

E-Alert



a project grown from the partnerships for success process

“*Together We Grow*”

A campaign to raise awareness of early childhood development in Clark County

If a child begins school without high-quality early experiences to promote brain development, that child is at great risk of failure. By age five, it is difficult – if not impossible – to catch up.

Clark County is home to more than 11,000 babies and children under five years old. Ensuring that a baby gets a great start on life is a challenge to all parents, and particularly challenging for many Clark County parents. The percentage of babies born to mothers with medical risk factors, and mothers who have not completed high school, or into families living in poverty, are all much higher in Clark County, compared to Ohio averages. [Click here to view the *Together We Grow* commercial.](#)

As our community strives to improve the local economy, crime rates, and health outcomes, it is evident that starting with our youngest residents may yield the biggest payoff. Many people are not aware of the importance of a child's earliest years. A baby's brain continues to develop during the years after birth – the years between birth and age three are an important time when the child's potential for education and emotional health are determined.

[See TOGETHER WE GROW, Page 5]



WORKPLUS



Grant Awarded to the WorkPlus Regional One-Stop System

The WorkPlus Regional One-Stop System is comprised of five counties that include: Champaign, Clark, Logan, Madison and Union. This regional system recently received a \$10,000 Rapid Response Outreach grant from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Office of Workforce Development.

The grant will be utilized for outreach and marketing efforts targeting the increasing numbers of dislocated workers within the five-county region. The loss of the region's many high paying jobs are attributed to company consolidations, loss of contracts, and shifts in production (out of the country, or to other states.) Grants and additional Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding from the Department of Labor and the ODJFS Office of Workforce Development will provide the financial assistance to market services to a much broader audience. The focus is on employers who are considering reduction in their current workforce, or

for dislocated workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

Internet enhancements, and a toll free telephone number, are a few of the media sources incorporated into the WorkPlus Regional television commercial which is set to air in March and April on WHIO-TV, Channel 7, (serving Champaign, Clark, and Logan Counties) and WBNS-TV, Channel 10, (serving Madison, and Union Counties).

Special credits for the production of the commercial go to Mr. Lavern Nissley, director of the Marriage Resource Center of Miami Valley, and Lehan Peters, director of Workforce Development, for the Clark County WorkPlus One-Stop Center.

For more information about the WorkPlus Regional One-Stop System visit www.workplus-system.cc. Click here to view the WorkPlus Regional commercial.

Passport Denial Program

Over the years, the federal government has developed many tools to assist in the collection of child support. One such tool is known as the Passport Denial Program.

Previously, if an individual owed more than \$5,000 in past due child support, the Federal Office of Child Support would notify the Department of State, which would then deny the passport application. Recently, that threshold was dropped to \$2,500. Just as important of a factor, U.S. citizens will need passports for travel now



The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), which went into effect January 23, requires U.S. citizens traveling by air between the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda to have a valid U.S. Passport, Air NEXUS Card, or U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Document.

Recently, the Clark County Child Support Enforcement Agency has seen the impact of the new regulation. Last December, the agency received a call from a man scheduled to go on a Caribbean cruise in January. There was only one problem—his child support debt. Just before Christmas he ended up paying the \$26,507.16 that he owed in past due support.

While not all payments are generally this large, it is anticipated that greater collections will occur with this regulation, especially when the provisions go into effect to cover land travel early in 2008.

A quarterly look at the conditions and circumstances under which Clark County families live, and the performance of the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services in response.

THE QUARTERLY

Children under our protection who remain in their own homes

December 2003 December 2004

600 **658**

December 2005 December 2006

744 **807**

Individuals receiving job training assistance

December 2003 December 2004

521 **599**

December 2005 December 2006

536 **450**

Individuals receiving food stamps

December 2003 December 2004

14,827 **15,485**

December 2005 December 2006

15,942 **16,002**

Individuals paying on child support

December 2003 December 2004

7,876 **7,938**

December 2005 December 2006

7,874 **7,987**

Children receiving subsidy for child care

December 2003 December 2004

638 **679**
December 2005 December 2006

906 **980**

Individuals receiving health insurance through Medicaid

December 2003 December 2004

24,229 **25,129**
December 2005 December 2006

26,040 **25,223**

Children under our protection who are in out-of-home care

December 2003 December 2004

182 **143**

December 2005 December 2006

163 **141**

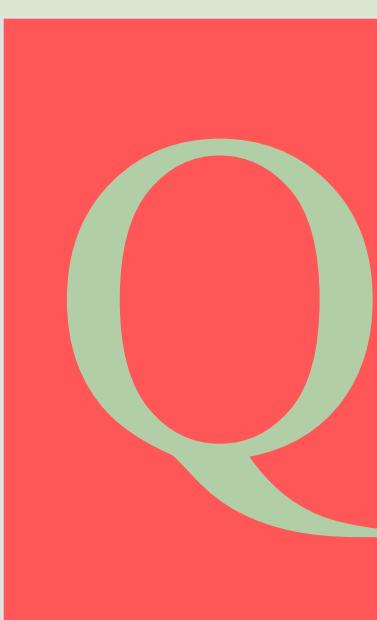
Families receiving ongoing cash assistance

December 2003 December 2004

770 **674**

December 2005 December 2006

684 **657**





SPRINGFIELD/CLARK COUNTY

HOMEBUYERS

AND

HOME LOAN

FAIR

Recently, the **WORKPLUS** Center hosted the Springfield/Clark County Homebuyer's Home Loan Fair. Among the 19 vendors that participated in the event were: local banks, mortgage lenders, area realtors, credit unions, various insurance companies, and state agencies such as the OSU Extension office and the State of Ohio Division of Financial Institutions.

Sponsors included: the Clark County Fair Housing Board, Neighborhood Housing Partnership of Greater Springfield, Springfield News Sun, the City of

Springfield, Habitat for Humanity, Legal Aid of Western Ohio, and the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services.

Participants attending the fair learned about affordable loan products, down payment assistance grants, homes for sale, how to apply for a loan, and how to purchase a home. Understanding Credit and the Loan Application Process, and Smart Refinancing to Avoid Predatory Lenders, were some of the topics featured throughout the event.

All in all, customer surveys revealed that the event was a great success and indicated that the fair was:

- Very informative
- Great variety of hand-outs
- All of the banks were in one location
- Good participation from vendors
- Wonderful networking opportunities



Mandatory Managed Care for Aged, Blind, or Disabled Medicaid Consumers

Based upon requirements set forth in Amended Substitute House Bill 66, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has begun expansion of Medicaid managed care for a select portion of Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) consumers. When completed, approximately 1,875 ABD consumers residing in Clark County will be enrolled in the Ohio Medicaid managed care program and will receive their Medicaid-covered healthcare services through a managed care plan (MCP).

The three MCP's selected to serve Clark County are: **Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Partnership Plan,**

Inc, Caresource, and Molina Healthcare of Ohio, Inc.

Mandatory enrollment affects only a select portion of ABD consumers. Certain ABD consumers are exempt from enrollment in an MCP. These consumers include:

Children with a disability or blindness under twenty-one (21) years of age

Persons who are dually-eligible for Medicare and Medicaid

Persons who are participating in a home and community-based waiver program; persons whose permanent residence is in an institution (e.g. nursing facility

or intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded (ICF-MR). Persons who must meet a spend down amount in order to be eligible for Medicaid

During the week of February 12, affected Medicaid consumers were sent notices advising them that they now must choose an MCP. If the consumer does not choose a plan, then one will be chosen for them. All eligible ABD consumers will be enrolled in an MCP by April 1.

For additional information about the Medicaid managed care program, please visit the state web site at: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp> and select "Managed Care" under the Providers Link.

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e a l e r t

is a quarterly publication of the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services

Forward this pdf. file as an attachment, and encourage others to contact Robin Maynard at 937/327-1859, or at rmaynard@clarkdjfs.org

Throughout Clark County, many people, agencies, schools, churches, businesses, and service organizations offer a wide array of help to parents. During the recent Partnerships for Success Community Planning Process, people with an interest in providing high-quality early experiences to Clark County babies worked together for nearly two years. They analyzed local data, reviewed existing local resources, and looked at proven strategies for increasing the positive impact our community can have. This group has worked diligently to secure funding to educate parents with young children, including teens and teen parents.

The campaign is called ***Together We Grow***, and you'll see it rolling out across Clark County in billboards, a resource guide, and a TV commercial on WHIO. The campaign focuses on three simple steps: Spending Time, Reading Out Loud, and Playing. Community members who are interested in this effort can call (937) 322-2099, Ext 44, for more information.