



LCDJFS E-Newsletter

Summer 2006

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

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Director Notes

Mary Lou Golski, Director

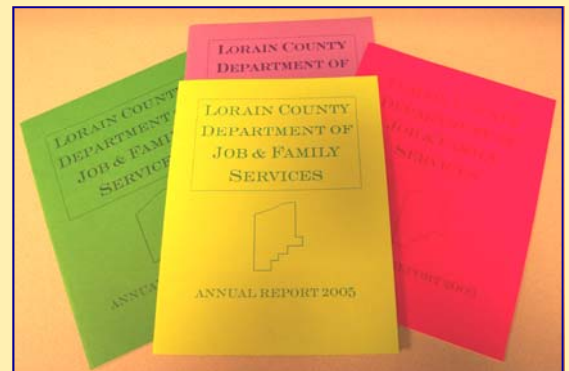
Closing out another state fiscal year necessitates a review of our prior twelve months. It comes as no surprise that case loads have increased in most every category of assistance. Next, the Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Program exceeded our fiscal budgetary projections requiring additional resources to maintain basic services. Transportation costs have almost doubled, which is understandable, given the elimination of the trip requirements for enhanced Medicaid Transportation Program plus the increase in unemployment and rising gasoline costs. Striving to always improve our delivery of services and fiscal accountability challenges every employee at Lorain County Job and Family Services. Closing the year in the black is just reward for all our efforts. Hope you find our fiscal edition informative.

Expenditures 2005

Program	Entitlements & Direct Benefits
OWF Regular	\$ 7,510,474.00
OWF Unemployed	586,236.00
Disability Assistance	506,974.00
Disability Assistance (Medical)	1,589,484.95
Food Stamps	29,669,584.00
Regular PRC	4,913,436.17
Work Allowance (State Issued)	256,708.00
Ohio Reads	84,661.62
SSI Interim Assistance	24,580.29
SSI Attorney Fees (Client's Behalf)	158,862.56
TOTAL ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS	\$ 45,301,001.59

Medicaid

Aged	\$ 70,590,854.00
Blind	150,980.00
Disabled	107,019,344.00
OWF & Related	59,918,142.00
Healthy Start	12,974,547.00
Transitional	5,654,414.00
Nursing Facilities	85,814,612.00
TOTAL MEDICAID	\$ 342,122,893.00



Ohio Works First

Ohio Works First cash rolls increased by 5 1/2% last year. As of December 2005, ADCR and ADCI increased to 4929 individuals receiving assistance including 3722 children. The ADCU program, two-parent households, saw 19% increase with 560 receiving assistance including 299 children. Hardship extensions were issued to 128 families. Good Cause exemption was granted to 31 families, allowing the families to return to OWF cash assistance after not receiving OWF for 24 months.

An additional 25,805 individuals received Covered Families and Children Medicaid. This is the first year in six years to not have a significant increase in the number of individuals receiving medical coverage under family medical categories.

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 1,950 cases totaling \$1,115,228.00 subject to collection. Field investigations were completed on 284 cases involving questionable

circumstances. Thirty-two percent of those cases resulted in denial or termination of benefits for one month savings of \$32,552. 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 \$807,122.57 was collected in 2005 through installment payments, grant and coupon reductions, lump sums, and TOP

intercepts. Seventy-two 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. For the second year, the number of food stamp households participating in the food program remained stable. As of December 2005, 26,444 individuals were receiving Food Stamps, a decrease of 56 individuals. The average issuance per person was \$95.

Aged	2,672	SLMB	895
Blind	16	RSS	14
Disabled	5,385	Waivers	774
QMB	2,747		

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.

Of the above, an average 1,312 Individuals resided in approved nursing homes or intermediate care facilities.

Day Care Programs

OWF	\$ 1,111,284.14
Transitional	653,878.83
LEAP	4,186.38
Education and Training	405,493.76
Protective	2,883.69
At Risk	5,812,006.30
TOTAL DAY CARE	\$ 7,989,733.10

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 provided at centers that LCDJFS contracts with, or in certified child care homes. In 2005 there was an average of 1,800 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	\$ 195,275.91
Healthchek Transportation	22,737.17
At Risk Pregnancy Transportation	6,088.28
Title XX Daycare for Adults	23,587.50
Title XX Home Based Services	18,279.10
Title XX Protective Services for Adults	242,228.05
Title XX Health Related Home Health Services	9,125.32
Kinship Navigator	52,519.88
Jobs Related Contracts	480,616.37
Quality Day Care Services	94,983.87
TOTAL CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$ 1,145,441.45

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 Services

Lorain County Department of Job & Family Services is mandated to investigate all report 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 330 reports in 2005 and maintained an average of 130 clients receiving ongoing services.



Child Support Enforcement

The county caseload has stabilized to approximately 30,000 as of 12/31/05. There was also a 1% increase in Child Support collections in 2005, generally attributed to increasing use of administrative enforcement techniques, including auto license suspension.



Child Support Total Collections, 2005

Total Collection, 2005	Total Difference from 2004	% Change from 2004	Incr/Decr from 2004
\$ 52,701,792	\$ 521,673	1%	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:
7:00-4:30 Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri
7:30-6:30 Tue



Administrative Costs

Administrative Costs

TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	\$ 10,621,276.03
County's Mandated Share Of Above Operating Costs	\$ 1,537,657.80