



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Action Agencies Celebrate the Resiliency of Families that Have Attained Self-Sufficiency in the Midst of the State's Budget Impasse

Working Families need support services tied up by the budget impasse to climb out of poverty

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies (IACAA) and its 40 members will be celebrating the resiliency of families and individuals who have overcome great obstacles in their lives to achieve self-sufficiency. The celebration called the Families of Distinction Banquet takes place on May 1, 2016 and marks the kickoff to IACAA's annual convention which will be held May 1st to May 3rd, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois.

Sixteen families chosen by IACAA's 40 member agencies will be honored and celebrated for overcoming great personal and social obstacles in their pursuit of self-sufficiency. This achievement truly demonstrates the indefatigable spirit of families seeking to improve their lives in a tough budget and economic environment. The Families of Distinction program truly illustrates how the Illinois Community Action Network empowers families to identify and utilize their personal strengths to enrich themselves. IACAA's Families of Distinction Program has received national recognition and has been replicated throughout the country by like-minded organizations.

The families will be treated to a dinner, inspiration and entertainment. The event will include a program book featuring stories on each of the sixteen families and a short documentary which will tell the stories of four of the sixteen families. Each family will then be presented with a plaque recognizing their accomplishment.

While this celebration will be taking place, the state's budget impasse will continue to affect funding for many social service programs in Illinois. "We are very proud of the resiliency exhibited by these sixteen families in overcoming poverty. We also want to use this event as a platform to call for an end to the budget impasse so that more families and individuals can be assisted to attain self-sufficiency in Illinois," said Dalitso Sulamoyo, President and CEO of IACAA. "Their stories illuminate the struggles of many families and individuals across the state who need help to make it on their own" said Sulamoyo.

Due to the state budget impasse, funding for many social service programs has been inaccessible to providers leaving thousands of families and individuals in need without any assistance. "We need to avert a crisis for many vulnerable families who could be faced with health and safety issues without assistance. To that end we are asking our elected officials to come together and enact a responsible budget so that more families can have a fair shot at attaining self-sufficiency before it's too late," said Sulamoyo.

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ABOUT IACAA

The Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies (IACAA) is the membership organization that provides a unified voice and support to the poverty fighting network of Community Action Agencies. Visit the website at www.iacaanet.org.