



LCDJFS E-Newsletter

Summer 2010

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

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Highlights of 2009

- The economic downturn continued to increase the number of families and individuals applying for, and receiving cash, medical, and/or food assistance benefits through Lorain County. In addition, state budget cuts impacted administrative dollars available to the agency, reducing staffing levels. In order to do more with less, our agency changed the delivery model for those applying for public assistance benefits. Effective August 1, 2009, units combined forces to process work under a new model, called Case Banking.
- As of November 1, 2009, the agency opted to use Phone Interviews for periodic re-application appointments for those receiving public assistance. Previously, we had required most individuals to come into the office for a face-to-face interview. The majority of those receiving cash benefits, food assistance, and/or Medicaid, and child care now have their reviews completed by phone, as long as they can be reached at a local phone number, and are willing to forego the face-to-face interview.
- In the Fall of 2009, LCDJFS was one of several counties in Ohio awarded an Ohio Fuel Fund Grant. This 3-year grant is available to customers of First Energy/Ohio Edison who are behind in their electric bills. In 2009, the Fuel Fund helped 410 families in Lorain County with approximately \$100,000 in electric bills.
- One of the services offered through LCDJFS is assistance in registering to vote. Individuals may obtain a voter registration form at the front desk. Voter registration forms are also attached to most applications. Social Service Workers are available to assist individuals in completing the form, if requested. In 2009, our agency delivered over 3,300 voter registration forms to the Board of Elections.
- In July 2009, the Retention and Contingency components of the PRC program were suspended. They covered rental assistance, auto repairs, and work clothes. We are still providing Joining Forces Services and Food Assistance Gas Cards through our Prevention program.

Expenditures 2009

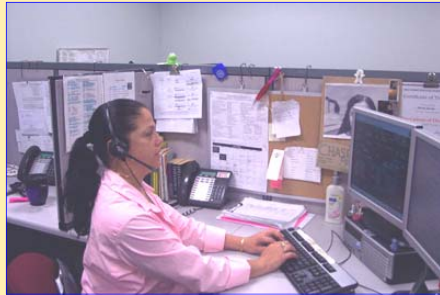
Program	Entitlements & Direct Benefits
OWF Regular	\$ 8,401,218.00
OWF Unemployed	445,319.00
Disability Assistance	553,793.00
Disability Assistance (Medical)	194,826.60
Food Stamps	46,550,994.00
Regular PRC	870,888.00
Work Allowance (State Issued)	205,302.00
SSI Attorney Fees (Client's Behalf)	18,172.55
TOTAL ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS	\$ 57,240,513.15

Medicaid

Aged	61,463,486.00
Blind	156,908.00
Disabled	114,185,696.00
OWF & Related	79,828,358.00
Healthy Start	20,901,066.00
Transitional	9,503,010.00
Nursing Facilities	75,496,317.00
TOTAL MEDICAID	\$ 361,534,841.00

Ohio Works First

Ohio Works First cash rolls increased by 15% last year. As of December 2009, ADCR and ADCI increased to 5,203 individuals receiving assistance, including 3,825 children. The ADCU program, two-parent households, saw an increase to 512 receiving assistance, including 272 children.



Hardship extensions were issued to 121 families. Good Cause exemption was granted to 32 families, allowing the families to return to OWF cash assistance after not receiving OWF for 24 months.

An additional 44,236 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 2,071 cases totaling \$2,181,000 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 Assistance and OWF accounts by diverting federal and state income tax refunds to the department. A total of \$926,240 was collected in 2009 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 24% increase in the number of individuals being assisted with nutritional needs. As of December 2009, 37,285 individuals were receiving Food Assistance. The average issuance per person was \$141.



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	3,075	SLMB	1,146
Blind	19	RSS	8
Disabled	5,931	Waivers	940
QMB	3,344		

Of the above, an average 1,028 individuals resided in approved nursing homes or intermediate care facilities.

Day Care Programs

OWF	\$1,247,197.05
Transitional	506,703.21
LEAP	13,233.00
Education and Training	650,697.21
Special Needs	16,175.38
At Risk	11,110,626.42
TOTAL DAY CARE	\$13,544,632.27

Child Care

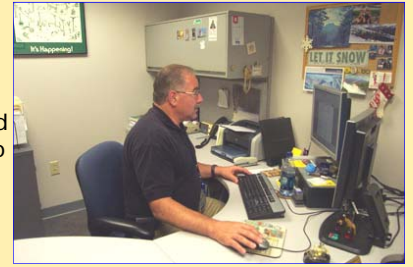
The Child Care Unit enables parents who are on OWF or low-income and either employed or attending training to receive child care. This is provided at centers that LCDJFS contracts with, or in certified child care homes. In 2009 there was an average of 2,000 families being served on a monthly basis. Child care provider workers certify and monitor approximately 175 type B professional providers throughout Lorain County.

Contracted Services

Program	Federal and State Share
Medicaid Transportation	\$ 770,820.70
Healthcek Transportation	47,356.71
At Risk Pregnancy Transportation	2,779.28
Title XX Home Based Services	11,221.50
Title XX Protective Services/Adults	78,464.29
Kinship Navigator	36,613.83
TANF Related Contracts	509,270.71
Quality Day Care Services	54,985.32
TOTAL CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$ 1,511,512.34

Healthcek

The HEALTHCEK 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.

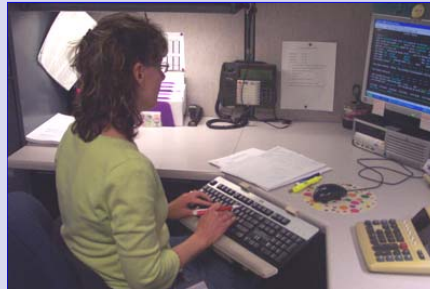


Adult Protective Services

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 317 reports in 2009 and maintained an average of 85 clients receiving ongoing services.

Child Support

In 2009, the Lorain County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) administered over 32,000 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, 2009

Total Collection, 2009	Total Difference from 2008	% Change from 2008	Incr/Decr from 2008
\$ 52,393,956	- \$ 2,092,385	- 4%	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	\$12,316,063.78
County's Mandated Share Of Above Operating Costs	\$ 1,212,130.98