



OACAA News

OACAA Executive Director Receives Advocacy Award



During the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) 2012 Legislative Conference February 28-March 2, OACAA Executive Director Phil Cole received the Robert M. Coard Advocacy Award for always being the first to enlist in the legislative battles on behalf of Community Action.

The award is named after Robert Coard, the former executive director of the Boston Community Action Agency, Action for Boston Community Development. Mr. Coard served as the executive director for over 40 years, he was a critical member of the NCAF Board for close to 30 years, and he helped found and guide CAPLAW. The award is in Mr. Coard's honor, who passed away in October 2009. On nearly all of the big legal and legislative challenges Community Action has faced in the past 40 years, Robert Coard was always there, leading the fight, rallying the troops and waging the war. As the recipient of this award, Phil Cole was recognized for his outstanding achievements in advocacy and for carrying on the legacy of Robert Coard.

There are a number of reasons why Phil received this prestigious award. "Ohio is an important political state because of our Congressional leadership, and we work with our members of Congress" Phil said. "Ohio always responds when the call is made to work with Congress, either financially or with meetings with staff or members of Congress."

OACAA has also met the needs of its members through innovative Community Action programs, such as the Internal Consultant program that offers experienced Community Action staff to provide trainings and workshops to CAA staff, and the Best Practices Awards, which has been modeled by other state Community Action associations across the country.

"I am honored to have received this award on behalf of OACAA and the efforts of Ohio's Community Action Agencies," Phil said. "We will continue to answer the call and work with Congress to advocate for Community Action."

