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White House budget slashes core funding for Jackson-Vinton Community Action, Inc.

For 46 years, Jackson-Vinton Community Action, Inc. (JVCAI) has worked to build, enhance and support Jackson and Vinton Counties. Most visibly and most recently, JVCAI has provided healthcare to hundreds of local individuals and families in need through our CSBG funded Health Clinic. In addition to the Health Clinic, JVCAI has provided the opportunity for persons to secure safe affordable housing or remain in their own home. These services also include foreclosure prevention mitigation. This local work is now at risk due to proposed cuts in the Community Services Block Grant, announced in President Obama's budget released Monday.

CSBG is a federal funding stream that provides the core funding that supports locally-controlled programs that meet community needs. With that funding, JVCAI has created a comprehensive, integrated array of services that enable poor families to get on their feet, into affordable housing and jobs, enrolled in career development and education programs, building a future as active, tax-paying citizens and responsible parents.

"CSBG creates opportunities for all members of our community," said JVCAI Board President, Aaron Eberts, a loan officer at Vinton County National Bank in McArthur, Ohio.

"CSBG helps people be more stable to find jobs, gain education and become more secure in their community. CSBG leads to additional income streams that fund our community. JVCAI leverages those dollars and uses them to bring about positive changes in Jackson and Vinton Counties."

Without CSBG, Jackson and Vinton Counties will lose:

Access to a sliding fee healthcare clinic in Wellston, providing over 300 local individuals with 1,300 basic medical services annually and over \$600,000 in free medication assistance leveraged through a coordinated effort with pharmaceutical companies. In addition, 240 individuals were helped with emergency healthcare services leveraged through a private foundation grant, paying for the cost of prescriptions at local pharmacies; diagnostic testing and specialty medical services at our local hospital and clinics putting \$8,000 back into the community in 2010. Free public parenting classes, communicable disease training provided to daycare providers and emergency healthcare services would also be lost. Possibly at risk would be oral health services to over 1,100 elementary students, in our four local school districts, who are screened for free Dental Sealant placements. In 2010, 750 students received this service at no charge to the family.

Also threatened would be the opportunity for families to secure or retain affordable housing through programs such as Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) in partnership with the County of Jackson and the City of Wellston Homeownership Program and would also be a loss of \$219,000 to local businesses and \$90,000 to area contractors.

“The loss of CSBG will impact our entire community,” said Reverend Glen Herman pastor of the Hope United Methodist Church and President of the Wellston Ministerial Association. “The ripple effect will be far-reaching because the impact of these programs is so deep and so strong.”

JVCAI served 23,000 people during the 2009 year. These comprehensive services work together to provide opportunities for communities and individuals.

“For a relatively small federal outlay, CSBG-funded programs pay off many times over as they get people working and paying taxes, prevent expensive emergency shelter placements and keep low-income community residents off the unemployment and welfare rolls, at huge savings to taxpayers,” said JVCAI Board President Aaron Eberts.

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