



# LCDJFS E-Newsletter

Summer 2007

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

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## Director Notes

**Mary Lou Golski, Director**

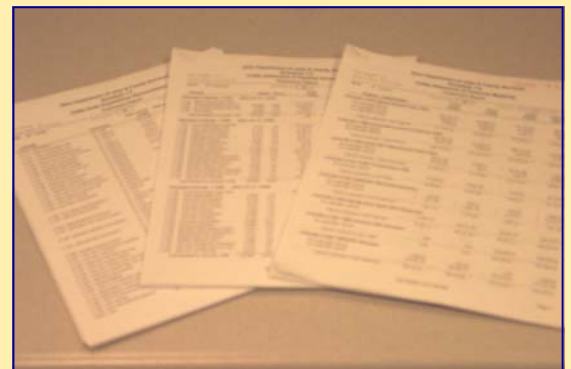
This Summer E-Newsletter reflects all programs and services from calendar year 2006. Although no new programs were undertaken in 2006, the state and county continued to refine processes as a means to more efficiently serve the public. Food Stamps introduced the Ohio Direction Card as a debit card—no more coupons! Then Child Support introduced a second electronic method for depositing support payments on the Ohio e-QuickPay debit Master Card. In addition, the Medicaid/Medicare dual eligible population was transitioned to the Medicare D Prescription Drug Plan thru the efforts of specially trained staff that assisted our client population in making informed decisions. Then finally, the agency launched a new web site ([www.lcdjfs.com](http://www.lcdjfs.com)) with information regarding our services, programs, and application processes. It has been a busy year, as always, with the day to day challenges of meeting the needs of the citizens of Lorain County.

## Expenditures 2006

Program	Entitlements & Direct Benefits
OWF Regular	\$ 8,245,418.00
OWF Unemployed	592,065.00
Disability Assistance	480,160.00
Disability Assistance (Medical)	778,168.64
Food Stamps	31,599,466.00
Regular PRC	4,228,653.37
Work Allowance (State Issued)	222,921.00
Ohio Reads	0.00
SSI Interim Assistance	0.00
SSI Attorney Fees (Client's Behalf)	68,753.49
<b>TOTAL ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$ 46,215,605.50</b>

## Medicaid

Aged	\$ 64,910,632.00
Blind	156,900.00
Disabled	114,040,816.00
OWF & Related	69,235,384.00
Healthy Start	14,694,320.00
Transitional	8,424,730.00
Nursing Facilities	81,905,324.00
<b>TOTAL MEDICAID</b>	<b>\$ 353,368,106.00</b>



## Ohio Works First

Ohio Works First cash rolls decreased by 13% last year. As of December 2006, ADCR and ADCI decreased to 4252 individuals receiving assistance, including 3310 children. The ADCU program, two-parent households, saw a 60% decrease with 219 receiving assistance, including 118 children. Hardship extensions were issued to 141 families. Good Cause exemption was granted to 36 families, allowing the families to return to OWF cash assistance after not receiving OWF for 24 months.



An additional 32,952 individuals received Covered Families and Children Medicaid, a significant 28% increase since 2005.

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 2,055 cases totaling \$900,720.00 subject to collection. Field investigations were completed on 272 cases involving questionable circumstances. Thirty-seven percent of those cases resulted in denial or termination of benefits for one month savings of \$41,996. 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 \$661,821.36 was collected in 2006 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 2006, 27,277 individuals were receiving Food Stamps. The average issuance per person was \$101.

## Medicaid

Medicaid provides ongoing medical assistance for eligible low-income individuals residing in the community and in approved nursing homes. The

Aged	2,856	SLMB	972
Blind	16	RSS	14
Disabled	5,239	Waivers	845
QMB	2,891		

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 1,273 individuals resided in approved nursing homes or intermediate care facilities.

## Day Care Programs

OWF	\$ 1,306,158.27
Transitional	882,895.31
LEAP	8,813.38
Education and Training	533,073.33
Protective	0.00
At Risk	7,387,687.38
<b>TOTAL DAY CARE</b>	<b>\$ 10,118,627.67</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 2006 there was an average of 2,100 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	\$ 248,779.21
Healthchek Transportation	16,556.62
At Risk Pregnancy Transportation	3,233.10
Title XX Daycare for Adults	0.00
Title XX Home Based Services	15,302.27
Title XX Protective Services for Adults	72,542.64
Title XX Health Related Home Health Services	0.00
Kinship Navigator	52,686.02
Jobs Related Contracts	384,009.70
Quality Day Care Services	91,528.40
<b>TOTAL CONTRACTED SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ 884,637.96</b>

## 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 317 reports in 2006 and maintained an average of 91 clients receiving ongoing services.

## Child Support Enforcement

The county caseload has increased to approximately 30,700 as of 12/31/06. There was also a 4% increase in Child Support collections in 2006, generally attributed to increasing use of administrative enforcement techniques, including auto license suspension.



### Child Support Total Collections, 2006

Total Collection, 2006	Total Difference from 2005	% Change from 2004	Incr/Decr from 2004
\$ 54,305,820	\$ 1,551,292	4%	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	\$ 11,693,604.87
County's Mandated Share Of Above Operating Costs	\$ 1,501,730.86