



# Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies

50 West Broad Street, Suite 1616, Columbus, Ohio  
614-224-8500 • Fax 614-224-2587 • [www.oacaa.org](http://www.oacaa.org)

Gwen L. Robinson  
*President*

David E. Brightbill  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

Robert Chilton  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

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Philip E. Cole  
*Executive Director*

March 19, 2013

Governor John Kasich  
Riffe Center, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor Kasich,

The Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies' Board of Trustees voted unanimously on March 15, to show our full and enthusiastic support of your proposal to expand Medicaid to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. We believe expanding Medicaid is both financially correct and morally right.

The Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies represents a network of 50 Community Action Agencies (CAA) around the state that serve 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 800,000 Ohioans annually, administering nearly \$750 million in resources and employing more than 6,000 people.

Community Action Agencies work to alleviate poverty and empower low-income families in their communities. For over 45 years, CAAs have provided the tools to help people move from poverty to self-sufficiency.

In Ohio, healthcare costs have increased by 36.1 percent over the past ten years, while the median hourly wage has increased only 2.9 percent during this time, leaving many hard working families struggling to meet the costs. Expanding Medicaid to 275,000 Ohioans would help offset this problem.

Due to the Affordable Care Act, with Medicaid expansion, Ohio would see \$13 billion in additional federal money over the next seven years. This would stimulate economic activity, increasing healthcare-related jobs, and increasing state sales and insurance tax revenue because of more managed care enrollment. In addition, healthcare costs would decrease. Some studies say with the expansion, Ohio's potential savings from reducing uncompensated care could be between \$1.1 billion to \$2.23 billion over the next seven years.

People who are uninsured tend to wait until their health conditions worsen to seek medical care, causing more expensive treatments, which drives up medical costs, as does emergency treatment in place of routine, preventive care. These costs will be significantly reduced by Medicaid expansion.

OACAA and its 50 Community Action Agency members believe it should be the right of every citizen to have access to healthcare. People should not have to choose between paying their rent and seeking medical treatment, between feeding their children and



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filling their prescription. Medicaid expansion will help our most vulnerable citizens get the medical care they deserve and will not put an undue economic burden on the rest of society. On the contrary, studies show it will actually be beneficial for all. Because of this, we want to formally show our support of your proposal to expand Medicaid.

Sincerely,

Gwen L. Robinson, Executive Director  
Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action  
Agency and OACAA Board President

Andrew Binegar, Executive Director  
Pickaway County Community Action

Bill Thacker, Executive Director  
Community Action Organization of Scioto  
County

Billie Kuntz, Executive Director  
Clermont County Community Service

Charles Lorenz, Executive Director  
HARCATUS Tri-County Community Action

Carla Unkefer, Executive V.P/COO/Acting CEO  
Community Action Wayne/Medina

Philip E. Cole, Executive Director  
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies

Carol Bretz, Executive Director  
Community Action Agency of Columbiana  
County

Carrie L. Dotson, Executive Director  
Lifeline, Inc.

Gary F. Obloy, Executive Director  
Community Action Commission of Belmont  
County

Dennis LaRocco, Executive Director  
HHWP Community Action Commission

D.R. Gossett, Executive Director  
Ironton-Lawrence County Community Action  
Organization



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Gary Ricer, Executive Director  
G-M-N Tri-County Community Action  
Committee

Doug Stanley, Executive Director  
Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action

Julia Wise, Executive Director  
Highland County Community Action  
Organization

Jackie Boehlein, Executive Director  
Lorain County Community Action Agency

Kirk Moriarty, Executive Director  
SOURCES Community Network Services

Jeffrey Diver, Executive Director  
Supports to Encourage Low-income Families  
(SELF)

Tim Donnellan, Executive Director  
Community Action Partnership of the Greater  
Dayton Area

David Brightbill, Executive Director  
Washington Morgan Community Action

Tom Reed, Executive Director  
Gallia-Meigs Community Action Agency

Deborah A. Gerken, Executive Director  
Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission

Mike Stephens, CEO  
Kno-Ho-Co-Ashland Community Action  
Commission

Judith Barris, Executive Director  
Ashtabula County Community Action Agency

Wayne McLaughlin, Executive Director  
Ross County Community Action Commission

Rodney Reasonover, CEO  
Stark County Community Action Agency



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Robin Renee Walton, Executive Director  
Mahoning Youngstown Community Action  
Partnership

Ruthann House, Executive Director  
WSOS Community Action Commission

Barbara West, Executive Director  
Jefferson County Community Action Council

Robert Chilton, CEO  
IMPACT Community Action

Kellie Ailes, Executive Director  
Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency

Denise Birt, Executive Director  
Tri-County Community Action Commission of  
Champaign-Logan-Shelby

Ken Kempton, Executive Director  
LEADS Community Action

Joe Devany, Executive Director  
Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission

Cheryl Thiessen, Executive Director  
Jackson-Vinton County Community Action

Bambi Baugh, Executive Director  
Community Action Commission of Fayette  
County

Janice W. Warner, Executive Director  
Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron  
& Richland Counties

Rochelle Dennis Twining, Executive Director  
Community Action Organization Delaware,  
Madison and Union Counties

Alvin M. Norris, Executive Director  
Adams Brown Community Action Partnership

David Shea, Executive Director  
Community Action Council of Portage County