



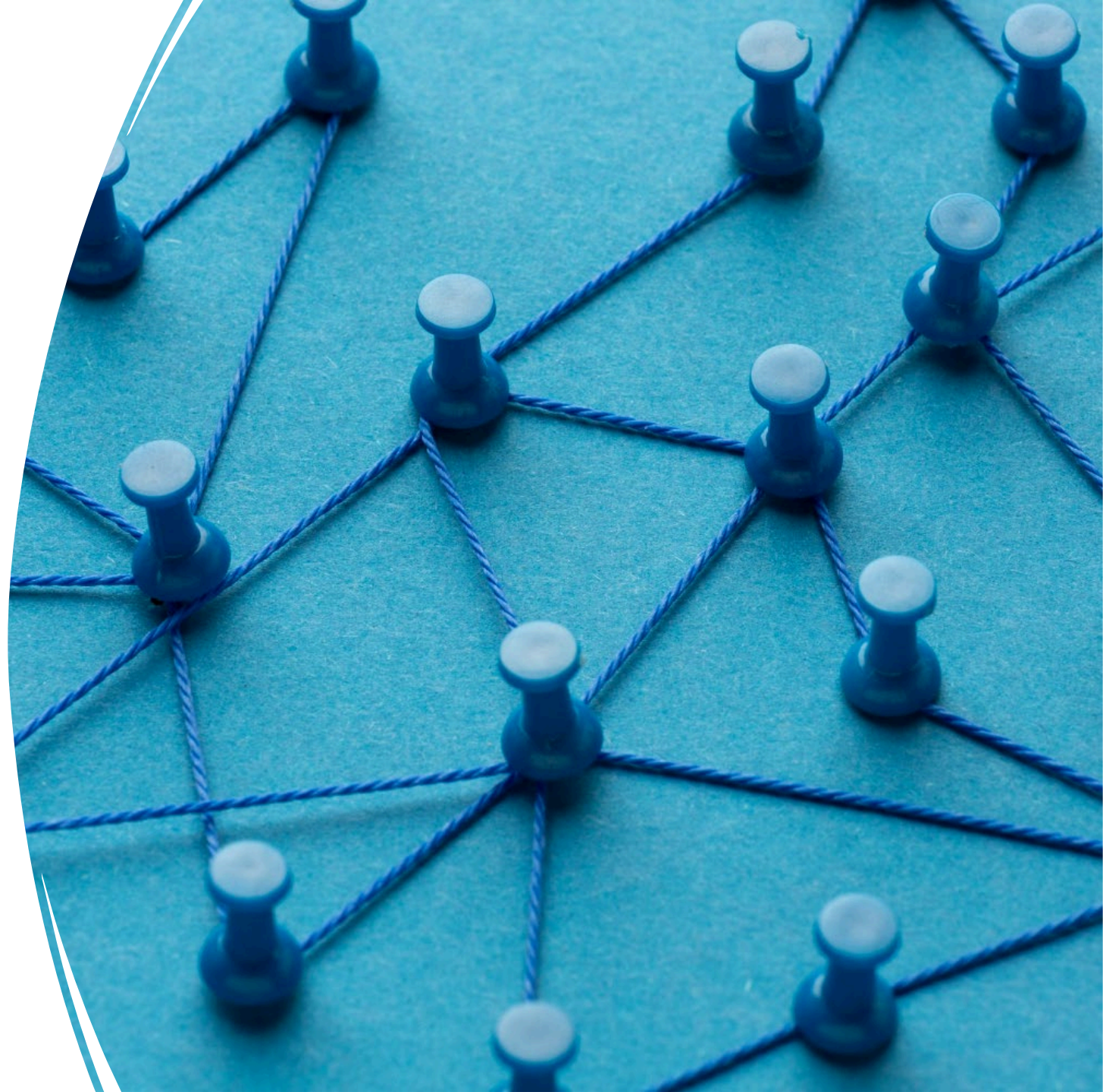
2026 Management and Leadership Training Conference

National Community Action Partnership
1020 19th Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
www.communityactionpartnership.com

Strengthening Strategic Relationships Across the Network

Welcome!

- Importance of strong statewide and local relationships
- State Associations' influence on the Community Action Network's success
- Strategies, partnerships, and shared impact
- Key Takeaways





The Role of State Associations

- Foster and sustain relationships with partners across multiple sectors
- Provide unified advocacy, representation, and statewide coordination
- Strengthen credibility and visibility for local agencies
- Support alignment of mission, messaging, and strategy

Opening Doors for Local Agencies

- Leveraging statewide relationships to expand local opportunities
- Facilitating introductions to partners, funders, and policymakers
- Supporting shared strategic goals and multi-agency initiatives
- Aligning statewide resources with local needs





Statewide Strategies to Amplify Impact

- Coordinating network-wide priorities to strengthen funding proposals
- Using collective impact and shared measurement frameworks
- Highlighting statewide successes to attract new investments
- Examples of how associations leverage partnerships for broader impact

Strengthening Strategic Partnerships

Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies



Ohio Association of
Community Action Agencies

Presenter

- Josh Summer, NCRT, CCAP
- Development Director



Ohio Association of
Community Action Agencies

Overview

- Community Action in Ohio
- Strategic Relationships
- Keys to Successful Relationships
- OACAA Strategic Priorities



Ohio Association of
Community Action Agencies

Ohio Community Action Network

- Established in the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964
- Forty-eight (48) CAAs in Ohio covering all 88 counties
- Locally controlled by non-profit tripartite boards
- OACAA and OCATO (501(c)4 and 501(c)3)



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Ohio Community Action Network

- Trampolines, not a safety net.
- Flexible and responsive
- Local solutions for unique local needs
- Customer-focused and family-oriented
- Community-wide partnerships
- Advocates for Ohioans



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Ohio Community Action Results

- In the most recent Annual Report, 241,739 families and 514,758 individuals were served in Ohio.
- Approximately 23% of the families were headed by single females.
- 190,553 children under the age of 17 and 73,853 seniors over the age of 65 received services
- 125,737 reported a disabling condition present in the household
- 362,018 CAA customers relied on Medicaid as their primary health insurance



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Association Results

- 100% active membership
- 570 CAA professionals trained
- 26 agency-specific trainings and technical assistance
- 17 workshops, conferences, and poverty simulations
- 2 data and research reports released
- 3 specialty training series
- 2 toolkits released



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Ohio Community Action Services

- Heating Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Electric Partnership Program (EPP)
- Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP)
- Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)
- Head Start
- Women, Infants, Children (WIC)
- Food Pantry
- Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE)
- Help Me Grow
- GED Preparation



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Ohio Community Action Services Cont.

- Job Training/Placement
- Senior Feeding Programs
- Homeless Shelters
- Affordable Housing or Rental Assistance
- Transportation
- Financial Literacy
- EITC and Free Tax Preparation
- Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)
- Health Clinics
- Child Care
- Marriage/Parenting Services



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Ohio Community Action Services - Special

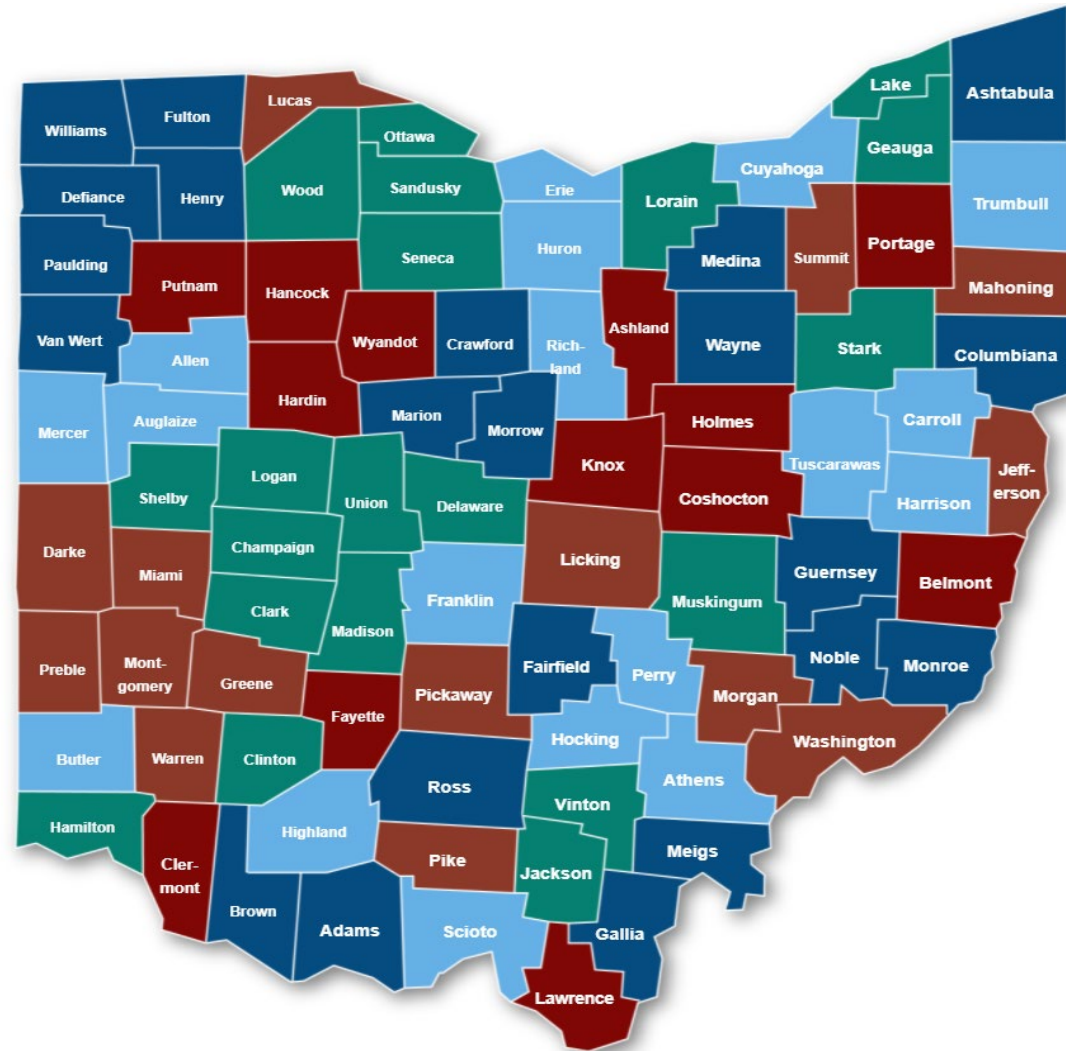
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
- Pathways HUB
- Family Development Specialist (FDS) Certified case management
- Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP)
- Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation
- Public Transit Systems
- OhioMeansJobs Centers
- Broadband



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Where are Ohio CAAs located?



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Strategic Relationships – Member CAAs

- Strong relationships with members
 - Leverage connections to elected officials
 - Innovative programs
 - Willing to try something new
- Internal Consultant (IC) Program
 - Peer-to-peer learning and support



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Strategic Relationships – Gov't Agencies

- Ohio Department of Development (ODOD)/Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS)
 - 4.5% statute
 - Pilot projects (e.g., veterans case management, TANF workforce barriers, car repair)
- Ohio Department of Health
 - Migrant farm worker housing repair
 - Lead hazard control
- Community Action programs transitioning to ODJFS



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Strategic Relationships – Universities

- Ohio University (previously Ohio State University)
 - Leadership Training Series
 - Exemplary Programs
 - Program evaluation (e.g., Ohio Home Relief program)
- University of Washington
 - Self-Sufficiency Standard



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Strategic Relationships – State Networks

- Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD)
- Ohio Urban Community Action Network (OUCAN)
- Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAE)
- Ohio CDC Association
- Ohio Foodbank Association
- Advocates for Ohio's Future



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Strategic Relationships – Research

- Strategic Research Group (SRG)
 - State of Poverty in Ohio Report
- Regionomics
 - Economic Impact Report



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Strategic Relationships – Foundations

- Columbus Foundation
 - Matching funds
 - Curtis Brooks Scholarship Fund
- Gund Foundation
 - Conversations on Poverty



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Strategic Relationships – Other

- Diaper Banks
 - Bulk purchasing/Matching funds
- Firespring
 - Website templates
- Playback Video
 - Legacy Project
- CauseIMPACT
 - Social Enterprise



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Keys to Building Successful Relationships

- Planning
- Shared goals
- Honest and open dialogue
- Identify and utilize key strengths
- Clear outcomes
- Resources



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OACAA Strategic Priorities

OACAA 2025-2028 Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority:
Harness our collective power to advance
the Network and address poverty



Strategic Priority:
Cultivate Visionary leadership to inspire
growth and stability



Strategic Priority:
Sustain and Grow a Thriving
Community Action Network



Strategic Priority:
Support and Advance Innovation
and Excellence



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Thank you!
Questions?



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Thanks for Being Here!

1

If you didn't do so when you arrived, please scan the QR code outside the door to check in.

2

Please complete the feedback survey in your Whova app.

3

Slides will be uploaded to the NCAP website as soon as possible.