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Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency announces rent, mortgage, and water assistance for Ohioans impacted by COVID-19 through the Ohio Home Relief Grant

(**Fairfield County**, Ohio) – Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency (LFCAA), who serves Fairfield County, Ohio, has announced that there are funds available through the Ohio Home Relief Grant (OHRG) to assist households impacted by COVID-19 with rent or mortgage payments and to prevent water and sewer disconnections beginning November 2, 2020.

Ohioans, who are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and have fallen behind on rent or mortgage payments, water bills, or sewer payments are encouraged to contact LFCAA to submit an application for assistance. Funds are available for a limited time and applicants are encouraged to reach out early.

"We are excited to help make this resource available to our community to help folks remain in their homes as we all continue to navigate the personal, social, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic," said Clinton Davis, Executive Director of LFCAA. "Though this OHRG funding is only available for a short time, for that period, it will allow us to build upon our existing rent and utility assistance programs to help more people with even more support than we can usually provide."

Governor Mike DeWine announced the availability of OHRG funds last Friday during a joint press conference with members of the General Assembly. The funding is part of the CARES Act stimulus package and are available until December 30, 2020. All households who are experiencing challenges in paying their past due payments should contact LFCAA at 740-653-4146 or visit their website to learn more and download an application: <u>faircaa.org/rent</u>

"While efforts by federal, state, and local partners have prevented many evictions this year, back rent, mortgage, and utility bills are still piling up for many folks who have been out of work, seen reduced hours, and experienced increased costs this year due to the pandemic," said Davis. "This funding will make a strong impact, will keep families in their homes now, and will help prevent future evictions."

Residents outside of Fairfield County can find their local Community Action Agency by visiting <u>https://oacaa.org/agency-directory/</u>.

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Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency (LFCAA) is a non-profit organization that works to help people in need throughout Fairfield County, Ohio. The agency operates programs that provide emergency assistance for food, housing, and utilities; homeless prevention, rehousing, and a family shelter; permanent support housing; early childhood education from pregnancy to age 5 through home-based and center-based programs; early intervention; recycling, buy back, and secure shred services; and home repair and weatherization. The agency works to benefit low-income residents and communities in our county.