



OACAA Benefits

Did You Know Your OACAA Membership Includes Free Training?

As an OACAA member, you can receive free training through the Ohio Community Action Training Organization (OCATO), the training arm of OACAA. OCATO offers a wide variety of free training programs to member agencies to help increase the skills and abilities of staff and board members. The training can be tailored to meet your needs, brought on-site to your office and is conducted by people in community action.

“We work with the agency to determine the type of training that’s needed, what should be covered and how long the training should last based on their schedules,” explained Lorie McClain, Program Manager at OACAA. “These trainings build capacity in the basic areas needed to operate a community action agency. By keeping your staff well trained, an agency can minimize some of the more minor mistakes that can lead to major problems for a non-profit.”

Another benefit in addition to the flexibility of OCATO trainings is that they are taught by highly experienced Community Action personnel. The instructors are Internal Consultants, or ICs, that have served the Community Action network for many years and have particular knowledge of both Community Action and the course they are teaching. All of the ICs have higher education degrees and go through an approval process, which includes a recommendation and annual approval by their executive director, before teaching any courses. “The great thing is that you have people who have done the job at an agency doing the training,” McClain said. “If you have questions that only someone who has done the job can answer, the person teaching has done the job.”

Following is a list of training programs offered by OCATO:

OCATO Training Programs

Board Training – Covers the roles and responsibilities of board members and best practices in governance and stewardship of charitable dollars.

Collaborations – Discusses effective partnerships and how to formalize relationships between partnering community organizations

Customer Service – Provides training on how to interact with and treat customers

Family Development (Per person fee) - Provides family development professionals with the essential concepts and tools to assess, provide support, and create an action plan for the customers

Fund Development – Teaches the basics of fund raising and development

Head Start Policy Council Training –Helps your HS Policy Council to understand their roles and responsibilities

Internal Fiscal Controls – Helps you understand the preventative measures in a non-profit to combat fraud and waste.

Outcomes Management – Provides tools to capture and report data that demonstrates program results.

Poverty Simulation– Introduces people to the everyday struggles of poverty

ROMA – (Results Oriented Management and Accountability) Understanding the basics of the reporting system required by the state to meet the federal requirement that programs must demonstrate measureable outcomes.

Scales – a tool that can be used to measure incremental changes in the customer or the agency.

Logic Models - A planning tool that can be used to visually represent a program from identified needs to expected outcomes

Strategic Planning – Works with staff, board members, and community to develop a living strategic plan with action steps to achieve these goals.

Technical Planning/Evaluation – Helps determine the IT needs of an agency

Volunteer Management – Teaches the basics of how to work effectively with volunteers

For more information on these valuable training programs, contact OCATO at (614) 224-8500 or visit [our website](#)