

# Clark County Department of Job and Family Services

## Serving Families

- The adoptions of 27 children were finalized, and 33 initial adoption placements were made. Adoption assistance was provided for 352 children.
- 87 children's services cases resulted in an indictment/prosecution through the efforts of the Department's Child Advocacy Center. This Center served 279 Clark County children: 256 for sexual abuse allegations; 22 for physical abuse allegations; and 1 for a neglect allegation.
- 299 children were placed (child custody episodes).
- 56 children removed from their homes were placed in the custody of relatives. At a cost savings of \$30 a day per child compared to non-relative placements, this resulted in a total savings of \$613,200 over the course of 2004.
- 29 children living independently from their families were served. More than half had savings accounts.
- 697 children received services of various kinds during the year.
- 184 Adult Protective Services assessments were made: 119 for self neglect; 24 for abuse; 37 for neglect by others; 4 for exploitation.

As of December 31, 2004 ...

- 143 children were in the custody of the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services.



## Other Department Accomplishments

(Federal Fiscal Year 2004)

- 36% more children were adopted in FFY 2004 compared to FFY 2003. Despite a 22% decrease in department staff, and a countywide increase in child support cases of 7.5%, the Department:
  - Established paternity for 2,722 children,
  - Established 1,927 child support orders,
  - Distributed \$27,769,878 in child support funds to Clark County families.
- Clark County far exceeded federal standards in FFY 2004 for the percentage of children finalized into adoptions within 24 months of the Department taking initial custody. In FFY 2004, the Department accomplished this objective 46.7% of the time, compared to the federal standard of 32%.
- The Department was able to safely reunify children and their families within 12 months 78.1% of the time, compared to the target of 74.4% set by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.
- Clark County shrunk recurrences of maltreatment of children in any six-month period of time in FFY 2004 to 3.69%. The target set by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is 7.3%.

## Facts about Clark County Children

(Federal Fiscal Year 2004)

- Four of the seven children placed by the Department into adoptive homes during FFY 2004 were between the ages of six and nine years old.
- Of the 53 children waiting for adoption at the end FY 2004, 30 were between the ages of 10 and 17 years old.

# 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

*“It's about more than just the data and accomplishments in this report. The people in our department really care about the families they help, and I couldn't be prouder of that fact.”*

### Project Jericho

Project Jericho brings children, and often their parents, into structured arts activities as a way for them to develop other skills that help with family stability. A joint effort with the Clark State Community College Performing Arts Center, Project Jericho helps reduce youth delinquency behavior and prompts parents and children to work cooperatively toward common goals – activities that can be applied later in their lives.

In 2004, Project Jericho served 194 children and 45 families. Project Jericho also provided 224 tickets to participants for free arts performances in the community last year.

### Marriage Savers

Child support enforcement staff used 2004 as an opportunity to design an early intervention initiative with child support clients. One of its components is working with the national Marriage Savers organization to customize an approach for non-married child support clients with child support orders after the birth of their children. The goal is to help couples strengthen their relationships and promote two-parent families – eliminating the need for child support in the first place!

**Robert B. Suver**, *Director*  
Clark County Department of Job and Family Services

## The Clark County Department of Job and Family SERVICES



The WORKPLUS Center also reached two important milestones in 2004. The Center was granted the status of a fully certified One-Stop Center by the State of Ohio. WORKPLUS also formed a partnership with Champaign, Logan, Madison and Union counties to create a Regional One-Stop System to serve the five-county area. The WORKPLUS Center is a one-stop employment resource for employers and job seekers in Springfield and Clark County.

In 2004, the WORKPLUS Center averaged 1,345 monthly visits to its Employment Resource Center by job seekers, and, an average of 25 different employers who came to the Center to post open positions.

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## Success Stories

### Child Support

The Clark County Child Support Enforcement Agency is more than a “collection agency.”

During the last two years, for instance, a child support case manager worked with a non-paying, non-custodial parent to the point where today that parent realizes his responsibilities to his family. He has paid up on all outstanding back due child support and is back together with the mother and her children. He is paying child support faithfully to the family of his other child too. In fact, he recently called the caseworker to thank her for her support and direction.

### Workforce Investment

#### Leonard

After 12 years as a salesman making \$25 an hour, it was a huge shock when 51-year-old Leonard found himself downsized and out of a job when his company was sold. After a string of temporary jobs earning \$6 to \$7 an hour, Leonard connected with the Clark County Workforce Investment Act program for assistance and training. Adding student loans to his WIA financial assistance, Leonard got the training he needed to go into a nuclear medicine program. He completed an internship at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base Hospital, and today is employed at Mercy Hospital, making \$25 an hour.

### Workforce Investment

#### Amanda

At age 21, Amanda was working as a waitress and was receiving food stamps, Medicaid for her son and cash assistance. She asked Clark County's Workforce Investment Act program for training as a nurse at Miami Valley Technical College. Amanda eventually graduated from Miami Valley, received her degree as an LPN in 2004, and today earns \$17 an hour at Community Hospital. She is completely off all forms of public assistance.

### Adult Protective Services

In October 2004, Adult Protective Services and Children's Services received a joint referral about a local unlicensed care facility. Living in deplorable conditions were two elderly people, two small children and a person who was known to have mental health problems. The parents of the children were the alleged caretakers of the home. There was also an alligator and a pit bull living in the residence.

The older adults eventually were placed into a care facility and the children were placed with relatives. Evidence related to the original home and its caretakers was presented to the county prosecutor's office. Today, the older male involved is well taken care of, has a volunteer guardian, and has clothes to wear (thanks to a generous contribution from Children and Family Services Director Cathy Appel).

## Revenue, Expenditures & Benefits

### Total Department Expenditures • Sources of Revenue

2004 Total Department Expenditures	\$249,026,523
Sources of Revenue for 2004 Expenditures came from the following sources:	
Federal	58.6%
State	38.6%
Local Children Services Levy	1.3%
Local Government Funding	0.5%
Miscellaneous & Third Party	1.0%
TOTAL	100%

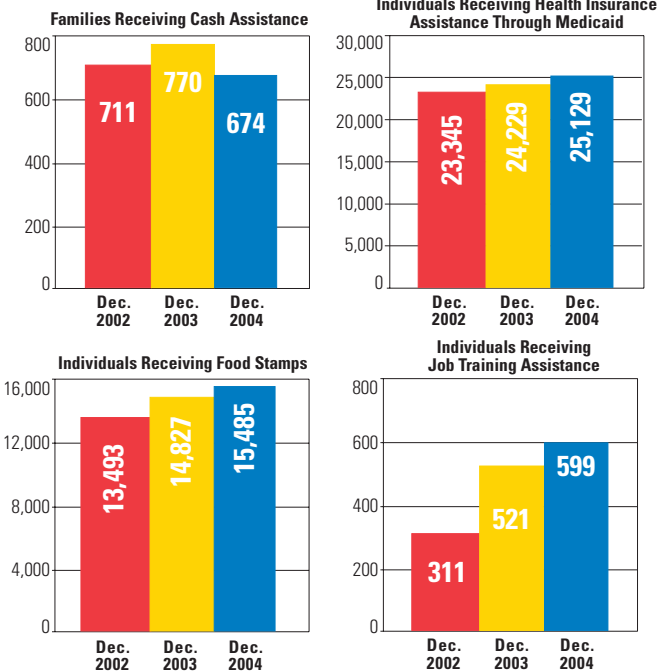
### 2004 Expenditures for Selected Services Clark County Department of Job and Family Services

Administration and Operations	\$4,947,243	13.9%
Case Management (all divisions)	\$12,885,742	36.0%
Children's Home Operation	\$75,149	0.2%
Juvenile Court Placement Agreement	\$1,214,432	3.4%
One-Time Emergency Assistance to Families	\$215,089	0.6%
Other Contracted Services	\$6,144,619	17.2%
Out-of-Home Placement Costs	\$4,031,990	11.3%
Subsidized Child Care Benefits to Families	\$2,456,409	6.9%
Workforce Development	\$2,624,979	7.4%
WORKPLUS Transportation	\$1,091,337	3.1%
TOTAL	\$35,686,989	100%

### Value of Benefits received by Clark County residents

Medicaid	\$189,735,066	88.9%
Food Stamp Benefits	\$16,588,066	7.8%
Disability Assistance	\$2,139,288	1.0%
Ongoing Cash Assistance to Families	\$4,877,144	2.3%
TOTAL	\$213,339,534	100%

In 2004, an average of 14,247 Clark County households received benefits each month through the Employment and Benefits Division, which represents about 35,617 individuals. The programs providing these benefits were OWF (cash assistance), Food Stamps, Disability Assistance, Medicaid and PRC (Prevention, Retention and Contingency).



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