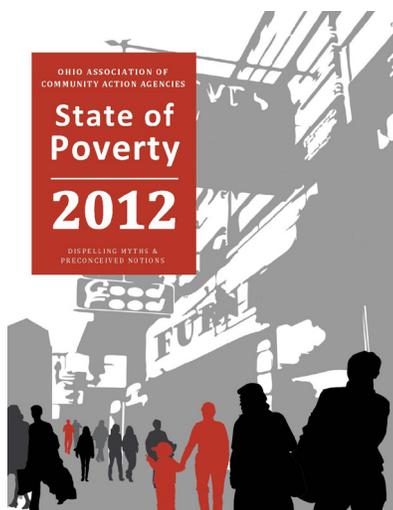




OACAA News

OACAA Releases 2012 State of Poverty Report



The Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies released its annual State of Poverty in Ohio report on January 30 at the Sheraton on Capitol Square at a press conference held during its Winter Legislative Conference. This year's report utilizes graphics and case studies to illustrate the affects of poverty in Ohio and dispel commonly held myths and misconceptions.

“One in six Ohioans live in poverty. This number is hard to understand until you put it in perspective, which is what we tried to do with this report. As an example, the more than 1.8 million people in Ohio living in poverty would fill Ohio State University’s football stadium more than 17 times,” said Philip E. Cole, executive director of OACAA. “The report not only demonstrates what it means to be poor, but dispels some of the stereotypes and preconceived notions about low-income people. As another example, one in 12 Ohioans in poverty have a bachelor’s degree or higher.”

Poverty afflicts a multitude of people, from the educated to your hard-working neighbor. This report shows how close many people are to living in poverty – only one catastrophic incident away, through the use of graphics, stories and an appendix with tables and sources.

The report was researched and prepared by Community Research Partners. During the press conference, Cole and CRP Interim Executive Director Bill LaFayette presented an overview of the report’s findings and answered questions. They also shared their thoughts on what could be done to improve poverty levels in Ohio, such as increasing jobs, access to transportation and housing. The report is available on OACAA’s website at <http://www.oacaa.org/news-media/resources/>.

“We hope that you find the report useful and gain a better understanding of the state of poverty in Ohio,” concluded Cole.

