

Vice President Joe Biden visited Cincinnati on July 9, 2009, to speak about stimulus funding and the benefits it will bring to local communities. Thomas Ficklen, an employee of the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CAA), introduced the Vice President and spoke on how the stimulus funds awarded to CAA have impacted his life.

Prior to joining the agency Thomas worked for a property management company that was hit hard by the economy. His employer could no longer afford to pay the employees and fled town, leaving Thomas with no source of income. Over the next 8 months, he worked 2-3 times per week through a temp agency, but was not making enough to support himself. He soon fell behind on his rent and was evicted, forcing him to move back into his parent's house. Thomas submitted applications to over 30 jobs per week in an effort to keep pushing forward. The \$11.1 million in weatherization stimulus funding allowed CAA to expand the program and hire Thomas as the Intake/Outreach Specialist. During his speech, Thomas thanked the Obama administration for their commitment to serving our nation and for providing organizations such as CAA with resources to rebuild the local community.

