



Ohio Urban Community Action Network Annual Report 2022



Because together, we can!

the best is yet to come

For 40 years Ohio's urban community action network has expanded to serve not only urban populations living in poverty, but also rural and suburban populations that are increasingly experiencing poverty. We are grateful for all your support as we have transformed into the Ohio Urban Community Action Network (OUCAN).

This year proved to be the perfect time to reinforce our position as the voice of urban communities. In 2022, a bipartisan group of U.S. Congressmen voted to reauthorize and modernize the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). CSBG serves as a backbone for our network of agencies and having new representatives and champions in Congress gives us hope that our work – your work – is being noticed.



CEO Yvonne Cherell

Also this year, the Office of Head Start expanded eligibility for its programs by making receipt of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits a categorical qualifier for Head Start and Early Head Start programs across the country. At the state level, Ohio expanded eligibility for the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) from 150% to 175% of the federal poverty level.

The training OUCAN offered this year broke records for attendance and enthusiasm. The first Women's Leadership Symposium gave us an opportunity to force relationships across the network with like-minded, like-hearted Community Action staff. Our first in-person conference post-COVID, the LeaderLink Summit continued to build those relationships and capped our year in a stellar way.

This mission of OUCAN is to connect and advocate for Ohio's urban Community Action Agencies to help provide resources, networking opportunities, policy support, and educational empowerment to further alleviate poverty and promote self-sufficiency in urban communities. Our approach is driven by three key values – compassion, community, and advocacy.

Our new Strategic Vision and Advocacy Agenda will inform our 2023 programming. We cannot wait to share it all with you. The best is definitely yet to come.

40

**Years of service to
Ohio's urban
communities.**

9

**Community Action
Agencies make up our
statewide network.**

56

**The percentage
of Ohio's low-to-
moderate income
families served by
OUCAN member
agencies.**

strategic vision & advocacy agenda

OUCAN is a statewide voice of urban low-income communities. To make sure that voice is heard, OUCAN has established collaborative relationships with organizations and decision makers across the state to leverage each others' strengths in supporting low-income families. We work hard to ensure residents are treated with dignity and have the resources to prosper in their everyday lives. Our strategic vision is designed to support our mission and our members.

COLLECTIVE IDENTITY

Recognition in the community about who OUCAN is and what OUCAN does.

RESOURCE GENERATION

Diversify financial capital of OUCAN for programming and advocacy.

STRENGTHEN COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Build relationships within the ecosystem of urban poverty reduction.

REPOSITORY OF NETWORK BEST PRACTICES

Codify and package collective impact best practices that distinguish our work.

the voice of ohio's urban communities

OUCAN agencies represent 56 percent of the state's total population and 62 percent of those households are living at or below the Federal Poverty Level. We seek to reduce the number of households living in poverty so that no family experiences food insecurity or housing challenges and all are able to earn a livable wage. OUCAN's advocacy agenda supports legislation and public policies that prioritize affordable housing, inclusive workforce/career development pathways and access to quality early childhood education and child care.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We support programs and policies that prioritize safe, affordable and lead free housing and reducing the gap in homeownership for underserved buyers



WORKFORCE/CAREER DEVELOPMENT

We support programs and policies to reduce racial disparities in wages and occupational clustering, programs with pipelines to career field and companies who invest in people including entrepreneurial and social enterprise ventures.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CHILDCARE

We support programs and policies designed to address access as well as quality and equitable funding for early childhood education and childcare.

collective impact

OUCAN member agencies are uniquely positioned to serve Ohioans in need. Being embedded in their communities means they are often called upon to work for unique community solutions.

Our advocacy agenda is no accident. Affordable housing, workforce development and early childhood care and education are supported by a variety of member programs across the state. We know firsthand the critical impact stable homes, clear career paths and quality childcare can have on the families we serve.



More than 42,000 homes saved with rent assistance programs.

Safe, Comfortable Homes

Pandemic relief dollars enabled the OUCAN network to expand rental assistance across the state. In all this year, members saved 42,000 families from pending or threatened evictions. Securing a place to live is just the beginning. Housing costs include a variety of expenses that impact low-income families.

Agencies have offered help with heating and cooling for decades. This year, amid a growing crisis surrounding affordability, they offered help with water bills for the first time. In all, nearly 7,000 families received help from the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

Other ways member agencies work to provide or support affordable housing included:

- ◇ Miami Valley Community Action Partnership opened a regional training center for weatherization workers. Weatherizing homes helps lower utility costs and can solve safety issues.
- ◇ Community Action Akron Summit's CEO is part of a group of leaders reexamining the history and future of Akron's inner-belt.
- ◇ Step Forward partnered in the Cleveland Scholar House, a service-enriched apartment building for single parents who are college students and their minor children (below).



Nearly 7,000 households helped in the first year of LIHWAP.

community impact

Living Wage Careers

OUCAN members offer more than 40 different career or workforce development programs. Programs provide both soft skills and opportunities to earn certifications that will lead to high-earning jobs. Agencies partner with employers in their area to encourage clients to train for jobs that need to be filled in manufacturing, health care, construction and more.

Support for entrepreneurs and post-incarcerated individuals is also included. Wrap-around services include everything from financial literacy to the opportunity to save to buy a car. Most programs provide individual case management.

Other ways member agencies work to provide or support workforce development include:

- ◇ IMPACT Community Action Agency opened the Otto Beatty Jr. Men's Closet to provide professional clothing to job seekers.
- ◇ Trumbull Community Action Partnership helped form a group to bring affordable internet access to one of the state's least connected areas.



Member agencies offer 42 different workforce programs.

Quality Child Care and Education

Many OUCAN members are Head Start and/or Early Head Start grantees. They served more than 3,700 families with the two-generational approach of the comprehensive child development program. Services begin before children are even born, however.

In Ohio, Black infants are 2.7 times more likely to die before their first birthday than white infants. OUCAN members have created two Pathways HUBS to combat these incidents, providing support to pregnant women and new parents by addressing the social determinants of health. Together, the HUBS in Akron and Canton have served thousands of families this year.

More than 3,700 Head Start families served every year.



Other ways member agencies work to provide or support quality child care and education include:

- ◇ Pathways, Inc., Brothers and Sisters United programs have helped more than 2,000 fathers and more than 6,000 children.
- ◇ Stark County Community Action Agency hosted a poverty simulation for Kent State University nursing students exposing hundreds of future health care workers to the mission of the Stark County HUB and the challenges low-income families face.
- ◇ Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership operates an Emergency Diaper Bank that has provided hundreds of thousands of diapers and wipes since 2019.

unique, impactful training

OUCAN works to provide training members cannot get anywhere else which offers an opportunity to connect to their colleagues across the state. In 2022, our most successful events were the first Women's Leadership Symposium and our LeaderLink Summit

State Rep. Latyna Humphrey served as keynote speaker for the symposium, subtitled "When We Lead" and attended by more than 30 women across the state. For three days participants learned new practices and unlearned fixed thinking.

OUCAN's first in person event in three years brought a cohort of more than 30 leaders from around the state together. The LeaderLink Summit was held in Columbus toward the end of October and all valued the chance to connect with colleagues face-to-face.

Keynote speaker Andrea D. Campbell described on how caring radically can change a workplace. Attendees also took time to discuss ways OUCAN can further goals for the network in the areas of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Advocacy, Leadership and Branding.



upcoming events



Jan. 19:	Board Meeting
Jan. 27:	OUCAN Legislative Reception
Feb. 10:	RoadMap Team Retreat
March 16:	Board Meeting
March 22-24:	Women's Leadership Symposium Marriott Columbus OSU
April 6:	Statewide Day of Training Part I
May 18:	Board Meeting
June 2 :	The Brothers Think Tank Marriott Columbus OSU
Aug.17:	Board Meeting
Sept. 7:	Statewide Day of Training Part II
Oct. 11-13:	LeaderLink Summit Marriott Columbus OSU
Oct. 19:	Board Meeting
Dec. 7:	Annual Meeting (virtual)
Dec. 21:	Board Meeting

Events are virtual unless otherwise noted.



financial position

Income and Expenses

Income	
Grant Revenue	\$200,000
Member Dues	\$59,220
Registration Fees	\$5,680
Interest	\$7
Expenses	\$256,843
Net Income	\$7,962

Current Financial Position

Bank Accounts	\$146,607
Investments	\$50,000
Total Assets	\$196,607
Liabilities	\$3,589
Total Equity	\$193,018

board and staff



The leaders of our member agencies comprise our Board of Directors and they elect officers from among themselves. For 2023 and 2024, the serving officers are:

Board Chair: Jacklyn A. Chisholm, Ph.D, Step Forward

Vice Chair: Jay Black, Jr., Pathway, Inc.

Treasurer: Sheila Triplett, Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership

Secretary: Lisa Stempler, Miami Valley Community Action Partnership

board members

Robert “Bo” Chilton, IMPACT Community Action Agency

Malcolm Costa, Community Action Akron Summit

Janice Warner, Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron and Richland Counties

Rodney Reasonover, Stark County Community Action Agency;

Van Nelson, Jr., Trumbull Community Action Partnership

roadmap team

Jennifer Atwell, Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron & Richland Counties

Teresa Gary, IMPACT Community Action Agency

Rudy Herter, Stark County Community Action Agency

Marilyn Montes, Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership

Audrey Taylor, Step Forward

Chelsie Wilkinson, Miami Valley Community Action Partnership

staff & consultants

Yvonne Cherell, CEO

Larry Price, Legislative Consultant

Dr. Anthony Redic, Financial Manager

Sharon Bengel, Content Manager

**Congratulations to Chelsie Wilkinson on
earning her CCAP credential in 2022.**



The Voice of Ohio's Urban Communities

WHAT OUR
MEMBERS DO
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE

	Akron-Summit	CACEHR	IMPACT	MYCAP	MVCAP	Pathway	Stark CCAA	Step Forward	Trumbull CAP
Community Health HUB	●						●		
Head Start	●	●		●			●	●	●
HEAP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Home Relief Grant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Senior Services						●	●		
Tax Prep	●		●			●		●	
Tech Training			●	●	●	●	●		●
Weatherization			●	●	●		●		
Winter/Summer Crisis	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Workforce/Career Programs			●			●	●	●	



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Because together, we can!