

March 2012: Ohio CASH E-News

May webinar on asset-building continuum

We are pleased to offer our next webinar, *Understanding the Asset-building Continuum*, on Monday May 14, 2012, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm. The webinar will be facilitated by Robyn McKinney, director of Maryland CASH. The training will help direct-service organizations identify which financial resources are best suited for their clients. Clients have different financial needs and ensuring that we are able to provide the most appropriate resources will help them on the road to financial security. Register at this link: <http://www.anymeeting.com/PIID=EC59DB848649>

The 1st quarter Ohio CASH meeting was a great success!

On February 24, 2012, our members from all over Ohio met in Columbus and by conference call. David Rothstein of Policy Matters Ohio presented information on Ohio's ranking in the CFED Assets & Opportunity Scorecard. Linda Cook of the Ohio Poverty Law Center presented legislative information focused on consumer protection issues. Ohio CASH meetings are a great way to share how developments occurring nationally and statewide impact our work locally.

The 2nd and 3rd quarter meetings will be held by webinar/conference call. Webinar information will be made available two weeks before each meeting. Meeting dates are as follows:

- 2nd quarter – Friday, May 4, 2012, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
- 3rd quarter – Thursday, August 16, 2012, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Join a subcommittee

Kalitha Williams of Policy Matters Ohio shared that the coalition will be starting two committees. The Toolkit Committee will develop financial resources that will be beneficial for clients and direct-service providers. The Public Policy Committee will establish the policy agenda for the coalition. The committees will meet by webinar/conference call. Contact Kalitha at kwilliams@policymattersohio.org if you are interested in joining either of the committees.

Op-ed focuses on asset building at tax time

Kalitha wrote an op-ed for the February edition of Columbus African American News Journal. It focused on how tax refunds can be used to build financial security. Read the article here: <http://bit.ly/GFWTm4>.

Reports on Cuyahoga and Franklin EITC work now available

David recently completed his annual evaluations of the EITC coalitions in Cuyahoga and Franklin counties. Each report demonstrates the positive community impact of this important work and makes recommendations for program and funding expansion. Read both reports here: <http://bit.ly/GIXJzM>

VITA and TCA grants brochure available

IRS Publication 4680, *Grant Programs Marketing Brochure* is available for organizations interested in applying for VITA or TCA grants. The grant application period for 2013 awards will begin on May 1 and end May 31, 2012. View the brochure here: <http://1.usa.gov/aUcVE6>

U.S Senate testimony on prepaid debt cards

Recently, David provided testimony before the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, Urban Affairs. He said that pre-paid debit cards used to distribute public benefits should have clear fee disclosures, limited fees for card usage (overdraft charges, balance inquiries, etc.), and be used to build and manage assets for working families. Read his testimony here: <http://bit.ly/zlfG3k>