



Agency Happenings

50th Anniversary Happenings

There are many activities surrounding the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty and Community Action. Read more to learn about the NCAF bike ride, what agencies are doing and other news and information about the anniversary.

NCAF Bike Ride

To commemorate the 50th anniversary, David Bradley, executive director of NCAF is Peddling for Progress, and he's starting in Ohio! Just as the War on Poverty was an ambitious initiative to end poverty through various programs, David is taking on the ambitious initiative of bike riding through as many states as possible, visiting Community Action Agencies along the way, to increase awareness of the work that CAAs do to take people from poverty to self-sufficiency, while raising funds to keep NCAF's advocacy strong.

David will start in the Columbus area and bike to Athens in time for the OACAA Summer Conference. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 during the bike ride, and we are challenging other states to meet or beat us! Look for more information on this exciting adventure in the coming weeks.

What Agencies are Doing

Several Ohio Community Action Agencies have come up with unique ideas to promote our 50th anniversary. Following are just a few:

- **Akron Summit Community Action** is contacting organizations that were created as part of Community Action, but have since spun off into independent organizations, such as a local senior transportation program, to join in the celebration.
- **Cincinnati Hamilton County Community Action Agency** created a 50th anniversary logo and kicked the year off with a 50th Anniversary Ceremony where Municipal Judge Ted Berry, Jr. spoke.



Mr. Berry's father, former Cincinnati Mayor Theodore M. Berry was instrumental in starting the Cincinnati Hamilton County Community Action Agency 50 years ago, the second CAA established in the country. Lois Conyers, one of the first directors of the agency also spoke, sharing stories from when the agency began. Following the ceremony, the agency kicked off their Head Start Reads literacy initiative. That marked the beginning of their monthly events calendar to celebrate the 50th anniversary, which will include a Focus on Jobs career fair, a Fifty Families Initiative where 50 families will receive special services, a 5.0k run/walk, an open house, a yard sale, a special showing of the movie "American Idealist," a community service day, and a poverty summit.

- **IMPACT Community Action** has a calendar of events planned throughout the year, including a poverty summit, awards luncheon, poverty simulation and a Rally in the Alley on August 20, the anniversary of the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act.
- **Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership (MYCAP)** had an article on the anniversary featured in the [Tribune Chronicle](#).
- **Pickaway County Community Action Organization (PICCA)** is having Throwback Thursdays on their [Facebook page](#) where every Thursday they are posting old photos and program information that demonstrates PICCA's history.

Many other agencies have included articles on the 50th anniversary in their newsletters. Be sure to let OACAA know what you're doing to commemorate the 50th anniversary by emailing Colleen at colleen@oacaa.org.

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News and Information

There has already been a lot of news and information about the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty. Following are links to some useful articles and reports:

- Half in Ten has released a [national toolkit](#) to promote the War on Poverty and a report, “[The War on Poverty: Then and Now](#)”
- [50 Years After LBJ’s War on Poverty](#)
- [Coming Full Circle: The War on Poverty’s Invaluable Contribution to Today’s Nonprofit Sector](#)
- [Does the U.S. Need Another War on Poverty](#)

We encourage you to celebrate this momentous occasion at your agencies and keep us posted on your activities.