



**Ohio Association of
Community Action Agencies**

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

PRESS RELEASE

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Community Action Supports One Ohio Now's State of Ohio Report Recommendations

COLUMBUS — Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies supports the recommendations made by One Ohio Now in their recently released report, 2018 The State of Ohio. One Ohio Now, a coalition of over a hundred health and human service organizations, advocacy groups and more, led by State Director Gavin DeVore Leonard, released their third annual report this week. The report compares and ranks Ohio against other states in areas ranging from health to infrastructure illustrating our state's strengths, weaknesses, improvements and declines. Because of the rising concern of the opioid crisis, One Ohio Now also added historical data and current recommendations to this year's report in an effort to develop solutions to this growing epidemic.

“We are losing at least fifteen Ohioans every single day from overdoses,” said Trina Payne, executive director of Ross County Community Action Commission, who testified during the press conference. “The issue at hand spreads much further than the individual who is struggling with substance abuse; it affects the families of these individuals.”

In July 2017, Ross County Community Action developed the CARES Program, which stands for Community Action Response, Encourages, and Supports Recovery. The program expands access to community-based recovery supports for individuals and families and has already helped over 130 people support groups, housing, and with transportation to rehab and detox centers.

“The Community Action Network understands that ending poverty in Ohio goes far beyond creating single solutions,” said Cole. “Gavin and his team beautifully illustrate the need for government and communities to work together to develop realistic and holistic approaches—not only to alleviate poverty but to strengthen our state as a whole.”

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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.