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## **New U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Data Reflect Improving Economy, Importance of Public Support Programs**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Today, the U.S. Census Bureau released new state data showing poverty and unemployment are down and median household income is up, along with real wage growth. Additionally, the number of Ohioans without health insurance is at an all-time low.

In 2015, the overall rate of poverty in Ohio was 14.8 percent and, a rate lower than the 15.8 percent poverty rate in 2014. The child poverty rate was 21.3 percent, a rate lower than the 22.9 percent 2014. Although the country is recovering from the recession and more Ohioans found full-time work in 2015 than in 2014, many Ohioans remain in poverty.

Advocates for Ohio's Future welcomed the new statistics, noting that the economy is improving for most – but not all – Ohioans. Public support programs such as nutrition assistance, housing subsidies, tax credits that benefit working families and child-care subsidies have lifted thousands of Ohioans out of poverty.

“The data shows that support programs play a critical role in stabilizing families, supporting low-wage workers, and ensuring that all Ohioans are safe and healthy,” said Bill Sundermeyer, State Director of Advocates for Ohio's Future. “With the right investments and policy choices, we can continue down the road to creating an economy that works for everyone.”

Advocates for Ohio's Future, along with our partners, anticipates releasing a detailed report later this month that takes a deeper look at economic stability across Ohio. Look for additional advisories soon.

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*Advocates for Ohio's Future is a statewide coalition of over 480 local and statewide organizations that promote health and human service budget and policy solutions so all Ohioans live better lives.*