



Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency

We help make things happen

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Who loses in Obama's proposed budget? Hamilton County.

Our most vulnerable, local businesses and agencies, and hard-working citizens, will pay the price

(Cincinnati, OH) – President Obama's proposed budget released yesterday recommends cutting funding for two initiatives that are vital to Hamilton County. The President is calling for a 50% reduction in both the Community Services Block Grant funding and the Home Energy Assistance Program funding. Nationally, Community Services Block Grant funding will be cut from \$700 to \$350 million and the Home Energy Assistance Program funding will be cut from \$5.1 to \$2.57 billion. Locally, the cuts will tremendously impact an agency that has proudly served our community for almost 47 years. These cuts will force the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CAA) to turn away seniors, the disabled, veterans, the unemployed, and low-income families as they struggle to secure the necessities already denied to them by this crushing economy. These cuts will not only hurt the thousands who utilize the services, but will also result in devastating consequences for the community at large by:

- Reducing profits at local companies that count on the agency's business
- Causing numerous jobs to be lost
- Reducing the contribution these individuals, businesses, and the agency make to the local tax base
- Reducing the overall quality of life in Hamilton County as poverty rises in our communities

"Although reducing the federal deficit needs to be a major priority, cutting Community Services Block Grant and Home Energy Assistance Program funding is not the answer. CAA is an anchor in this community and we count on them. And by we, I mean local businesses, agency employees, the City of Cincinnati, and the thousands they assist every year," said Mayor Mark Mallory whose administration has partnered with CAA on numerous projects, namely the Summer Youth Employment Program which helped hundreds of young adults secure jobs.

How will Hamilton County be affected if Community Services Block Grant and Home Energy Assistance Program funds are cut?

- The Community Services Block Grant and Home Energy Assistance programs will no longer support Hamilton County's local economy by investing more than \$315,000 annually through contracts with approximately 180 local vendors including janitorial services, information technology services, space maintenance and repairs, security, refuse collection, utilities, office supplies, program supplies, and real estate rental.
- 15,266 Hamilton County Residents who received services through the Community Services Block Grant funding during the 2010 program year will have to go without
- 39,285 households who received help through the Home Energy Assistance Program's Regular HEAP, Emergency HEAP, and Percentage of Income Payment Plan program during the 2009-2010 program year will have to go without

"These two federally-funded programs make more of a difference in our community than anyone probably realizes. I have watched the community improve around the two buildings the agency constructed in Bond Hill and the West End.

Local companies have thanked me for our business and said what a difference it makes. And clients have told me how our assistance has helped them find a job, get medications, or avoid foreclosure,” said CAA Board Chair and long-time volunteer Mark B. Lawson, Senior Attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati.

The Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency is a private, nonprofit organization that has served Hamilton County for almost 47 years. It is one of 1,100 Community Action Agencies across the nation. By promoting self-sufficiency, not dependency, Community Action Agencies nationally serve more than 9.3 million people.

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