



# LCDJFS E-Newsletter

Summer 2017

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

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## Highlights of 2016

- Eligibility for Medicaid was extended to adults with an annual income up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level. Lorain County received 7,081 applications electronically in the new Ohio Benefits system in 2016.
- Our In-House Work Experience Program provides OWF cash assistance recipients and SNAP Employment and Training recipients an opportunity to acquire skills necessary to obtain employment. In addition, we have a contract agreement with Windfall Industries which began in May 2016 who also provides SNAP recipients with job readiness activities designed to increase employability potential. A total of 578 individuals logged 13,050.50 hours of participation in the program.
- The Child Support Enforcement Agency collected \$68,677 through an amnesty program held in 2016 and completed 296 license reinstatements.
- In 2016, our agency delivered 4,477 voter registration forms to the Board of Elections.
- Lorain County again administered the Ohio Fuel Fund. We assisted 702 families who were behind on their Ohio Edison electric bills. The total funds issued were \$181,719.
- The Income Maintenance Call Center averaged 15,778 phone calls per month in 2016. They also logged an average of 1,155 pieces of mail per month and placed an average of 1,018 long distance calls. The total number of clients seen in the main lobby averaged 5,063 per month.

## Prevention-Retention-Contingency (PRC)

From June through August, The Boys and Girls club of Lorain County and Common Ground of Oberlin operated summer camps with various educational activities with an emphasis on career exploration as well as field trips to parks, museums and other recreational activities. Through a contract agreement with the Lorain County Commissioners and LCDJFS, 460 youth ages 8-15 were eligible to have the cost of camp covered through TANF federal funding. Three hundred and ninety-two summer camp participants also received school uniform clothing and shoes. This temporary program was met with great success.

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, LCDJFS began operating a PRC funded program to provide repairs for the vehicles of Lorain County families who qualify so that the vehicle will be safe and operational. The purpose of the program emphasizes the need for individuals to participate in employment and training activities or prevent loss of employment due to lack of transportation. Thirty-nine recipients met the eligibility requirements to have their vehicle repaired by an approved vendor.

## Expenditures 2016

OWF Regular	\$7,789,381.00
Disability Assistance	\$223,257.00
Food Assistance	\$56,814,230.00
Day Care	\$13,707,528.00
Contracted Services	\$3,581,902.00
Medicaid	\$466,511,807.00

# Ohio Works First

The OWF program is a work performance program to earn cash assistance. OWF provides short-term, time-limited cash assistance to families while they develop skills leading to self-sufficiency. Adults in one and two-parent households must participate in work activities for 35 to 55 hours per week until employment and self-sufficiency are obtained. Ohio Works First cash rolls decreased by 9.5% in 2016. ADCR and ADCI decreased to 3,360 individuals receiving assistance, including 2,778 children. The ADCU program, two-parent households, decreased to 101 individuals receiving assistance, including 56 children. Hardship extensions were issued to 26 families. There were no Good Cause exemptions in 2016.

## 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 on 1,222 cases, totaling \$1,787,921 which is subject to collection. Upon review of evidence and specific criteria cases may be referred to the Prosecutor's Office for possible legal action.

## Claims Processing

A total of \$1,656,340 was collected in 2016 through installment payments, grant and coupon reductions, lump sums, and TOP intercepts. Forty

individuals were disqualified from receiving future benefits for committing Intentional Program Violations with their claims totaling \$96, 247. Lorain County received the SNAP Recovery Leader Award for 2016.

## Food Assistance

Food Assistance is a federally funded program designed to subsidize family and individual income to purchase food necessary for maintaining good health. Lorain County continued to strive to deliver these benefits with accuracy, while meeting or exceeding strict federal and state performance standards.



Lorain County had 38,327 individuals receiving Food Assistance averaging \$123/month per household member, this is a slight decrease from last year.

## Medicaid

Medicaid is a federal and state funded program for health care coverage for children, adults, families, aged, blind and disabled. The scope of coverage includes prescription drugs, medical services including inpatient and outpatient care, family planning services and special equipment. The State contracts with several Managed Care Plans to deliver services in an effort to reduce costs and save taxpayer dollars, yet still provide quality health

care services to eligible citizens. Medicaid works in conjunction with Medicare and private health insurance plans. In 2016, we received 7,081 Medicaid applications electronically in our new system. We ended the year with 35,096 cases in OBWP.



In August 2016, all ABD Medicaid cases were converted to OBWP, prior to that they were maintained in CRISE. Major rule changes impacted the ABD Medicaid clientele. The Spenddown Program was eliminated, and anyone over the income standards for long term care services are required to establish a Miller Trust in order to meet the income standards and gain eligibility for Medicaid.

## 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 their twenty-first birthday. Approximately 28,497 children are receiving these services in Lorain County.

## Child Care

The Child Care Unit enables parents who are on OWF or income eligible, and either employed or attending school or training to receive child care. This care is provided at licensed centers or in certified child care homes. In 2016, there was an average of 1,738 families being served on a monthly basis. Child Care provider workers completed 202 home inspections of Type B professional providers, with approximately 107 certified and active providers throughout Lorain County.

### Day Care Payments

TOTAL DAY CARE

\$13,707,527.52

## Contracted Services

Medicaid Transportation	\$965,483.33
Healthchek Transportation	\$21,829.16
Title XX Home Based Services	\$18,967.00
Title XX Protective Services/Adults	\$210,421.48
TANF Related Contracts	\$2,365,200.71
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,581,901.68</b>

## Adult Protective Services

Lorain County Job & Family Services is mandated to investigate reports of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation of individuals sixty and older. Adult Protective Services 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 383 new reports in 2016. Ongoing case management is provided for those at-risk clients who require it.



## Child Support Enforcement

The Lorain County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) administers over 30,000 child and spousal support orders. The Establishment unit is responsible for the establishment of paternity and child support orders. They also handle genetic testing when appropriate. Each worker in the Enforcement unit has approximately 1,500 cases. They monitor the orders and attempt to use various enforcement strategies if the obligor is not making regular payments. This may include suspension of a driver's license or referral to the Prosecutor's office. CSEA has the ability to intercept tax refunds, garnish workers compensation payments and divert money from bank accounts of defaulting obligors. The average number of support orders that are modified each year is 1,350.



### Child Support Collections

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,907,590.00</b>
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## 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



## Administrative Costs

### Administrative Costs

TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	\$9,478,178.00
County's Mandated Share Of Above Operating Costs	\$985,566.00

