



# LCDJFS E-Newsletter

Summer 2009

A newsletter from the Lorain County Department of Job & Family Services

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## Highlights of 2008

- In January and February 2008, in-house restructuring was completed in our Social Service division to better accommodate the needs of our Child Care population (providers and recipients), and to provide case management service to our recipients pending SSI benefits.
- Effective April 1, 2008, the Medicaid Buy In for Workers With Disabilities (MBIWD) program was implemented. This program allows eligible individuals with disabilities to receive Medicaid benefits. The individuals may pay a monthly premium to receive Medicaid health care coverage.
- Effective July 21, 2008, federal and state laws require all new or modified child support orders to provide some form of medical support of the child at all times. The new laws were created to ensure that cash is available to assist with the child's medical needs any time the child is not covered by private health insurance.
- Effective October 2008, Federal funding decreased 4.9%. The administration of the Medicaid and Food Assistance Program were impacted by this reduction.
- In 2008, there was an increase of 2,987 Assistance Groups receiving some form of Public Assistance (Medicaid, Food Stamps, Cash etc.).

## Expenditures 2008

Program	Entitlements & Direct Benefits
OWF Regular	\$ 7,330,252.00
OWF Unemployed	300,216.00
Disability Assistance	650,976.00
Disability Assistance (Medical)	264,884.64
Food Stamps	35,157,018.00
Regular PRC	1,979,535.02
Work Allowance (State Issued)	149,713.00
Ohio Reads	0.00
SSI Interim Assistance	0.00
SSI Attorney Fees (Client's Behalf)	36,993.35
<b>TOTAL ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$ 45,869,588.01</b>

## Medicaid

Aged	\$58,601,388.00
Blind	156,827.00
Disabled	109,182,357.00
OWF & Related	62,833,959.00
Healthy Start	16,091,518.00
Transitional	8,257,538.00
Nursing Facilities	72,933,370.00
<b>TOTAL MEDICAID</b>	<b>\$ 328,056,957.00</b>



# Ohio Works First

Ohio Works First cash rolls increased by 12% last year. As of December 2008, ADCR and ADCI increased to 4,521 individuals receiving assistance, including 3,291 children. The ADCU program, two-parent households, saw an increase to 305 receiving assistance, including 169 children.

Hardship extensions were issued to 117 families. Good Cause exemption was granted to 39 families, allowing the families to return to OWF cash assistance after not receiving OWF for 24 months.

An additional 39,382 individuals received Covered Families and Children Medicaid.

A typical OWF family includes a mother and two children who receive subsidies for medical coverage, food and housing.

## Investigation

The Primary responsibility of the Investigative Unit is to investigate taxpayer complaints and allegations of welfare fraud by assembling the best available evidence including documents and accounts of witnesses.

Claims were established for 2,009 cases totaling \$1,526,600 subject to collection. When indicated, fraud cases are referred to the Prosecutor's Office for possible legal action.

## Claims Processing

The Claims Processing Unit pursues collection of OWF, PRC, Medicaid, Disability Assistance and Food Stamp overpayments. Referrals are made to the Investigative Unit for further action if a client fails to cooperate in making restitution or if an intentional program violation has been committed. In conjunction with Claims Processing, the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) assists in collection of delinquent Food Stamp and



OWF accounts by diverting federal and state income tax refunds to the department. A total of \$725,400 was collected in 2008 through installment payments, grant and coupon reductions, lump sums, and TOP intercepts. Twelve individuals were disqualified from receiving future benefits for committing Intentional Program Violations.

## Food Assistance

Food Assistance is a federally-funded program designed to subsidize families' income so they may purchase food

necessary for maintaining good health. There was a 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>% increase in the number of individuals being assisted with nutritional needs. As of December 2008, 30,030 individuals were receiving Food Stamps. The average issuance per person was \$124.



## Medicaid

Medicaid provides ongoing medical assistance for eligible low-income individuals residing in the community and in approved nursing homes. The scope of coverage includes prescription drugs, medical services including inpatient and outpatient services, and special equipment. QMB and SLMB are Medicare cost sharing programs.

Aged	2979	SLMB	1,050
Blind	13	RSS	11
Disabled	5,643	Waivers	882
QMB	3,224		

Of the above, an average 1,209 individuals resided in approved nursing homes or intermediate care facilities.

## Day Care Programs

OWF	\$1,077,308.66
Transitional	460,237.35
LEAP	6,625.22
Education and Training	511,598.48
Special Needs	963.60
At Risk	11,621,665.73
<b>TOTAL DAY CARE</b>	<b>\$13,678,399.04</b>

## Child Care

The Child Care Unit enables parents who are on OWF or low-income and either employed or attending training to receive child care. This is provided at centers that LCDJFS contracts with, or in certified child care homes. In 2008 there was an average of 2,471 families being served on a monthly basis. 2008 also saw an increase in the number of employed families receiving child care.

## Contracted Services

Program	Federal and State Share
Medicaid Transportation	\$ 468,839.32
Healthcek Transportation	48,316.84
At Risk Pregnancy Transportation	2,571.93
Title XX Home Based Services	9,851.75
Kinship Navigator	62,370.73
TANF Related Contracts	546,597.94
Quality Day Care Services	94,614.09
<b>TOTAL CONTRACTED SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ 1,233,162.60</b>

## Healthcek

The HEALTHCHEK Unit administers a federally mandated preventive health care program for children who are covered by Medicaid services. This unit strives to promote wellness and preventive health care by encouraging regular medical checkups for children and adolescents from birth to the twenty-first birthday.



## Adult Protective Services

Lorain County Department of Job & Family Services is mandated to investigate all reports of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation of individuals 60 and over. Adult Protective Service workers arrange a wide variety of social services directed toward eliminating or reducing the endangerment faced by at-risk older adults. Emergencies are investigated within 24 hours, and all other reports within three working days. The unit investigated 331 reports in 2008 and maintained an average of 86 clients receiving ongoing services.

## Child Support Enforcement

In 2008, the Lorain County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) administered over 31,000 child and spousal support orders. In the majority of cases, the obligors generally met their support obligations. However, in cases where an obligor failed to pay child support, the agency continued the practice of utilizing all allowable administrative enforcement techniques such as suspension of professional licenses, suspension of driver's licenses, seizing bank accounts, intercepting tax refunds, and taking passports. The agency continued to utilize judicial actions to collect child support as well.

### Child Support Total Collections, 2008

Total Collection, 2008	Total Difference from 2007	% Change from 2007	Incr/Decr from 2007
\$ 54,486,341	\$ 1,184,499	2.2%	DECREASE

## Contact LCDJFS

42485 North Ridge Road  
Elyria, Ohio 44035-1057  
Phone: 440-323-5726  
Fax: 440-323-3422  
TTY/TDD: 440-284-4125  
Child Support Office: 440-284-4401

Hours of Operation:  
7:30-4:30 Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri  
7:30-6:30 Tue



## Administrative Costs

### Administrative Costs

TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	\$12,566,191.11
County's Mandated Share Of Above Operating Costs	\$ 1,249,191.00

