



THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

January 13, 2009

President-Elect Barack Obama  
Presidential Transition Committee  
Washington, D.C.

**SUBJECT: New Report Documents Social Services Funding Needs in Pennsylvania and Ohio**

Dear President-Elect Obama:

On Wednesday, January 14, the local community foundations listed above serving Cleveland, Columbus, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Toledo will release “Communities in Crisis: Impact of the Economic Recession on the Social Services Safety Net in Pennsylvania and Ohio.” It is a new report that documents the need for a substantial increase in Federal funding to preserve needed local safety net services throughout our two states.

Attached is a copy of the final report.

As you will note, “Communities in Crisis” concludes that as a result of the ongoing economic recession, Pennsylvania and Ohio will require an additional \$2.4 billion in supplemental Federal funding in 2009 and 2010 to continue to provide existing food, housing, utilities, childcare and transportation services in the face of steadily increasing demand brought about by rising unemployment.

Of this amount, \$749 million in Pennsylvania and \$1.69 billion in Ohio would be directed to public agencies and community-based nonprofits to enable them to adequately respond to the increased demand for basic safety net services by new users.

The figure includes approximately \$37.5 million in Pennsylvania and \$84.6 million in Ohio that the report says is needed to support local community-based nonprofit organizations, such as food banks and transportation assistance agencies.

We hope this report will be helpful to you and your Administration as you prepare to consider the proposed economic stimulus package.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or comments. Kate Dewey of Dewey & Kaye in Pittsburgh (412-434-1335; kdewey@deweykaye.com) and Jim Smith of Smith Dawson &

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Andrews in Washington (202-835-0740; jims@sda-inc.com) will be pleased to provide whatever information your staff may need.

Please accept our thanks for your dedicated service and best wishes for success in addressing our nation's many challenges in the in the coming year.

Yours truly,

**Grant Oliphant**  
President and CEO  
The Pittsburgh Foundation

**Ronald Richard**  
President and CEO  
The Cleveland Foundation

**Douglas Kridler**  
President and CEO  
The Columbus Foundation

**Andrew Swinney,**  
President  
The Philadelphia Foundation

**Keith Burwell**  
President  
Toledo Community Foundation