



OACAA News

Community Action: Strengthening Ohio's Communities

Community Action Month will be in May, just a little over a month away. OACAA has developed plans to help promote awareness of Community Action in the month of May, including a theme, Strengthening Ohio's Communities. To learn more about our plans and how your agency can get involved, read on.

One way we will show how Community Action strengthens communities is by releasing the Exemplary Practices report. In 2011, OACAA received a federal grant from the Office of Community Services to have Ohio University research exemplary practices within Community Action Agencies that contribute to community economic development. They are finalizing their report that we will release via a joint press conference with OU for Community Action Month. The report will demonstrate how Community Action Agencies strengthen local economies through job creation, workforce development and community economic development/infrastructure projects. Each week following the release of the report, we will visit one of the agency projects highlighted in the report and host a media event.

For member agencies, we will create a template press release and social media postings regarding the report and Community Action Month that can be distributed/posted. While OACAA can only do a limited number of events highlighting the exemplary economic development projects, we encourage agencies to follow the format and host their own events.

In addition, we are working on getting a proclamation from the Governor declaring May Community Action Month and will send template proclamations to member agencies to send to their local mayors, city council members or other elected officials.

Another activity we are developing to promote awareness during Community Action Month is a Food Stamp Challenge. For this we will invite all CAA staff members, board members and any local officials to partake in a one week challenge, April 30-May 4, where you will live on a food stamp budget. This is strictly voluntary. We will start a blog where participants can share how the experience is going for them and postings can also be made on an agency's existing social media pages or OACAA's Face Book or Twitter pages. We will create template press releases and invitations that member agencies can distribute to invite people to join the challenge.

We hope that you are excited about Community Action Month and will participate in these activities to promote Community Action in Ohio. Please be on the lookout for more information as we get closer. If you have any questions about any of these activities or would like any additional information, please contact Colleen at 614-224-8500 or colleen@oaca.org.