

News Release

Lifeline for the Empowerment and Development of Consumers, Inc.

PO Box 496, Painesville, OH 44077

(440) 354-2148 carried@lclifeline.org

**Lifeline, Inc. Receives American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Funding, Sets Plan
September 3, 2009**

PAINESVILLE, Ohio— Lifeline, Inc., as the Community Action Agency for Lake County, has received a grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The State of Ohio received \$38,976,102 in additional Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds as a result of ARRA. These funds were provided to the 52 Ohio Community Action Agencies using the same formula methodology as the standard CSBG funding.

Lifeline, Inc., has been awarded \$426,033 in CSBG funding through ARRA. This funding is in addition to the regularly allocated 2009-10 CSBG funding. The ARRA CSBG funds were designed to be used to provide services and activities addressing employment, education, better use of available income, housing, health, nutrition and emergency services to combat the central causes of poverty. However, to the greatest extent possible, CAAs are encouraged to use the ARRA CSBG funds to support employment-related services and activities that create and sustain economic growth. All funds must be obligated by September 30, 2010.

The Ohio Department of Development required each Community Action Agency to submit a County-wide Needs Assessment as supportive documentation with their work plans for the ARRA CSBG funding. Lifeline, Inc. created the Lake County Needs Assessment via several avenues, including focus groups with service providers and consumer surveys at a variety of other social service and mental health agencies. The data obtained through the Needs Assessment was the driving force in the development of the new programs.

The attached Executive Summary provides details on the programs that Lifeline, Inc. has expanded on using the ARRA funding, as well as the new programs that are launching as a result. In addition, two additional jobs were created using the funding.

Lifeline for the Empowerment and Development of Consumers was founded in 1973 with the mission of helping Lake County residents by providing them assistance and life skills programming that is designed to increase self-sufficiency. In 1980 Lifeline became a participating agency of the United Way of Lake County, UWLC, and in 1987 was designated a community action agency by the Ohio Department of Development, ODOD.

Today Lifeline continues with the same mission of helping Lake County's low-income residents break the cycle of poverty and make the transition from agency-dependency to self-sufficiency. Lifeline's current programming includes services in the health, housing and family development areas. Our motto is 'first to help, then to teach.' Lifeline is currently funded by the UWLC and by grants through the ODOD, the City of Mentor, the Lake County Board of Commissioners, the Western Reserve Junior Service League, the CVS Foundation, the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, the Bikers Aiding Local Diabetics and through private donors.