



**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: April 27, 2016 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 annual State of Poverty in Ohio Report on April 27, 2016, at The Ohio Statehouse Ladies Gallery. The report illustrates the effects of poverty as we try to understand how economic hardships affect Ohioans.

"Staying out of poverty is not just about making all the right decisions," said Philip E. Cole, executive director of OACAA. "Unexpected unemployment, sudden illnesses, or a number of other circumstances can move a family from a comfortable financial position to one that is unstable."

Utilizing graphics, data, and case studies, the State of Poverty Report will illustrate just some of the circumstances that can cause Ohioans to slip into poverty. During the press conference, 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.

"Nearly half of Ohio's households lack savings or liquid assets to keep them out of poverty under circumstance lasting longer than three months, and two-thirds of Ohioans in poverty live in suburban and rural areas of the state," said Cole. "Poverty affects every community and this report aims to bring the issues to the forefront so we can continue making progress and help those affected."

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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.