

## President Obama's proposed budget will greatly impact Hamilton County

President Obama's proposed budget released Monday cuts funding for two initiatives that are vital to Hamilton County. The President is calling for a 50 percent reduction in both the Community Services Block Grant funding and the Home Energy Assistance Program funding.

Gwen L. Robinson, Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency president & CEO, says, "Locally, the cuts will greatly impact an agency that has proudly served our community for almost 47 years. These cuts will force CAA to turn away many people - seniors, the disabled, veterans, the unemployed, and low-income families as they struggle to secure the necessities already denied to them by this crushing economy. These cuts will not only hurt the thousands who utilize the services, but will also affect the community at-large by: reducing profits at local companies that count on the agency's business; causing numerous jobs to be lost; reducing the contribution these individuals, businesses, and the agency make to the local tax base; and reducing the overall quality of life in Hamilton County."

In 2009-2010, through Community Services Block Grant and Home Energy Assistance Program funds, CAA spent \$315,000

with 180 local vendors.

"Although reducing the federal deficit needs to be a major priority, cutting Community Services Block Grant and Home Energy Assistance Program funding is not the answer," said Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory. "CAA is an anchor in this commu-

B. Lawson, senior attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati. "I have watched the community improve around the two buildings the agency constructed in Bond Hill and the West End. Local companies have thanked me for our business and said what a difference it makes. And clients

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nity and we count on them. And by we, I mean local businesses, agency employees, the City of Cincinnati, and the thousands they assist every year." The City Administration has partnered with CAA on numerous projects, namely the Summer Youth Employment Program, which helped hundreds of young adults secure jobs.

"These two federally-funded programs make more of a difference in our community than anyone probably realizes, said CAA Board Chair and long-time volunteer Mark

have told me how our assistance has helped them find a job, get medications, or avoid foreclosure."

The Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency is a private, non-profit organization that has served Hamilton County for almost 47 years. It is one of 1,100 Community Action Agencies across the nation. By promoting self-sufficiency, not dependency, Community Action Agencies nationally serve more than 9.3 million people.