



**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' 25th Annual State of Poverty Report

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

When: April 12, 2018 at 1:30 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 Thoughtwell (formerly Community Research Partners), will release its annual State of Poverty in Ohio Report on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at The Ohio Statehouse Ladies Gallery. The press conference will begin at 1:30 p.m. The report highlights trends derived from reliable data that are contributing to poverty in Ohio.

“Factors such as an extremely high childcare and post-secondary education cost burden have created high barriers for low-income Ohioans as they struggle to find a way out of poverty,” said Philip E. Cole, executive director of OACAA. “We believe the trends highlighted in this year’s report will shed light on these barriers and allow us to develop innovative solutions to helping people across our state break out of poverty.”

By compiling and analyzing data and developing clear-to-read infographics, the 2017 State of Poverty in Ohio Report illustrates the latest trends impacting Ohioans. This year topics include Ohio’s Medicaid Expansion, childcare costs, the opioid epidemic, and more. During the press conference, Cole and Thoughtwell’s executive director Lynnette Cook will discuss the methodology and highlight the report’s findings, as well as answer questions. Copies of the report will be available at the press conference as well as online immediately following.

“This year is the 25th anniversary of the State of Poverty in Ohio report,” said Cole. “The face of poverty changes as our communities and our state grows and changes. To alleviate poverty, we must continue to think outside the box while also using data as evidence to determine true barriers.”

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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.