



LCDJFS E-Newsletter

Winter 2008

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

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Vast Numbers Served at LCDJFS

Natalio Rodriquez
Program Administrator

LCDJFS is a service agency. People come in need of cash, food stamps, medical, child support, child care, and help with emergencies. They come for social services, to establish paternity, and pay child support for their own children.



The Agency traffic is guided towards two lobbies; the main lobby which seats up to 75 people and to a smaller child support lobby. People are greeted by a reception staff equipped to handle their needs.

For the past 5 years, the amount of people who checked into the lobbies for various appointments or services has increased each year. In 2007, the receptionists handled 129,690 people. This number does not include friends, spouses, attorneys, and representatives who accompanied our clients or the children who come with their parent to appointments. There are a lot of people who at one time or another, come under our roof.

Here are the statistics of lobby traffic for the past 5 years:

2003	- 104,007 clients saw the receptionists
2004	- 110,470
2005	- 118,581
2006	- 121,958
2007	- 129,690

The numbers are staggering. These are not the only amazing statistics kept by the agency. Our two telephone operators handled 271,700 telephone calls. Actually, this number is down thanks to the new Income Maintenance Department Call Center. Customers can call directly to the IM Call Center to find out information about their cases. Most telephones in the agency are not equipped for long distance service, so the telephone operators placed 8,189 long distance telephone calls.

So if you ever wonder what is going on in the building with the big green ball and a parking lot always filled with cars, the LCT Transit buses wheeling in and out, and people walking on roads without sidewalks to our building, just remember LCDJFS is providing many vital services, many needed for a family to survive, to the residents of Lorain County.

New Medicaid Initiatives Began 1/1/08

Marian Slovak
Program Administrator

The Ohio Department of Job & Family Services has approved three new Medicaid initiatives with the New Year. They are: Healthy Families Expansion, Pregnancy Expansion, and Foster Care Expansion.

A fourth initiative, the Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD) program has been put on hold with a targeted start date changed from Jan. 1, 2008 to April 1, 2008. This program will have higher income and resource limits which will allow disabled adults to work without fear of losing their Medicaid coverage.



Healthy Families Expansion:

Healthy Families Medicaid provides coverage for children and their parents or relative caretakers up to 90% federal poverty level (FPL). Previous program rules provided coverage for 24 months, after which a break of six (6) months occurred. During this six (6) month break, the parent or caretaker oftentimes lost their medical coverage and the children remained eligible under Healthy Start Medicaid.

As of 1/1/08, this six (6) month break no longer exists. Families at, or below 90% FPL can remain Medicaid eligible.

Pregnancy Expansion:

Pregnant women with income up to 200% FPL can now be covered under Healthy Start Medicaid. This is an expansion from the previous standard of 150% FPL. However, unlike children coverage, at the 150-200% FPL pregnant women qualify for Healthy Start even if they have creditable health insurance from another source.

Why would a pregnant women want to receive Healthy Start if they have other insurance?

Children born to women receiving Medicaid are eligible for one (1) year Medicaid from month of birth as long as their mother was receiving – and was eligible to receive – Medicaid during the month of their birth. This eligibility exists regardless of family income during that one (1) year period. So Medicaid coverage for pregnant women protects future Medicaid coverage for their newborn.

Foster Care Expansion:

Medicaid coverage is available for individuals age 18-21 who were in foster care on their 18th birthday and were in a Title IV-E placement. There is no income or resource limit for this program. Children Services may apply for this Medicaid on the child's behalf, or the young adult may apply on their own behalf through normal application procedures. The caseworker needs to be made aware the individual received Title IV-E foster care services in the month they turned 18 years old to qualify for this coverage.

As with all family Medicaid programs, once approved under one of these initiatives, the Medicaid coverage is provided by Managed Care Plans. Lorain County is part of the Northeast Region and available managed care plans include: Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Partnership Plan, CareSource, and WellCare of Ohio.

Known Medicaid Income Standards as of 1/1/08. Standards to increase for 2008.

AG Size	Healthy Families 90% FPL 1-1-07	Healthy Families 100% FPL 1-1-07	Healthy Start 150% FPL 1-1-07	Healthy Start 200% FPL 1-1-07
1	766	851	1,277	1,702
2	1,027	1,141	1,712	2,282
3	1,288	1,431	2,147	2,862
4	1,549	1,721	2,582	3,442
5	1,810	2,011	3,017	4,022

Job & Family Statistics For Lorain County

Families receiving on-going cash assistance.

Mar. 2007	Jun. 2007	Sept. 2007	Dec. 2007
2,061	1,889	1,879	1,920

Individuals receiving health insurance through Healthy Start/Healthy Families Medicaid.

Mar. 2007	Jun. 2007	Sept. 2007	Dec. 2007
37,095	37,097	37,069	37,311

Individuals receiving food stamps.

Mar. 2007	Jun. 2007	Sept. 2007	Dec. 2007
26,722	27,042	27,526	28,208

Disabled individuals receiving on-going cash Assistance.

Mar. 2007	Jun. 2007	Sept. 2007	Dec. 2007
324	381	387	363

Aged, Blind or Disabled individuals receiving health insurance through Medicaid.

Mar. 2007	Jun. 2007	Sept. 2007	Dec. 2007
8,137	8,259	8,360	8,394

Disabled individuals receiving Nursing Home or Home and Community-Based Service Waivers assistance.

Mar. 2007	Jun. 2007	Sept. 2007	Dec. 2007
2,044	2,053	2,071	2,085

Gift Card Giveaway Update

Natalio Rodriquez
Program Administrator

In March 2008, you will see and hear about LCDJFS doing another gift card giveaway. On two consecutive Saturdays, March 1 and 8, LCDJFS will be distributing \$100 gift cards to eligible children ages 5 through 17. These gift cards will be valid to purchase shoes or gym shoes at any Payless Shoe Store in Lorain County.



LCDJFS will be using the December 2007 and January 2008 payrolls to determine eligibility. LCDJFS will not accept applications for this program. Eligibility is determined for those families already receiving Food Stamps and/or OWF cash benefits in Lorain County, and the agency uses the most current application for assistance already on file. LCDJFS will automatically be mailing letters in February 2008 for those eligible households. The letter will contain information about a specific pick-up date and the requirements that must be met to receive the gift card(s).

There is an estimated 10,600 children eligible for this program in Lorain County.

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:
7:30-4:15 Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri
7:30-6:30 Tue

