



**Ohio Association of
Community Action Agencies**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Kathryn A. Clausen
(614) 224-8500
kathryn@oacaa.org

PRESS RELEASE



Ironton-Lawrence County Area Community Action Organization program awarded by Community Action Association and Ohio University's Voinovich School

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Feb. 12, 2020) – The Recovery to Work Program, coordinated by the Ironton-Lawrence County Area Community Action Organization, was honored by the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies as an exemplary program at the 2020 Winter Legislative Conference on Jan. 30 in Columbus.

“Community Action Agencies throughout Ohio are developing programs that help their entire communities,” said Philip E. Cole, executive director of the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies. “We are proud to work with Ohio University to evaluate the best of the best and qualify them as ‘exemplary.’ The programs selected for this award truly shine and can serve as a model for other agencies who may face similar challenges in their communities.”

The Recovery to Work Program connects recovering individuals to comprehensive treatment, employment services and professionals. The program’s ability to bring partners together takes advantage of community strengths and creates a holistic environment. As a result of this collaborative approach, Recovery to Work participants achieve a 30% private employment placement rate following completion of the program.

“These award winners are doing incredible work to help those in need in their local communities. The Voinovich School was honored to partner with the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies in selecting exemplary community action programs,” Margaret Hutzel, Voinovich School senior project manager, said.

The Recovery to Work Program was one of three honorees awarded during the conference, with nearly 300 Community Action partners, professionals, vendors, and elected officials in attendance. OACAA works with 47 Ohio agencies and over 1,000 Community Action Agencies across the country. OACAA and Ohio University’s Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs collaborated to determine the winners of this year’s awards.

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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 47 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 nearly 600,000 Ohioans annually.