



**Cincinnati-Hamilton County
Community Action Agency**

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**Working poor hit hard by economic crisis
*Governor calls for local forum to find solutions***

(Cincinnati, OH) – As President Obama seeks support for his economic stimulus plan, Governor Strickland's Anti-Poverty Task Force seeks input on how to build a strong economic future for Ohioans. To do so, the Governor has turned to the Community Action Agency (CAA) in Hamilton County and the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies. A forum is being held this **Wednesday, February 11, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon** at CAA located at 1740 Langdon Farm Road, Cincinnati, OH 45237. The Governor is asking for assistance in gathering input from low-income families and from advocates, government agencies and non-profits who serve them. Similar forums are being held across Ohio.

With new federal aid to the states on the way, this local conversation will take aim at developing strategic recommendations for funding new initiatives and fine-tuning existing ones with the goal of reducing the poverty rate in Ohio. Gwen L. Robinson, CAA President/CEO, comments, "It is critical that the Governor plan carefully so that all Ohioans may reap the full benefit of the federal dollars coming our way. And although the current economic crisis is difficult for everyone, times which were already incredibly challenging have become even dire for the low-income."

If you would like to participate, please contact Yvette Hanley at 513-569-1840 x 1039.

About the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency: The Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency is a private, non-profit organization that has served as a lifeline for low-income children and adults throughout Hamilton County for more than four decades. Delivering a seamless system of services, CAA provides assistance with employment, supportive services, home energy, early childhood education, housing, and youth programs.

About Governor Strickland's Ohio Anti-Poverty Task Force: On May 28, 2008, Governor Ted Strickland signed executive order (2008 – 11S) creating the Ohio Anti-Poverty Task Force to develop recommendations aimed at assisting the 3.4 million Ohioans living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The Ohio Anti-Poverty Task Force will focus on providing practical and pragmatic shorter and long-term strategic recommendations on reducing poverty in Ohio. On September 9, 2008, the task force delivered the shorter term recommendations. The long-term recommendations will be delivered to the Governor on or before April 30, 2009, and include a list of suggested strategies for the state as it develops multi-year initiatives on reducing poverty.

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