



LCDJFS E-Newsletter

Summer 2008

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

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Highlights of 2007

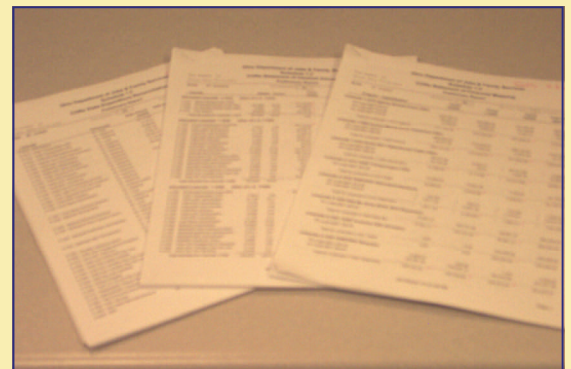
- Effective January 1, 2007 Medicaid consumers who were elderly or had disabilities (Aged, Blind or Disabled) were enrolled in Managed Care Plans. Amended Substitute House Bill 66 required a select portion of this Medicaid population to be enrolled in Medicaid Managed Care.
- LCDJFS continued to give back to the community by administering several gift card programs for selected OWF and Food Stamp child recipients in 2007. The following types of cards were issued at different points in the year: School Clothes and School Supplies.
- As a means of improving Customer Service and Payment Accuracy, LCDJFS implemented a Call Center/Change Report Center for families receiving cash, medical and food stamp benefits.
- In July 2007, the walls of LCDJFS were redecorated with numerous pieces of artwork created by youth members of the community. In collaboration with Common Ground's Community Art Works Program, many children had the opportunity to discover more about themselves and their world through pieces of art that they created.

Expenditures 2007

Program	Entitlements & Direct Benefits
OWF Regular	\$ 7,655,706.00
OWF Unemployed	354,122.00
Disability Assistance	540,701.00
Disability Assistance (Medical)	396,951.00
Food Stamps	32,310,637.00
Regular PRC	3,690,766.00
Work Allowance (State Issued)	150,003.00
Ohio Reads	0.00
SSI Interim Assistance	0.00
SSI Attorney Fees (Client's Behalf)	17,881.00
TOTAL ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS	\$ 45,116,767.00

Medicaid

Aged	\$58,723,880.00
Blind	165,174.00
Disabled	109,595,263.00
OWF & Related	62,645,867.00
Healthy Start	16,036,957.00
Transitional	8,625,966.00
Nursing Facilities	73,147,369.00
TOTAL MEDICAID	\$ 328,940,476.00



Ohio Works First

Ohio Works First cash rolls decreased by 9% last year. As of December 2007, ADCR and ADCI decreased to 3875 individuals receiving assistance, including 3052 children. The ADCU program, two-parent households, saw a 8% decrease with 202 receiving assistance, including 110 children. Hardship extensions were issued to 145 families. Good Cause exemption was granted to 45 families, allowing the families to return to OWF cash assistance after not receiving OWF for 24 months.



An additional 37,311 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 1,702 cases totaling \$1,110,189 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 \$818,941.58 was collected in 2007 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 Stamps

Food Stamps are a federally-funded program designed to subsidize families' income so they may purchase food necessary for maintaining good health. There was a 3% increase in the number of individuals being assisted with nutritional needs. As of December 2007, 28,208 individuals were receiving Food Stamps. The average issuance per person was \$105.

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	2972	SLMB	1,011
Blind	13	RSS	12
Disabled	5,409	Waivers	887
QMB	3,042		

Of the above, an average 1,240 individuals resided in approved nursing homes or intermediate care facilities.

Day Care Programs

OWF	\$1,107,799.00
Transitional	931,907.00
LEAP	9,112.00
Education and Training	487,165.00
Protective	0.00
At Risk	8,683,295.00
TOTAL DAY CARE	\$11,219,278.00

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 2007 there was an average of 2,555 families being served on a monthly basis. The state implementation of the ELI (Early Learning Initiative) Program is the primary reason for the increase in the caseload. This program allows more flexibility in obtaining child care.

Contracted Services

Program	Federal and State Share
Medicaid Transportation	\$ 239,022.00
Healthchek Transportation	28,835.00
At Risk Pregnancy Transportation	1,400.00
Title XX Daycare for Adults	0.00
Title XX Home Based Services	17,889.00
Title XX Protective Services for Adults	163,811.00
Title XX Health Related Home Health Services	0.00
Kinship Navigator	64,695.00
Jobs Related Contracts	580,600.00
Quality Day Care Services	92,733.00
TOTAL CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$ 1,188,985.00

Healthchek

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 337 reports in 2007 and maintained an average of 86 clients receiving ongoing services.

Child Support Enforcement

The county caseload of open cases was approximately 30,700 as of 12/31/07. There was also a 2.5% increase in Child Support collections in 2007, generally attributed to increasing use of administrative enforcement techniques, including auto license suspension.



Child Support Total Collections, 2007

Total Collection, 2007	Total Difference from 2006	% Change from 2006	Incr/Decr from 2006
\$ 55,670,840	\$ 1,365,020	2.5%	INCREASE

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	\$13,131,918.00
County's Mandated Share Of Above Operating Costs	\$ 1,341,136.00