



**Richland County Job & Family Services
(RCJFS)
Prevention, Retention and Contingency Plan
(PRC)**

**2015 Biennial Plan
Submitted September 2015**

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Prevention, Retention, Contingency (PRC) Services

Prevention, Retention, Contingency (PRC) services are services to assist families in moving toward self-sufficiency. Services and benefits made available through this plan meet the Federal definition of “non-assistance”. Non-assistance, as it relates to this Plan, is defined as the following:

- Nonrecurring, short-term benefits that are designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need;
- Nonrecurring, short-term benefits that are not intended to meet recurrent or ongoing needs;
- Nonrecurring, short-term benefits that will not extend beyond four months;
- Work subsidies (i.e. payments to employers or third parties to help cover the costs of employer wages, benefits, supervision and training);
- Supportive services such as transportation provided to families who are employed or in training to become employed;
- Services such as counseling, case management, peer support, child care information and referral, transitional services, job retention, job advancement, and other employment related services that do not provide basic income support.

The maximum allowance for Richland County PRC services/benefits is **one PRC request within a period of 12 consecutive months**. Within the 12-month period, services may be authorized to cover **a single PRC request per household** to assist families with basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, utilities, personal care items, and general incidental expenses. **PRC benefits for the single request/episode of need may not exceed \$500.00 with the exception of car repairs, which may not exceed \$1,000.00.**

For the purpose of this PRC Plan, an assistance group applying for and which may receive services/benefits is defined as a group of individuals treated as a unit. The unit must contain a minor child (under the age of 18 or under the age of 19 if attending high school on a full-time basis). A pregnant woman is considered a legitimate member of an assistance group for the purposes of Prevention, Retention, and Contingency. An assistance group may include parents/caretakers, legal guardians or custodians, or specified relatives with minor children and all other household members living at the same address. Pursuant to section 5107.10 of the Ohio Revised Code and rule 5101:1-3-04 of the Ohio Administrative Code, an assistance group including a “temporarily absent” child may still qualify for PRC benefits/services. Within a mixed household, all income and resources will be considered in determining financial eligibility for payment.

Note: Household resources amounting to \$400 or less will not be considered when determining emergent need. Households having greater than \$400 in resources will be expected to utilize those resources to offset the cost of the emergent need. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The following groups are not eligible to receive direct PRC services under the Richland County Job & Family Services Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Plan. Direct services are defined

as those provided by RCJFS staff and include shelter costs, deposits on shelter and utilities, car repairs, utility payments, and clothing/uniforms for employment:

- Fugitive felons and probation and parole violators;
- Individuals with an outstanding fraud overpayment balance or involved in an Intentional Program Violation (IPV);
- Individuals ineligible for other programs due to deliberate non-compliance with the terms of their assistance;
- Assistance Groups (AGs) that are under sanction through the Ohio Works First (OWF) and/or Food Assistance (FA) program and that are not employed or do not need PRC services/benefits to maintain or accept bona fide employment;
- An unmarried, non-graduate parent under 18 not attending high school or an alternative high school program;
- An unmarried, non-graduate parent under 18 not living in an adult supervised setting;
- A person found to have fraudulently misrepresented residence in order to obtain assistance in two or more states (ineligible for ten years);
- Families who do not use their own resources to help meet their need;
- PRC AGs that indicate a pattern of requesting assistance and/or non-payment of expenses;
- Individuals who falsify a PRC application;
- Individuals who fail to cooperate with any service plan connected to their PRC assistance; and
- Individuals who are on strike.

Prevention, Retention, Contingency benefits/services are not entitlements and are subject to availability of funding. PRC benefits and services are subject to regulations as set forth in Ohio Administrative Code 5101:1-23-70 regarding Ohio Works First (OWF) erroneous payments. Therefore, PRC applicants and/or recipients determined to have fraudulently received or improperly disposed of PRC benefits or services will be required to reimburse the full costs of the benefits or services and may be subject to prosecution.

The PRC program is designed to help individuals overcome immediate barriers to achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency and personal responsibility, thereby preventing the need for ongoing public assistance. RCJFS staff will inform individuals seeking PRC assistance about other programs such as Food Assistance, Child Care and Medicaid, which may assist the individuals in becoming self-sufficient.

Civil Rights Laws

The following civil rights laws apply to states, counties and other public and private entities that receive federal financial assistance and provide funds, training and other services and benefits under the TANF program. The laws require that federally assisted programs be administered in a manner that does not discriminate or have the effect of discriminating, on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, age, religion or political belief. RCJFS, in its administration of the PRC program, adheres to the following:

- a) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;

- b) Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA);
- c) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and
- d) The Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

Any PRC/TANF applicant or recipient who believes he/she has been discriminated against may file a discrimination complaint with:

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Bureau of Civil Rights
30 East Broad Street, 37th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414
(614) 752-6381 (Fax)

The Bureau of Civil Rights (BCR) staff is available to offer assistance with writing and filing a complaint. For assistance, call BCR at (614) 644-2703/toll free at 1-866-227-6353; TTY at (614) 995-9961/toll free at 1-866-221-6700.

Employment Laws

RCJFS, in its administration of the PRC program, adheres to the following employment laws as they pertain to PRC/TANF recipients involved in federally required work activities:

- a) Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA);
- b) Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA);
- c) Unemployment Insurance (UI); and
- d) anti-discrimination laws.

Legislatively Defined Eligibility Components

Privacy Laws

All PRC applicants must provide social security numbers or demonstrate they have applied for social security numbers in order to determine eligibility for assistance. The applicant's social security number may be used for the following:

- a) to check information provided against information held by other federal, state, or local governments; computer matching systems and program reviews or audits;
- b) to monitor compliance with program regulations and for program management;
- c) to verify information provided;
- d) for felony warrant matches;
- e) for parole or probation violation matches; or
- f) for purposes of investigations, prosecutions, and criminal or civil proceedings within the scope of law enforcement agencies' official duties.

Citizenship

A member of the applicant AG must be a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien as defined in section 5101:1-2-30 of the Ohio Administrative Code and further clarified in section 403(a) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 in order to receive PRC benefits/services. Additional clarification and exceptions can be found in 64 FR 41657 (August 4, 1998); sections 401(b) and 411(b) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996; Attorney General (AG) Order No. 2049-96, 61 FR 45985 (August 23, 1996); and 64 FR 17819 (April 12, 1999).

Fraudulent Assistance

Pursuant to section 5101.83 of the Ohio Revised Code and rule 5101:1-23-75 of the Ohio Administrative Code, PRC benefits and services may not be provided to an assistance group in which a member has fraudulently received assistance under the Ohio Works First and PRC programs until a member of the AG repays the cost of the fraudulent assistance. The assistance repayment procedure is developed in conjunction with the RCJFS Special Investigation Unit.

Notice and State Hearing Requirement

Pursuant to Chapter 5101:6 of the Ohio Administrative Code, PRC applicants are subject to state hearing rights and are to be advised of these rights at the time of application. A copy of the Explanation of State Hearing Procedures, ODJFS 4059, is given to the applicant at the time of application.

As set forth in rules 5101:6-2-02 and 5101:6-2-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code, notice is required to be issued to an applicant when an application for PRC is approved or denied. If it is determined an application for PRC is approved, the JFS 04074, "Notice of Approval of Your Application for Assistance" will be given to the applicant at the time of the appointment or will be mailed at the time of the determination. If it is determined an application for PRC is denied, the JFS 07334, "Notice of Denial of Your Application for Assistance" will be given to the applicant at the time of the appointment or will be mailed at the time of the determination.

Charitable Choice and Faith-Based Initiatives

According to federal regulations, Code of Federal Register, 45 CFR 260.34, assistance groups have the right to request alternative providers when TANF benefits and services are provided by faith-based organizations. Assistance groups are to be notified of this right.

PRC applicants approved for benefits/services are given a copy of the Notice of Right to Request Another Worksite or Provider of Service form at the time of approval of the application.

Voter Registration

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 329.051, voter registration applications as prescribed by the Secretary of State must be made available to individuals applying for PRC benefits/services. RCJFS will make voter registration applications available to individuals applying for PRC benefits/services. Additionally, individuals receiving PRC benefits/services will receive a voter registration application at the time of a reported address or name change if made within 30 days of the original application.

Eligibility and Application

Eligibility for PRC is dependent upon the PRC AG's demonstration and verification of the need for financial assistance and/or services and whether the county determines that provision of PRC will satisfy the need. In order for the PRC AG to be determined eligible, the PRC AG's income must be at or below a specified percentage of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG). PRC assistance to an eligible AG is determined using a rolling 12-month period that begins when assistance is first issued. Changes or restrictions in the plan will apply to new PRC applications and to new requests on active PRC cases. For direct services issued at RCJFS, the income limit must be at or below 175% of the FPG.

Applicants for PRC benefits/services must reside in Richland County or must be in the process of applying for residency in Richland County at the time of the application. Applicants who have received PRC in another county and move to Richland County may be eligible to receive benefits. The benefit/service issued in another county will count as the single episode of service for a consecutive 12-month period. The beginning date of PRC in the other county will be used as the beginning of the 12-month time period in Richland County.

The County is responsible for using objective criteria when determining eligibility and approving or denying an application. All applications will be approved or denied within ten business days upon receipt of all verifications. The application process will be completed in a fair and equitable manner and eligibility will be carefully evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If verifications cannot be obtained due to loss from disasters such as fire or flood, good cause may be granted and a client statement used as a statement of fact. RCJFS will determine whether an immediate need exists and whether the PRC program will benefit the individual or assistance group. Under this program, an AG, which includes at least one minor child and meets the program's eligibility requirements, may receive customized assistance, goods, or services, as determined by RCJFS. An active Medicaid, OWF, Food Assistance or DA assistance group including a pregnant woman or minor child(ren) is not eligible for direct PRC services unless substantially employed or meeting federal work participation requirements. However, the Medicaid, OWF, Food Assistance or DA assistance group including a pregnant woman or minor child(ren) may be eligible for indirect PRC services. An Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) who is required to participate in a work activity under the Food Assistance Employment and Training Program (FAET) may be eligible for transportation services (direct services) as a condition of participating in the FAET activity. In all other circumstances, PRC assistance will be authorized with the expectation that the PRC AG is substantially employed or meeting OWF participation requirements. Substantial employment is defined as earning at least \$175.50 per week.

***Note: If an AG includes an individual who is on an employer's active payroll as being on paid or unpaid medical leave with a return to work date, the AG will be considered to have met the definition given for active pay status of this rule. Individuals on Worker's Compensation are not eligible under this rule unless they have a return to work date on file with the employer.**

****Note: Income received through short-term, subsidized employment under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) will be disregarded income. If there is no other income in the PRC AG household to determine "substantial employment", the AG will be determined to be ineligible for PRC services.**

All income that has been received during the 30-day budget period by any member of the PRC AG (with the exception of a minor in the household) is considered when determining financial need. Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 5101:1-24-20, income that is excluded includes the following:

- a) child support payment distributions made by ODJFS and
- b) all income that is federally excluded in the determination of eligibility for federal needs-based programs:
- c) drug discounts and transitional assistance received under the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (Section 1860D-31(g)(6) of the Social Security Act), and
- d) monetary allowances paid under Section 401 of the Veteran's Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000, effective December 1, 2000.

Anticipated income is that which is received in a typical month. Weekly income will be converted to a monthly amount by multiplying by 4, bi-weekly income will be converted to a monthly amount by multiplying by 2, and semi-monthly income will be converted to a monthly amount by multiplying by 2. If the AG will receive less than the normal number of pays in the month of application, the actual income will be used.

The total gross income, both earned and unearned, of all the PRC AG members must be counted. There are no deductions or exclusions allowed from any type of countable income. Written or verbal verification of income is required. Verification that is obtained by phone, must be clearly documented in the PRC AG record and include the name and position of the supplier of the information/verification, the date the verification was obtained, and the amount of the verified income. If the total PRC AG income is equal to or less than the specified percentage of the FPG for the PRC AG size, the PRC AG meets the income requirement.

All PRC recipients require a case plan. The PRC case plan is filed in the individual's electronic record. PRC benefits and services are documented in CRISE/CLRC.

Note: PRC applications remain active for 30 days. PRC requests made by the same individual or AG 30 days after an initial PRC application has been made will require the completion of a new PRC application.

Disaster Relief

If the Governor declares Richland County a disaster county and the county is awarded additional TANF funding to address the disaster, Disaster Relief may be available to pregnant women and families with minor children (under age 18 or 19 if attending high school on a full-time basis) who meet eligibility criteria for PRC direct services. In the event of a disaster or state of emergency declared by the Governor and the issuance of supplemental funding for disaster-related PRC assistance and services, elderly and disabled individuals may be eligible to receive PRC assistance and services through non-TANF funds.

The AG must reside in Richland County, be adversely affected by the emergency condition, and meet the standard of economic need. The economic need for assistance under PRC Disaster

Relief will be based on Federal Poverty Guidelines and authorized by the Director. Disaster Relief benefits will not count toward the county's PRC limit per consecutive 12-month period.

If the county is declared a disaster county and is allocated Federal disaster funds, the client must apply for federal disaster benefits at the local agency designated by the State to receive Federal FEMA funds.

Rent/Mortgage Payments/Deposits

Consideration will be given for rent and mortgage payments and/or rent deposits when an applicant has a Three-Day Intent to Evict notice, Notice of Foreclosure, or a Letter of Default (intent to foreclose). The rent/mortgage must be in past due or delinquent status. The RCJFS 508 - Past Due Rent Letter from Landlord must be completed to document the amount of rent that is delinquent and the amount required to stop the eviction. A statement from the landlord or mortgage company indicating the payment will stop the eviction or foreclosure must be submitted prior to authorization of the PRC payment. A payment of at least \$50 must have been paid on the last month's rent/mortgage or for the current month's rent/mortgage (if due at the time of the application) before a rent or mortgage payment will be considered. For deposits, the client must have a signed statement from the landlord indicating the landlord will rent a residence to the client for a specified amount upon receipt of payment or receipt of a voucher from RCJFS. The statement must include the address of the residence.

Special Housing Situations:

Subsidized Housing - Consideration will be given to paying rent or a deposit once the AG has received an approved certificate or a signed rental agreement to obtain lower cost housing through a qualified, subsidized housing authority such as METRO, HUD, or other private, charitable or church organization.

Domestic Violence – Consideration will be given to paying rent or a deposit in a domestic violence situation as indicated by documentation (police report, shelter statement/case plan, etc.).

Uninhabitable/Condemned – Consideration will be given to paying rent or a deposit on a new apartment or house for an assistance group when a minor child in the household has been determined by the Health Department or other medical provider to have high lead levels in his/her blood or the existing shelter has been determined to be uninhabitable due to lead. Additionally, consideration will be given to paying rent or a deposit on a new apartment or house for an assistance group if the existing shelter has been determined to be uninhabitable due to mold.

Housing situations alleged to be uninhabitable or condemned must be verified with a report from the Richland County Health Department, the Shelby Health Department, the City Codes and Permits Department or another authorizing agency.

Homelessness – Consideration will be given for paying rent or a deposit for an AG residing in a homeless shelter – residing in a homeless shelter is defined as two or more nights in the shelter. The AG is not required to provide an Intent to Evict notice or prove domestic violence if residing in a homeless shelter. All other requirements must be met as listed in the Rent/Mortgage Payments/Deposits section.

Utilities

Consideration will be given for paying utilities if the client has received a shut-off notice or is subject to receiving a shut-off notice. Utilities include gas, electric, water service, or other heating or cooling suppliers. The worker will assist the client in exploring other community resources when the PRC payment will not be enough to meet the need.

Note: Applicants must apply for HEAP assistance during the HEAP heating season. PRC funds will be utilized only after HEAP services are exhausted.

If an AG has applied for and received HEAP services and later receives a disconnect notice for nonpayment of the bill or service has been shut off, the agency will make inquiries to determine if the applicant has paid \$50.00 toward the previous month's bill or the current month's bill before PRC eligibility for payment to stop disconnection or restore service will be considered. The past due account must be in the applicant's or spouse of the applicant's name to be considered for payment. The agency may assist the applicant or spouse of the applicant in transferring services to his/her name.

The agency may pay the minimum amount necessary to restore service and any past due amount up to the maximum allowed in an effort to prevent a disconnection in the immediate future; need will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The authorized payment may include a reconnect fee that is required if service has been shut off at the address at which the applicant currently resides.

Car Repairs

Consideration will be given for assistance with car (vehicle) repairs when an applicant needs the vehicle for transportation to and from work. An AG that owns multiple vehicles will not be considered eligible for PRC car repair assistance. The applicant must provide verification of vehicle title/registration in his/her name, a copy of a valid driver's license and proof of liability insurance.

Car repairs may not exceed \$1000.00, unless the applicant pays the difference between the maximum allowable amount and the total cost of repairs prior to the PRC payment being made and provides verification of the payment. Additionally, PRC funds will not be used for repairs on vehicles deemed inoperable or unsafe by the automotive vendor.

***Note: Every effort will be made to use local vendors for car (vehicle) repairs.**

Amounts and Types of Assistance

PRC payments are limited to the amount actually required to meet the presenting need per single episode per 12-month consecutive period of eligibility. Payment for the single episode of need may not exceed the \$500.00 maximum with the exception of car repairs, which may not exceed \$1000.00.

Once eligibility for PRC is established, the worker designated by RCJFS to determine eligibility for PRC will authorize and generate payment for the assistance, goods, and/or services. Payments will be made to vendors according to payment procedures in place at RCJFS. All PRC payments are made to the vendor or PRC AG. The county ensures that its policies meet all auditing requirements.

Notice of Approval/Denial

Refer to Legislatively Defined Eligibility Components, “Notice and State Hearing Requirement”.

For Agency Use Only

Case Number _____ Application Date _____ Unique ID# _____
 Regular PRC Winter Energy Program Disaster Assistance _____

PREVENTION, RETENTION AND CONTINGENCY PROGRAM (PRC) APPLICATION

Name of Applicant _____ SS# _____ Telephone Number _____ Message Number _____	Current Address _____
--	-----------------------

1. Have you ever received any type of public assistance from a human services department? Yes No
If yes, name the county DJFS, the type of assistance received and the date received.
2. Explain what you need and provide an estimate of the amount you are requesting.
3. List the name(s) of other agencies you have contacted for help.
4. If another agency has helped you with this need, name the agency and explain how the agency helped you.

If you were denied assistance by an agency, name the agency and explain why services were denied.

If you have not contacted other agencies, explain why you have not.

5. Is anyone in your household presently under a sanction or disqualification from any human services program? Yes No. If yes, provide the name of the individual(s) and the date(s) of the sanction(s) or disqualification(s).
6. Has anyone in your household quit or refused a job in the last 60 days? Yes No If yes, provide the name of the individual, the date of the quit/ refusal and the reason for the quit/refusal.
7. Do you have any cash in reserve such as in a checking account or savings account? Yes No
If yes, explain.

8. Complete the chart below listing everyone in the household, including you. You are **REQUIRED** to verify income for **ALL** members of your household.

NAME	REL. TO APPLICANT	SS #	DATE OF BIRTH	SOURCE OF INCOME	RESOURCE	MONTHLY INCOME
1.						\$
2.						\$
3.						\$
4.						\$
5.						\$
6.						\$
7.						\$
8.						\$

If you are eligible, the agency will limit assistance under this program to the actual, documented amount of need or the amount restricted for a specific service, whichever is lower.

WARNING: By my signature below, I declare and state under penalty of perjury that the information on this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the law provides a penalty of fine, imprisonment or both for any individual convicted of accepting assistance for which the individual is not eligible.

Signature of Applicant _____	Date _____
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INFORMED DECISION

Income		Public Assistance Income		Available Resources	
Gross Wages/Mo		OWF Grant Amount		Cash	
				Checking	
				Savings	
Adjusted Gross		Unearned Income		Stocks	
				Other	
				Total	
Gross Countable			Date of PRC Application		
PRC Eligibility Standard For # _____			30 Day Budget Period		
			12 month PRC Year	From	To

APPROVED _____

DENIED _____

Caseworker _____	Date _____
Supervisor _____	Date _____

NOTICE OF DENIAL OF YOUR APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE

(Do not use to deny food assistance benefits, or to terminate cash or medical assistance)

Name		Assistance Group	
Street Address		Case Number	Program
City, State, and Zip Code		County	Mailing Date

We denied your _____ application dated _____

The people affected by this action are _____

The reason for this action is _____

The rules that require this action are _____

Caseworker	Worker I.D.	Telephone Number ()
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Your Right to a State Hearing

This notice tells you what we are doing on your case. Contact your caseworker if you do not understand this notice. We can explain it. We also may be able to change what we are doing.

IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THIS DECISION, ASK FOR A STATE HEARING

Ask for a State Hearing: You can ask for a state hearing, if you disagree with the County Department of Job and Family Services' (CDJFS) action or think the CDJFS may have made a mistake. If you want a hearing, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) must receive your request 90 days from the date this notice was mailed to you. If 90th day falls on a holiday or weekend, the deadline will be the next work day.

You can ask your local Legal Aid program for free help with your case. Contact your local Legal Aid office by phoning 1-866-LAW-OHIO (1-866-529-6446) or by searching the Legal Aid directory at <http://www.ohiolegalservices.org/programs> on the internet.

If someone is helping you with your case, ODJFS will need a signed "authorized representative" notice from you saying it's okay for that person to represent you for the hearing process.

AG Name	Case Number	Mailing Date
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Step 1: Read, sign, date, and fill in your telephone number. Another person may sign this for you, if they send us your signed “authorized representative” notice.

Sign Here	Date	Telephone Number ()
-----------	------	----------------------------

Step 2: What is your hearing for? (*Check all that apply.*)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> OWF (cash assistance) | <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Financial Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Provision, Retention, Contingency (PRC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care (Title XX) | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Support (Title IV-D) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid Waiver Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid – Disability Determination | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid – Managed Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid – Prior Authorization | | |

Step 3: Fill out the information, as it applies to your situation.

- I want to do my hearing by telephone.
- I need an interpreter at my state hearing.
- My preferred days/times for a hearing are: _____
(Please note: ODJFS may not be able to give you the preferred date.)
- I want a County Conference. (This is a meeting to discuss your case with your local agency.)
- This person has agreed to help me with my state hearing (my “authorized representative”)

Name	Telephone Number ()
Address	Fax ()
City, State, Zip	Email

Step 4: ODJFS must receive your request 90 days from the date this notice was mailed to you. You must choose one of the following ways to send this state hearing request to us. You should keep proof of when and how you sent this hearing request to us.

Please only submit your hearing request one time.

Email – Email the ODJFS Bureau of State Hearings at bsh@jfs.ohio.gov. In the subject, put “State Hearing Request”. In the message, put all of the information from the boxes at the top of this page and from Steps 1, 2, and 3; or

Phone – Phone the ODJFS Consumer Access Line at 866-635-3748. Follow the instructions for State Hearings. Mention this notice; or

Fax – Fax both pages of this notice to the ODJFS Bureau of State Hearings at (614) 728-9574; or

Mail – Mail all pages of this notice to ODJFS Bureau of State Hearings, P.O. Box 182825, Columbus, Ohio 43218-2825.

Contact your caseworker – It is better to send this request using one of the other methods above. But, you may give this page (completed and signed) to your caseworker. Or, you may phone your caseworker. Mention this notice.

On the Day of the State Hearing: You, or someone else helping you with your case, can explain the reason(s) why you don’t think the decision is right. ODJFS will explain its reasons. Then, an ODJFS hearing officer will make a decision after the hearing.

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF YOUR APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
(Do not use to approve food assistance benefits)

Name	Assistance Group	
Street Address	Case Number	Program
City, State, and Zip Code	County	Mailing Date

We approved your _____ application dated _____

Starting _____ you will get _____

The people affected by this action are _____

The reason for this action is _____

The rules that require this action are _____

Caseworker	Worker I.D.	Telephone Number
------------	-------------	------------------

Your Right to a State Hearing

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AG Name	Case Number	Mailing Date
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(Please note: ODJFS may not be able to give you the preferred date.)
- I want a County Conference. (This is a meeting to discuss your case with your local agency.)
- This person has agreed to help me with my state hearing (my “authorized representative”)

Name	Telephone Number ()
Address	Fax ()
City, State, Zip	Email

Step 4: ODJFS must receive your request 90 days from the date this notice was mailed to you. You must choose one of the following ways to send this state hearing request to us. You should keep proof of when and how you sent this hearing request to us.

Please only submit your hearing request one time.

Email – Email the ODJFS Bureau of State Hearings at bsh@jfs.ohio.gov. In the subject, put “State Hearing Request”. In the message, put all of the information from the boxes at the top of this page and from Steps 1, 2, and 3; or

Phone – Phone the ODJFS Consumer Access Line at 866-635-3748. Follow the instructions for State Hearings. Mention this notice; or

Fax – Fax both pages of this notice to the ODJFS Bureau of State Hearings at (614) 728-9574; or

Mail – Mail all pages of this notice to ODJFS Bureau of State Hearings, P.O. Box 182825, Columbus, Ohio 43218-2825.

Contact your caseworker – It is better to send this request using one of the other methods above. But, you may give this page (completed and signed) to your caseworker. Or, you may phone your caseworker. Mention this notice.

On the Day of the State Hearing: You, or someone else helping you with your case, can explain the reason(s) why you don’t think the decision is right. ODJFS will explain its reasons. Then, an ODJFS hearing officer will make a decision after the hearing.

Chart of Services

List of Services & Benefits for Agency Issued Direct PRC Services

Service or Benefit	Cap	AG for Counted Income	AG for Tracking Only	Economic Need Standard	Targeted Group
<p><u>Job Preparation Services & Benefits</u> [TANF Goals 1 & 2]</p> <p>Job readiness assessments (vocational, literacy)</p> <p>Job readiness training (work habits, attitude, dress, literacy tutoring)</p> <p>Adult Basic Education & GED preparation</p> <p>Training for women in non-traditional jobs (construction, manufacturing, etc.)</p> <p>Testing for state licenses, board certification, commercial drivers license</p> <p>Occupational training for computer literacy</p> <p>Short-term education expenses (books, manuals, tuition)</p> <p>Money management classes</p> <p>Suitable attire for job interviews</p> <p>Skill training</p>	<p>Per single episode up to \$500.00 maximum within a consecutive 12-month period</p> <p>Non-recurring, short-term benefits – single episode, up to \$500.00 maximum, per consecutive 12-month period</p>	<p>Parents with minor children</p> <p>Specified relatives with minor children</p> <p>Pregnant individuals</p> <p>Earned income received by minor, dependent children (under age 18 or under age 19 if full-time, high school student) is exempt</p>	<p>Parents of minor children</p> <p>Specified relative of minor children</p> <p>Pregnant individual</p>	<p>175% FPG</p> <p>Income of parents/ specified relatives, married or unmarried, and step parents is included</p>	<p>Employed individuals</p> <p>Individuals meeting OWF participation requirements</p>

Service or Benefit	Cap	AG for Counted Income	AG for Tracking Only	Economic Need Standard	Targeted Group
<p><u>Work Support/Retention Services & Benefits</u> [TANF Goals 1 & 2]</p> <p>Job Mentoring</p> <p>Money Management classes</p> <p>Supplies for a new job (mechanics' tools, beautician equipment, etc.)</p> <p>Employer mediation & intervention services</p> <p>Job skill development & training</p>	<p>Non-recurring, short-term benefits – single episode, up to \$500.00 maximum, per consecutive 12- month period</p>	<p>Parents with minor children</p> <p>Specified relatives with minor children</p> <p>Pregnant individuals</p> <p>Earned income received by minor, dependent children (under age 18 or under age 19 if full-time, high school student) is exempt</p>	<p>Parents of minor children</p> <p>Specified relatives of minor children</p> <p>Pregnant individual</p>	<p>175% FPG</p> <p>Income of parents/ specified relatives, married or unmarried, and step parents is included</p>	<p>Employed individuals</p> <p>Individuals meeting OWF participation requirements</p>

Service or Benefit	Cap	AG for Counted Income	AG for Tracking Only	Economic Need Standard	Targeted Group
<p><u>Transportation Services & Benefits</u> [TANF Goals 1 & 2]</p> <p>Bus passes</p> <p>Taxi services</p> <p>Driver's education classes</p> <p>*Car repairs</p> <p>*Gasoline vouchers</p> <p>*Note: Applicants applying for car repairs and/or gasoline vouchers must verify the title/registration is in the applicant's name and the applicant has current liability insurance coverage and a valid driver's license.</p>	<p>Non-recurring, short-term benefits – single episode, up to \$500.00 maximum, per consecutive 12- month period</p> <p>*Car repairs – single episode, up to \$1,000.00 maximum, per consecutive 12- month period</p>	<p>Parents with minor children</p> <p>Specified relatives with minor children</p> <p>Pregnant individuals</p> <p>Earned income received by minor, dependent children (under age 18 or under age 19 if full-time, high school student), is exempt</p>	<p>Parents of minor children</p> <p>Specified relatives of minor children</p> <p>Pregnant individual</p>	<p>175% FPG</p> <p>Income of parents/ specified relatives, married or unmarried, and step parents is included</p>	<p>Employed individuals</p> <p>Individuals meeting OWF participation requirements</p> <p>Individuals meeting Food Assistance Employment and Training requirements</p>

Service or Benefit	Cap	AG for Counted Income	AG for Tracking Only	Economic Need Standard	Targeted Group
<p align="center"><u>Family Disaster Assistance</u> [TANF Goal 1]</p> <p>Benefits to assist with damage or loss sustained as a result of natural disaster upon declaration by Governor</p>	<p>Cap based on amount allocated by ODJFS</p>	<p>Parents with minor children & individuals living in the household</p> <p>Specified relatives with minor children & individuals living in the households</p> <p>Pregnant Individual</p> <p>Elderly or disabled individuals (meeting specific eligibility criteria for non-TANF funded services)</p> <p>Earned income received by minor, dependent children (under age 18 or under age 19 if full-time, high school student) is exempt</p>	<p>Parents of minor children & individuals living in the household</p> <p>Specified relatives of minor children & individuals living in the households</p> <p>Pregnant Individual</p> <p>Elderly and disabled individuals meeting specific eligibility criteria to receive services/assistance through non-TANF funds</p>	<p>200% of FPG</p>	<p>Families and elderly and disabled individuals who have sustained disaster related damage or loss upon disaster declaration by Governor</p>

Service or Benefit	Cap	AG for Counted Income	AG for Tracking Only	Economic Need Standard	Targeted Group
<p align="center"><u>Relocation Assistance</u> [TANF Goal 2]</p> <p>Moving expenses to relocate out of county or state</p> <p>Moving expenses to relocate to a lead free or mold-free environment</p>	<p>Actual cost up to \$500.00, not to exceed a single episode within a consecutive 12-month period</p>	<p>Parents with minor children</p> <p>Specified relatives with minor children</p> <p>Pregnant individual</p> <p>Earned income received by minor, dependent children (under age 18 or under age 19 if full-time, high school student) is exempt</p>	<p>Parents of children</p> <p>Specified relatives of minor children</p> <p>Pregnant individual</p>	<p>175% FPG</p>	<p>Employed individuals</p> <p>Victims of domestic violence</p> <p>Families with a minor child or children determined to have high lead levels in the blood</p> <p>Families in shelters deemed to be uninhabitable due to lead or mold</p>

Service or Benefit	Cap	AG for Counted Income	AG for Tracking Only	Economic Need Standard	Targeted Group
<p align="center"><u>Contingency Services</u> [TANF Goals 1 & 2]</p> <p>An emergent need that threatens the health, safety, or decent living arrangement to the extent that it prohibits children from being cared for in their own home or inhibits job preparation, work and marriage.</p> <p>Utility shut-offs</p> <p>Purchase of bulk fuel for heating</p> <p>Security deposits for rent</p> <p>Three-day Intent to Evict/Notice of Foreclosure/Letter of Default</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be at least 7 days delinquent • RCJFS 508 – Past Due Rent Letter from Landlord/Notice of Foreclosure/Letter of Default required • Payment of at least \$50 must have been paid on rent or mortgage for the last month or current month (if payment due at time of application) <p>Special housing situations-subsidized housing, domestic violence, uninhabitable/condemned</p> <p>Repair or purchase of furnace or water tank</p> <p>Home repairs affecting basic structure (roof, plumbing, walls)</p>	<p>Non-recurring, short-term benefits - single episode, up to \$500.00 maximum, per consecutive 12- month period</p>	<p>Parents with minor children and all other household members</p> <p>Specified relatives with minor children and all other household members</p> <p>Earned income received by minor, dependent children (under age 18 or under age 19 if full-time, high school student) is exempt</p>	<p>AG Name for family requesting services</p>	<p>175% FPG</p>	<p>Individuals meeting OWF participation requirements</p> <p>Employed individuals</p> <p>Victims of domestic violence</p>

Monthly Federal Poverty Guidelines

The Monthly Federal Poverty Guideline amount is used to determine income eligibility for PRC.

In order for the AG to receive Prevention, Retention and Contingency direct services, the total gross countable income of all members of the assistance group must be equal to or less than 175% of the Monthly Federal Poverty Guideline amount for the appropriate assistance group size. To receive indirect services, the total gross countable income must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

To Qualify for PRC Direct Services:

Assistance Group Size	175% of Monthly 2015 Federal Poverty Guidelines
1	1717
2	2324
3	2930
4	3537
5	4144
6	4750
7	5357
8	5964
9	6570
10	7177
11	7784
12	8390
13	8997
14	9604

To Qualify for PRC Indirect Services:

Assistance Group Size	200% of Monthly 2015 Federal Poverty Guidelines
1	1962
2	2655
3	3349
4	4042
5	4735
6	5429
7	6122
8	6815
9	7509
10	8202
11	8895
12	9589
13	10,282
14	10,975

Richland County's PRC Plan at a Glance

PRC AG:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) See definitions2) Pregnant women with no other children are eligible3) Targeted Assistance Groups
Income Limits:	<p>Prevention: 175% FPG 01-22-15 Retention: 175% FPG 01-22-15 Contingency: 175% FPG 01-22-15</p>
Benefit Issuance Limit:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Single episode of need per consecutive 12-month period2) \$500.00 maximum for a single episode/event within a consecutive 12-month period except car repairs, which may not exceed \$1,000.00 for a single episode/event per consecutive 12-month period3) Restrictions apply as indicated in the plan and the Chart of Services
Application Period:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) 30 day period begins on the date of application and ends 30 days from the application date
Income to be Considered & Exemptions:	See the <i>Chart of Services</i> for income counted for the service requested
Income Verifications:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Phone<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name and position of person supplying information• Date obtained• Amount of income• Name of person who obtained the information2) Written (pay stubs, payroll report, employer statement)3) Must be clarified in CLRC
Processing:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Applications will be approved or denied within ten (10) business days2) Client "self attestation" will be accepted if good cause has been established (verification cannot be obtained)
Budget:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The total of the gross earned and unearned income of all AG members compared to the FPG standard for the appropriate PRC household size2) Must be equal to, or less than, 175% of the FPG3) Employed applicants must meet the definition of substantially employed: earn at least \$175.50 per week
Ineligible Members:	If an ineligible individual resides in the household, the entire AG is ineligible for PRC (see details of ineligible members).
PRC Case Plan:	A case plan will be developed for applicants approved for PRC

Chart of Indirect Services

Service	Description	Eligibility	Types of Assistance
Success Unlimited [TANF Goals 1 & 2]	Coordination of services to improve basic literacy skills and assist in GED completion; pre-employment preparation services; Work Experience opportunities; provision of supportive services	200% of FPG	GED Instruction; Life Skills Instruction; Work Experience; Support Groups; Driving Instruction; Parenting; Career Exploration
Richland County Transit— Transportation [TANF Goals 1 & 2]	Transportation services for OWF required participants	200% of FPG	Bus Passes; Bus Tickets; Other Transportation Services as needed
Richland County Children Services Auxiliary [TANF Goal 1]	Assistance with school clothing (shoes and undergarments, included) and supplies	200% FPG	Assistance with School Clothes and Supplies
TANF Summer Youth Employment [TANF Goals 1 & 2]	Summer employment opportunities for TANF eligible youth ages 16 - 24	200% of FPG	Subsidized summer employment opportunities

PRC Addendum #1 Success Unlimited

Purpose—Meets TANF goals 1 & 2

- 1) “To provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives”
- 2) “To end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage”

Program Description—A collaborative program offered through North Central State College. Success Unlimited offers job readiness, GED preparation/literacy remediation, pre-employment preparation services, career exploration and development, life skills instruction (family planning, budgeting, and nutrition) and Work Experience opportunities (Ohio Works First WEP sites). Success Unlimited offers coordination of transportation services, driver’s education, referrals to childcare, and Ohio Works First participation case management to insure participants are successful by overcoming barriers that may hinder ongoing participation and eventual employment.

The following pathways have been established for the Success Unlimited program:

A) **Entry Program Pathway:**

Referral, client record created, client attends Entry Program, assessment of barriers to training/employment; completion

B) **GED Pathway:**

Client enrolled in GED/High School Completion program; assessment of barriers to training/employment; periodic assessments of academic progress (TABE); completion

C) **North Central State College Pathway:**

Client enrolled at NCSC site; college assessments (TABE, Discover, WorkKeys, Compass Test); assessment of barriers to training/employment; completion

D) **Solutions Pathway:**

Client enrolled in Solutions Program; assessment of academic progress (TABE, Compass); assessment of barriers to training/employment; completion

E) **Training Pathway:**

Enrollment in training program; assessment of barriers to training; assessment of progress; completion

F) **WEP Community Placement Pathway:**

Enrollment in college; completion of academic plan; assessment of barriers to education; assessment of progress; completion

G) **Monitoring Pathway:**

Client participation tracking; periodic reviews of progress and/or re-assessment of barriers to training/employment; completion

Eligibility & Application—Only those individuals approved to receive Ohio Works First who are required to complete a work activity are referred to Success Unlimited. Therefore, there is no separate application process for the program.

Types of Assistance (Services) — GED instruction; life skills instruction; work experience; support groups; career exploration and development; and driving instruction.

PRC Addendum #2
Richland County Transit-Transportation

Purpose—Meets TANF goals 1 & 2

- 1) “To provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives”
- 2) “To end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage”

Program Description—The provision of transportation assistance for employment activities.

The **goal** of Richland County Transit is to provide transportation to needy families to enable them to work or to participate in assigned Work Activities.

Eligibility & Application—All referrals for services are made by Richland County Job and Family Services utilizing the RCJFS Payment Authorization Form as the application for services. Eligible participants are those at or below 200% FPG as documented on the PRC application.

Types of Assistance (Services) — Bus passes, bus tickets, and purchased transportation services

PRC Addendum #3
Richland County Children’s Auxiliary – The New Store

Purpose—Meets TANF goals 1 & 2

- 1) “To provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives”
- 2) “To end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage”

Program Description—The Richland County Children’s Auxiliary will provide school clothing and school supplies for school age children. Eligible children will be provided with outfits, undergarments, gym shoes, and backpacks/supplies. Children and parents will visit The New Store on “dressing days” to select clothing.

The **goals** for The New Store program are:

- 1) 339 children will receive needed school clothing and 500 children will receive backpacks/school supplies;
- 2) Avert cash resources to address other basic needs;
- 3) Decrease the likelihood children will be “bullied” as a result of not having adequate school clothing;
- 4) Enhance the educational experiences of participating children; and
- 5) Increase the likelihood of positive school experiences for participating children.

Eligibility & Application— Services provided with TANF funds are considered as “non-assistance”. Therefore, objective criteria must be utilized in determining eligibility and delivering services to insure fair and equitable treatment of those applying for services.

Eligible participants are those individuals with income at or below 200% of the FPG with minor children residing in the household. Additionally, participants must be residents of Richland County. Receipt of indirect services will not count toward the maximum limit for county PRC assistance.

Potential participants must complete a TANF application, which is a self-declaration of income. Richland County Children’s Auxiliary, the administrative agent for the project, is responsible for acquiring all TANF applications and issuing Notices of Approval or Denial for TANF services.

Types of Assistance (Services)—School clothing and school supplies for school age children

PRC Addendum #4
TANF Summer Youth Employment Program

Purpose—Meets TANF goals 1 & 2

- 1) “To provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives”
- 2) “To end the dependence of needy parents on governmental benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage”

Program Description—Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center will offer summer employment opportunities to TANF eligible youth ages 16 – 24. Mid-Ohio will provide subsidized employment opportunities for youth and supportive services to assist youth in obtaining employment and maintaining employment. Program services may include, but not be limited to, soft skills or pre-employment readiness training, short-term training necessary for job placements; the purchase of uniforms, tools and equipment necessary for the job placement; transportation services such as bus passes and gas vouchers to assist youth in getting to worksites; job coaching to assist youth while on-the-job; and case management activities related to the program. Mid-Ohio will provide orientation sessions to youth to review workplace etiquette, complete payroll packets, establish bank accounts, etc. Orientation sessions will be take place with worksite supervisors to review supervisory and reporting requirements of the program.

Recruitment will begin May 1, 2015 and open intake sessions will be scheduled through May 29, 2015. Work orientation sessions (completing paperwork) will be scheduled on a weekly basis from May 11 – June 5, 2015. Employment placements will begin the week of May 18, 2015 and will be completed by June 26, 2015. Approximately 130 - 160 youth will be served throughout the program running from May 11, 2015 through October 31, 2015. Youth will earn \$8.10 – \$9.00 per hour and will work from 24 – 30 hours per week.

Eligibility & Application—Participants may be referred through Richland Job and Family Services programs (FAET, OWF, PRC, etc), WIA and other community agencies. Services provided with TANF funds are considered as “non-assistance”. Therefore, objective criteria must be utilized in determining eligibility and delivering services to insure fair and equitable treatment of those applying for services.

Eligible participants will be those with income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline as documented on the RCJFS Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) application. Additional guidelines for eligibility include the following:

- a youth age 16 – 17 (or an 18 year old who is a full-time student in secondary school) residing in a family that meets the income guideline;
- a youth age 18 – 24 residing in a family that meets the income guideline and in which a minor child resides;

- a youth age 18 – 24 with a minor child of his/her own (may include a non-custodial parent) or a pregnant individual who meets the income guideline; or
- a youth age 16 – 17 (or 18 years old if a full-time student in secondary school) who is placed in a licensed foster care setting.

Potential participants must complete a PRC application and provide verification of income, photo ID, and provide social security numbers for all individuals residing in the household. Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center is responsible for determining eligibility for the program (acquiring all PRC applications, back-up documentation and issuing Notices of Approval or Denial for TANF services).

Types of Assistance (Services) — Subsidized employment, job coaching, soft skills, and supportive services related to employment

**OWIP (Ohio Works Incentive Program) Employment Incentives
PRC Plan Amendment Effective March 10, 2014**

Richland County JFS will provide employment incentives to Ohio Works First recipients who have acquired employment and are working sufficient hours to meet the participation requirement for the individual's assigned work activity or making sufficient income to move the individual into self-sufficiency.

Eligible applicants will include the following:

- OWF required families obtaining employment who become ineligible for cash assistance, and
- OWF required families whose employment hours meet the core hours required for the assigned work activity.

Eligible applicants may receive up to a total of \$500 in employment incentives paid in three intervals according to the following criteria:

- \$100 paid at the time of verified employment, increase in employment hours, or increase in wages per hour resulting in the discontinuation of OWF benefits;
- \$150 paid at the end of 90 consecutive days of employment (verified); and
- \$250 paid at the end of 180 consecutive days of employment (verified).

The OWIP Employment Incentives will be available effective March 10, 2014 through June 30, 2016, contingent upon the availability of funding,

**Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Plan
Richland County Job and Family Services**

Original Plan Prepared: 04-06-98

Revision Dates

07-02-99	07-01-07
07-01-00	07-20-07
04-03-01	10-01-07
10-09-01	02-23-08
05-16-02	09-03-08
10-24-02	10-01-09
07-01-03	03-09-10
11-01-04	06-04-10
01-01-05	09-15-10
03-17-05	12-01-10
08-01-05	01-01-11
10-15-05	06-29-11
10-20-05	11-09-11
02-01-06	05-15-12
03-01-06	05-01-13
06-19-06	10-01-13
08-10-06	03-10-14
11-09-06	04-29-14
02-23-07	04-29-15
03-15-07	10-01-15