

For Immediate Release

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Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies Receives Assistance to Support Lead Poisoning Prevention Efforts

Columbus – The Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies will receive \$200,000 from the Ohio Department of Development’s Office of Housing and Community Partnerships. The funds will be used to implement the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, which protects children from lead exposure in their homes.

The Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies is a statewide nonprofit association of more than 50 Ohio community action agencies working to assist and improve the economic well-being of low- and moderate-income Ohioans.

“This investment will ensure the health and safety of Ohio children who are the most at risk for lead poisoning,” said James A. Leftwich, Director of the Ohio Department of Development. “We are pleased to be part of such an important effort by the state’s community action agencies.”

The **Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies** will receive \$200,000, which will be distributed to the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development and the Wood, Sandusky, Ottawa, Seneca (WSOS) Community Action Agency. The organizations will conduct 200 lead hazard assessments in homes across 36 counties. A total of 200 families, consisting of approximately 560 people, will benefit from the program.

Participating families have incomes at or below 50 percent of the area median income and have at least one child under the age of six living in the home. In addition, with \$2.8 million in other federal and public funds dedicated to the project, 150 housing units will undergo a healthy home intervention, including the installation of carbon monoxide and smoke detectors as well as weatherization activities.

Lead exposure can cause a variety of health problems in young children, including reduced IQ, learning disabilities, developmental delays, reduced height, and impaired hearing. At higher levels, lead exposure can damage a child’s kidneys and central nervous system, and cause anemia, coma, convulsions, and even death.

*The **Office of Housing and Community Partnerships** provides financial and technical assistance to units of local government and nonprofit organizations in Ohio for project activities that benefit low- and moderate-income citizens.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works at the speed of business to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio’s future.*

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