies in their mission, would devastate households across Ohio and America.

“The gap that would be caused by the proposed eliminations would negatively impact the entire country who are served by over 1,100 Community Action Agencies across America,” said Cole. “The potential impact reaches far beyond what the Trump Administration has considered. It is our hope that Congress will make these considerations and the right decision for our country by keeping the programs in place.”

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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.