



West Ohio Community Action Partnership

540 South Central Avenue, Lima, Ohio 45804

Phone: (419) 227-2586 | Fax: (419) 227-7626

www.wocap.org

West Ohio Community Action Partnership Celebrates Community Action Month this May

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kimberly Bruns, CEO, kbruns@wocap.org, 419-227-2586 Ext. 138

Lima, Ohio, May 1, 2025 – The Community Action Network is a robust state and local force that helps empower hardworking families to achieve economic independence rather than keeping them reliant on government assistance. There are nearly 1,000 agencies across the country working every day to create economic opportunity, strengthen local communities, and help families find pathways to prosperity. This year, West Ohio CAP, a proud member of the Community Action Network, commemorates 31 years helping families throughout Allen, Auglaize, and Mercer Counties.

“Each May, during Community Action Month, we reflect on the impact West Ohio CAP and our network have had on families,” said Kimberly Bruns of West Ohio CAP. “Last year alone, we served over 10,000 individuals in Allen, Auglaize, and Mercer Counties, and over 15 million across the country with services like job training, financial education, and small business support, helping families build skills to achieve long-term financial freedom. In 2024, our agency served 390 children in our Head Start program and provided 47,212 meals to the children served. Our MVP Parenting Program provided group-based lessons to 167 parents/guardians on various parenting topics, including child development, problem-solving, anger management, and understanding feelings. Staff aided 206 Fair Housing calls, and 47 participants received Financial Management and Homeownership classes. The Small Business Start-Up Program served individuals with all aspects of the process, and 77 homes reduced their home energy bills with home inspections and services provided by our Energy Conservation Program.

Community Action Agencies ensure that hard-working American families have access to the opportunities they need to thrive, while also promoting local economic growth and reducing government dependency. All agencies are locally controlled with boards of directors composed of local elected officials, private and public sector representatives, and engaged community residents. “We are proud of our communities’ participation in the development and oversight of our programs,” said Bruns. “Their engagement helps us to be more effective in our approach by determining what the communities need.”

To celebrate the continued success of Community Action and raise awareness throughout Allen, Auglaize, and Mercer Counties, West Ohio CAP is collaborating with local businesses to raise funds to support local families and strengthen the communities we serve.

- May 6th – Beer Barrel Dine & Donate from 5:00 – 8:00 PM
 - o At Participating Locations
 - Lima – 2625 W. Market Street, 2755 Harding Highway, 1840 S. Dixie Highway
 - St. Mary’s – 1200 Indiana Avenue
- May 10th – BIGGBY Coffee
 - o At Participating Locations – BIGGBY Celina, 615 Grand Lake Rd & BIGGBY St. Mary’s, 488 Fortman Dr
 - o \$1 from every drink goes directly to West Ohio CAP

West Ohio CAP is a member of the National Community Action Partnership and the Community Action Network.