

2027 Exemplary Programs in Community Action

Nomination Form

Presented by:



**Ohio Association of
Community Action Agencies**

—and—



Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service

**with support by
Ohio Development of Job and Family Services**



2027 Exemplary Program Awards Guidelines and Submission Instructions

The Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies, in partnership with the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, is pleased to continue the Exemplary Program Awards to recognize promising practices within Ohio's Community Action Network. Designation as an Exemplary Program is awarded to those determined by independent and expert evaluators to be innovative and creative programs and initiatives that show outstanding results and outcomes. OACAA members in good standing are invited to submit a separate nomination for each program they believe to be exemplary.

Anti-poverty initiatives that support or assist in supporting Ohioans (individuals, families, or both) on their path to self-sufficiency may be considered exemplary. Exemplary programs may also include economic development that will benefit the low-income population within a community or programs that prevent people or communities from slipping into poverty.

Examples of exemplary programs or actions include but are not limited to:

- Job creation or industry-specific job training initiatives
- Various work, family and individual supports
- Support for crisis situations or emergency services
- Help for recently incarcerated
- Services for those suffering from addiction, etc.

Exemplary Program Awards nominations are typically opened every other year. There are no limits to the number of Exemplary Programs designated each awards cycle. The top-scoring nomination will receive a \$1,000 monetary award, though all nominations meeting the established scoring criteria may receive the award designation.

Please note that programs—not agencies—are awarded the designation. Agencies are encouraged to publicize the award, though may not, for example, include the program moniker on their agency letterhead.

Previous nominations that were not awarded the designation are encouraged to resubmit a nomination. Programs previously awarded the designation are not eligible without demonstrating significant programmatic changes.

Nomination Requirements:

- Your agency must be an OACAA member in good standing.
- The program must have been in existence for enough time to document outcomes and results; typically, this is at least one year.
- Programs must have been carried out at some point during calendar years 2024 or 2025.
- Programs must fall within the ROMA Individual, Family, or Community Domains.
- Nominations must be signed by the Executive Director and Board Chair.
- Submit multiple nominations operated at the same member agency separately.



Instructions:

1. Complete one Nomination Form for each program/initiative to be considered.
2. Identify the ROMA Individual, Family, or Community Domain(s) that best describes the program.
3. Respond thoroughly and completely to the submission prompts/questions.
 - a. Though additional documentation may be provided, your answers within the nomination form should be detailed enough to answer the questions.
 - b. Though not required, up to 10 pages of supporting documentation may be attached to the nomination form.
4. Submit the signed nomination electronically (PDF) to:
ExemplaryNominations@ohio.edu by 5:00 p.m. EST, December 7, 2026.
5. Promptly respond to any questions received from Ohio University seeking additional information or clarification.

Applicants will receive feedback on the nomination, including strengths, weaknesses, and areas to improve upon, if any. Awardees will be notified by late-January and press releases will be sent to awardees' local media outlets notifying them of your award.

Awards will be presented during a ceremony at the 2027 Winter Conference in Lewis Center, Ohio, February 24-25, 2027. While we would like to present the awards to the full winning team, including staff, volunteers, board members, successful clients, and persons representing collaborating organizations, we ask that no more than three individuals offer remarks.

Submission

Do not send nominations to OACAA. Nomination forms and all supporting documentation must be sent electronically in PDF form to:

Email: ExemplaryNominations@ohio.edu

Nomination forms must be received no later than 5:00 PM Monday, December 7, 2026.

For additional information regarding the program or submission instructions, please contact:

Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies
140 E. Town Street, Suite 1150, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Office: 614-224-8500, Fax: 614-224-2587
kathryn@oacaa.org



Agency: Select your agency... _____

Address: _____

City: _____, Ohio **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email: _____

Executive Director: _____ **Board Chair:** _____

Nomination Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email: _____

Nominated Program: _____

Dates program operated: _____ **Still Operational?** Select

Brief Description:

Program Best Described by ROMA Individual and Family Domains (Check One):

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Employment | ☐ Health and Social/Behavioral Dev. |
| ☐ Education and Cognitive Development | ☐ Civic Engagement and Community |
| ☐ Income and Asset Building | ☐ Involvement |
| ☐ Housing | ☐ Infrastructure and Asset Building |

The agency certifies that the attached information in support of our nomination for an Exemplary Program designation is true and understand that a representative of the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs may contact our agency for further information and clarification.

Signature: Executive Director

Date

Signature: Board Chair

Date



1. How long has this program been in operation?

2. Was this program previously recognized as an “Exemplary Program” or formerly known as “Best Practice”? If so, when? Have there been any changes or improvements?

3. Problem or Need

a) Describe the problem or need in your community that led the CAA to offer this program. Provide the local social, political, or economic background information needed to understand the context of the need or problem.



- #### 4. Options to Solve the Problem or Address the Need

- a) Who is the target population served?
- b) Describe the options the agency considered for solving the problem/addressing this need.



- c) How did you arrive at the solution/program being nominated for an exemplary program? What evidence led you to this as the best solution? How does this solution correlate with your agency's mission?

- d) Who participated in the program creation?

5. Program Development and Implementation

- a) What vision and specific goals were developed as part of the program planning?



b) Describe how the program works or operates. What are the important processes or steps?

c) What makes this program innovative?

d) What quality control processes do you have in place to ensure/verify the program is operating as intended?



- e) What resources, collaborations, staff, technology, etc., were required for the success of this program?

6. Program Strengths. What are the best attributes of this program? What would you change?



7. Program Outcomes. Based on the ROMA category in which this program is nominated:

a) What are the outcomes of this program?

b) Document how the program measurably improves the lives of low-income people. Describe outcomes numerically, if possible. Provide any measures demonstrating efficiency and effectiveness.



8. Future Development for Your Agency.

a) What have you learned from doing this program?

b) What advice or recommendations would you have for others considering the program?