



**Ohio Association of
Community Action Agencies**

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

Media Advisory
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**Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies announces virtual release of the
2020 State of Poverty in Ohio Report**

What: Press conference releasing annual State of Poverty in Ohio Report
When: Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.
Where: Virtual Zoom Release and [Facebook Live](#)
Contact Kathryn Clausen for details

COLUMBUS – The [Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies](#) (OACAA), in partnership with [Strategic Research Group](#) (SRG), will release the 2020 State of Poverty in Ohio Report on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, via a virtual press conference. The press conference will begin at 10:00 a.m. Contact Kathryn Clausen at kathryn@oacaa.org for details to join the press conference and ask questions live.

For nearly 30 years, the State of Poverty in Ohio Report has thoughtfully researched and analyzed data to highlight obstacles Ohio families face on their journeys to becoming self-sufficient. Working closely with well-respected researchers and data experts, this report annually considers various factors that have created barriers to family stability. These barriers represent some of the root causes of poverty, which Community Action Agencies across the state help individuals to overcome.

The report combines a clear narrative, easy-to-understand infographics, and data tables to illustrate the experience of poverty in our state. By first understanding why different factors create barriers, Ohio can then create solutions to overcome those barriers.

“Over 1.6 million Ohioans lived in poverty before the COVID-19 pandemic, and even more are experiencing episodic poverty as we work to recover from the economic impacts of the virus,” said Philip E. Cole, executive director of OACAA. “Families and individuals want to provide for themselves, though they must first be able to overcome the barriers in their way of reaching those goals.”

The 2020 report defines both chronic and episodic poverty, and the measures that are commonly used to identify each, to end the stigma and misconceptions surrounding low-income families. The report also highlights the invisible challenges of gig economy work and the hidden barriers of licensed occupations such as the disproportionate pre-license apprenticeships or training requirements and cost burden as it relates to the financial reward.

During the press conference, Cole and Tina Kassebaum, Partner and Principal Investigator of SRG, will highlight the report findings, discuss the methodology, and answer questions. The report will be posted on our [website](#) immediately following the press conference.

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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.