

Community Action Agency says Obama's proposed budget cuts will reduce funding to local programs

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CINCINNATI - Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency says President Obama's proposed budget will cripple the agency's outreach programs.

The agency says the President is calling for a 50 percent reduction to both the Community Services Block Grant and the Home Energy Assistance Program.

There is usually a long line of residents requesting help to pay their utility bill.

CAA says many of those clients will have to be turned away this year.

"We're in a situation right now with 100 percent funding, we're struggling to meet all the needs everyone has and that's with 100 percent funding. Slashing the budget by 50 percent in two of our larger programs, we're looking at thousands of families that are not going to get the critical services they need. That's assistance with heat assistance, assistance with their water bill, and often times there's food," said CAA's Mason Gray.

The agency also points out local companies would be impacted because they count on the agency for business.

The agency says it understands the need to reduce the federal budget, but says cutting the Community Services Block Grant and Home Energy Assistance Program will affect many individuals who rely on these programs.

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