



## OACAA News

### Tough Work Training Program from 2013 Winter Legislative Conference Now Available

At the 2013 Winter Legislative Conference, Mary Scherle, former Warren County Community Services employee and current volunteer, and Kathy Michelich, with Ohio State University Extension in Warren County presented on their training program “Tough Work.” The program, which provides participants the information needed to enhance effectiveness when working with families in poverty is now available as a curriculum for sale through the university.



The program was well received at the Winter Legislative Conference and now agencies can implement it at their offices. “Bridges Out of Poverty teaches you what poverty is and Tough Work teaches you how to apply that knowledge,” commented Lorie McClain, program manager with OACAA. “It is another tool that can be used to help clients.”

The curriculum was developed by a seven-member team with collectively more than 130 years of experience working with people in poverty. Scherle from Warren County Community Services was a part of that team.

There are four session topics to the curriculum:

1. Persistent Poverty: Definitions, Causes and Beliefs
2. Working with People in Poverty
3. Caring for Yourself
4. Lead Partner Agencies: Tapping Into Local Resources

Training is divided into two 2-hour sessions taught within a two-week time period. The training can also be offered in one

4.5-hour block of time, with three 10-minute breaks. Tough Work participants receive a 51-page Participant Manual. Used as a workbook during the training, this manual serves as a valuable resource to those involved in social service work.

Participants will:

- Increase their knowledge about poverty: its causes, the types of poverty, and the regional characteristics of poverty.
- Gain the skills to work effectively with people in financial crisis.
- Enhance their confidence as volunteers or staff members, and experience increased satisfaction when working with people in poverty.
- Be better equipped to provide direct assistance and appropriate referrals to families in need.
- Increase their knowledge of local resources and how to help others access them.
- Develop and strengthen partnerships among faith-based organizations, nonprofit agencies, and other organizations serving people in poverty.

The curriculum cost is \$149 and includes a full-color, 140-page Trainers Guide and a CD containing a camera-ready 51-page Participant Manual, as well as several full-color marketing pieces. The curriculum can be purchased through Ohio State University’s eStore at <http://estore.osu-extension.org/productdetails.cfm?SKU=TW001>

