

E-Alert

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CLARK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Clark County Child Support Enforcement is an Award Winner

Clark County CSE received recognition for Outstanding Performance for the Highest Support order establishment percentage for a large county at the Annual Ohio Child Support Training Conference in August.

Clark County had an order establishment percentage of 89.44% for the 2005 Federal Fiscal Year. This represents a 1.6% increase from the previous year. The state average for support order establishment was 72.7%. Clark County ranked 11th overall in the state in this category.

For the awards, counties are evaluated in comparison to counties with similar caseload sizes. Clark County is categorized in the large county division, which carry caseloads from 9,001 to 19,999. They currently have 18,000 active child support cases.

The Intake and Legal Staff were the leaders in achieving the increase. The two units have worked together well to make the process of establishing orders as efficient as possible.



Social Services Training Supervisor Wins Award

Each year The Ohio State University College of Social Work recognizes an outstanding social services field instructor. The recipient of this award is nominated by a student intern, and is then selected by the OSU faculty. On May 4 during the Field Recognition Luncheon, Nancy Mahoney was presented with the "2006 Outstanding Field Instructor" award by OSU College of Social Work Dean William Meezan, Ph.D.

Nancy retired from Clark County DJFS in 1997 after 28½ years of service, and at the time held the position of Deputy Director of the Family and Children's Services division. In 1999 she returned to work for DJFS as a Social Services Training/Screening Supervisor. Nancy has a Masters degree in Social Work from The Ohio State University.

awards

The WORKPLUS Regional One-Stop System



Mission

The WORKPLUS Regional One-Stop System will promote, integrate, and coordinate workforce development services throughout the five county area. Through collaborations with businesses, job seekers, and community partners we will be the focal point of employment and training activities.

The **WORKPLUS Regional One-Stop System (Champaign, Clark, Logan, Madison and Union counties)** is combining member counties' human and financial resources to promote and market one-stop services throughout the region using various tools, resources and a lot of innovation. The benefits of a strong regional system are a win-win for job seekers and current and prospective employers.

The collaboration efforts that have taken place since May 2006 include professional workshops for WIA enhancement and partner integration within a one-stop system. The five counties also purchased an informational resource center, which is designed to serve as a resource library for job seekers. The materials cover every topic from "Using Your Local One-stop Career Center," to "Writing the Perfect Resume." Employment information and career exploration can be obtained by visiting any of the resource rooms located at each area one-stop.

In the field of technology, the WORKPLUS Regional System purchased a web-based universal customer data tracking system called **G*Stars**. Many one-stops across the nation and throughout Ohio have elected to go with supplemental systems in addition to the current state systems. Since the applications are web-based, partners who work closely with county one-stops on and off-site can register customers at their desk, thus avoiding duplication of efforts, fewer forms to be completed, and less hassle for the customer.

G*Stars utilizes off-the-shelf, non-proprietary Swipe Card technology to allow organizations to track

Regional Counties Working Together to Make a Difference!

customer service and outcomes, such as resource room activity, classroom attendance, and customer satisfaction surveys. G*Stars also provides a full case and file management service to allow staff to create and share customer, partner, and employer information within the regional network.

The swipe cards will serve as a marketing tool for WORKPLUS Regional One-Stop services and will be distributed at job fairs, community events, and at each county one-stop. The launch date for G*Stars is scheduled for October 1.

In recognition of Workforce Services Month, the WORKPLUS Regional One-Stop System will host its third annual Truck Driver Job and Career Fair at the Champaign Community Career Center on Friday, Sept. 15 from 10 am to 3 pm. Employers, training institutions, and community colleges will be on-site to hire, interview, and recruit. The job fair committee has done excellent work promoting the job fair using a variety of media sources including television. The truck driver commercial is currently airing on WHIO, Channel 7, and is one of two commercials recently produced for one-stop services and events. To view the WORKPLUS commercials, please click on the following links:

If you would like to view the WorkPlus commercial, click [here](#).

If you would like to view the truck driver job fair commercial, click [here](#).

Children under our protection who remain in their own homes

June 2003	June 2004	June 2003	June 2004
736	640	8,341	8,347
454	843	8,568	8,490

Individuals receiving food stamps

June 2003	June 2004
13,707	14,752
15,605	16,081

Individuals receiving job training assistance

June 2003	June 2004
472	447
473	525

Children under county protection who are in custody

June 2003	June 2004
201	140
152	161

Children receiving subsidy for child care

June 2003	June 2004	June 2003	June 2004
873	725	655	596
935	979		

Individuals paying on child support orders

June 2003	June 2004
8,341	8,347

QUICK STATS

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.

Individuals receiving health insurance through Medicaid

June 2003	June 2004
23,811	24,620

Families receiving ongoing cash assistance

June 2003	June 2004
708	673
873	725

Challenge Camp



Employees from Clark County Family and Children's Services assisted the camp staff in working with the 175 children

Children ages 8-12 years old from all over Clark County came together at Camp Hugh Taylor Birch during the last week of June to participate in *Challenge Camp*. Through collaboration between the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services, Boy Scouts of America, and other organizations, students who were referred through Family and Children's Services were able to participate in this day camp at no charge.

The campers enjoyed many activities during the week, which included: swimming, archery, sports, crafts, fishing, and boating. The camp concluded with a campfire, skits, and songs. Employees from Clark County Family and Children's Services assisted the camp staff in working with the 175 children, many of whom had never previously experienced anything like Challenge Camp. Many new friends were made, plus the children had the opportunity to succeed in activities they had never tried before. Campers and staff alike had a fantastic time, and many are anxiously looking forward to next year.





Service Anniversaries through September 2006

Thirty five Clark County Department of Job and Family Services staff celebrated service anniversaries. Three of those employees have given 30 years of service to our county.

Below are individuals who we would like to recognize for the time and talent they have shared with countless numbers of customers in our community.

30 years of service

Susan McLean
Tammy Owens
Larry Parks

25 years of service

Linda Cason
Steve Ray

20 years of service

Sandra Downs
Marsha Jenkins
Karen Simms
Susan Staton
Dave West
Shelley White

15 years of service

Danielle Harper
Margie McKenzie
Linda Oliver
Regina Smith
Bev Weber

10 years of service

Mary Bowshier
Hursshell Capper
Zo Jenkins
Trisha Newland
Vicky Shaw
Cheri VanHorn

5 years of service

Betsy Conn
Cherry Cydrus
Heather Eggenspiller
Melissa Hall
Tami Hively
Tammi Holtzapple
Kathleen Jones

5 years of service

Kirk Lookabaugh
Holly McHenry
Christina Montgomery
Jen Rohrer
Traci Schwartz-Sullivan
Jennifer Smith

Please join our Agency in congratulating and thanking these individuals for over 460 years of service to others.

United Way Pacesetter Agency

The Clark County Department of Job and Family Services was invited to participate in the 2006 United Way campaign as one of 27 pacesetter agencies. Typically, this group of companies and agencies hold the distinction of being designated as leaders. The campaign is held prior to the official kick-off of the campaign to generate momentum in achieving the overall goals.

This year the Department held its pacesetter campaign July 15 through September 1. During this short time period, a total of \$21,065.87 was collected, which represents a 15.55% increase. Sixty seven percent (67%) of staff participated in this worthy campaign.



Top left-right, Hope Smiddy, Trish Wagner • Bottom left-right, Kristie Heckman, Peg Walling • Not pictured, Kim Smith, Sandra Curtis

CCDJFS United Way Committee members are:

Hope Smiddy, Kim Smith, Trish Wagner, Peg Walling, Kristie Heckman and Sandra Curtis.

The Department is extremely proud of staff and the strong support they have given, and in addition the committee has shown great leadership in directing this successful event.



National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month and November 16th is National Adoption Day. Currently, Clark County has Permanent Custody of 34 children.

To learn more about adoption in general, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/nam/index.cfm>

For more information regarding Clark County's adoption program, please call Lynn House at 937.327.1811.



Department Takes Part in TANF Student Intervention Project

The Clark County Department of Job & Family Services recently took part in a countywide collaboration among the Clark County Family and Children First Council, local school districts, and other local community organizations to take advantage of a state funding initiative called the **TANF Student Intervention Project**. This project is aimed at increasing academic opportunities for underprivileged youth (grades K-12) in

the community. Funding was made available by a partnership between the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education for summer and school-year programs with the purpose of strengthening existing local efforts.

The Summer Student Intervention Project, which operated June through August, consisted of two programs: The Afterschool and Summer Demonstration Program, the purpose of which was to provide

students (kindergarten through 12th grade) with a broad array of enrichment activities, and The Kindergarten School Readiness Enrichment Program, the purpose of which was to provide academic and supporting enrichment activities in the areas of language, literacy, math, social and self-help skills. A total of \$379,585 was allocated to the summer programs via contracts executed between the Department and local school districts. Approximately 350 youth were served.

The school-year Student Intervention Project, which began in September and ends in June 2007, consists of Afterschool Programs and Kindergarten Student Readiness Enrichment programs for the purpose of providing additional academic and supporting enrichment activities, which are not available to students during the traditional school day. Contracts totaling \$885,379 have been awarded for these school-year programs, with the anticipation that 1,600 students (grades K-12) will be served.

Parents as Partners

The Clark County Department of Job and Family Services is to be awarded \$990,000 over a five-year period for the development of a Healthy Marriage Project. The project will be administered through CCDJFS' Child Support Enforcement (CSE) division. The project is called Parents as Partners.

The goals of the project include:

- Promoting healthy marriage/parental relationships which will enhance the well-being of children,
- Increasing the paternity establishment rate for children born out of wedlock,
- Improving the financial support for children by improving parental commitment and involvement at the beginning of the order, and
- Providing participants workshops to strengthen their communication and life skills in order to meet the emotional and financial needs of their children.

Participating schools for both the summer and school-year programs include Springfield City Schools, Springfield Academy of Excellence, and Urban Youth Academy. The schools have also been able to partner via subcontracts with community organizations to offer additional academic and supporting enrichment activities.

WHIO ImagePlus Program

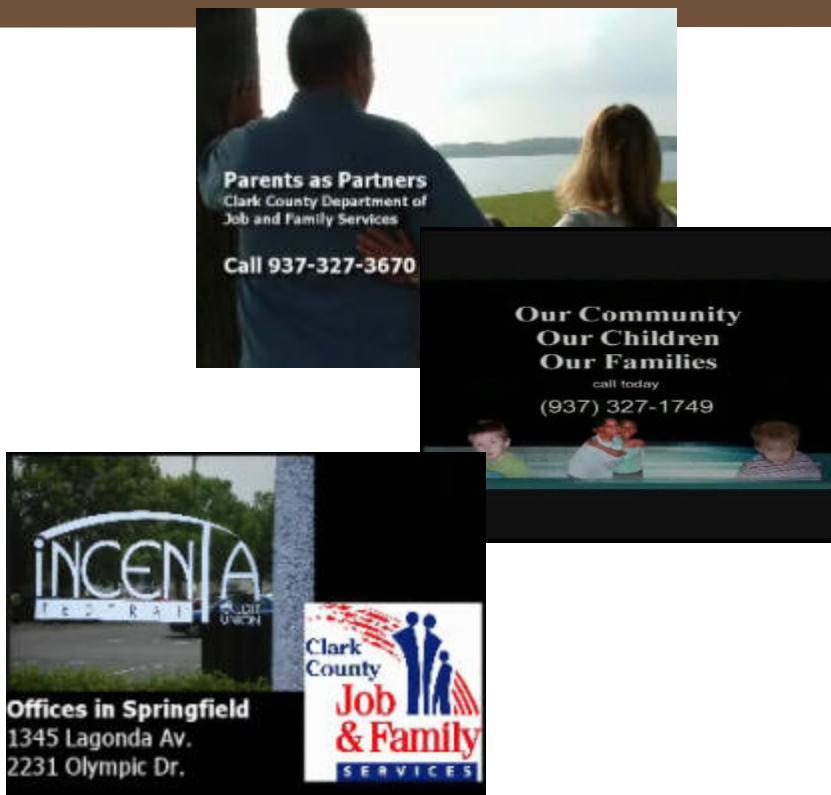
Recently, Clark County DJFS embarked on a venture to enhance its marketing needs through Dayton's CBS affiliate station WHIO television by developing commercial advertisements which will inform the public about the array of services and partner agencies that are available, while promoting the Department's general image.

The **ImagePlus Program** is a marketing package that includes a minimum of 25 thirty second commercials each month for a total of 300 thirty second commercials per year. All are guaranteed peak-time placement and the package includes at least 25,000 impressions through web advertising while providing a direct link to the agency website.

Parents as Partners CONTINUED

Initially, the Parents as Partners program will be introduced to parents while at the CSE for paternity testing or support hearings. Future plans will include referrals from various organizations throughout the community. The program is a free and voluntary service. The workshop sessions will be conducted by trained CSE staff members and community volunteers at several sites throughout Clark County. Participants will be linked to other community partners and services to help them overcome barriers that may prevent them from providing for the emotional and financial needs of their children.

For more information on the Parents as Partners Program, contact CSE team members Linda Whitt, Vicki Houseman or Douglas Rudy at 327-3670.



To date, seven commercials have been produced that showcase: *Adoption/Foster Care, Elder Abuse, WIA/Workforce Development, Child Support* programs, and our newest partner, Incenta Federal Credit Union, who is helping to combat predatory lending in the community. Future commercials for additional agency programs that are in the making consist of: *Child Care, Healthy Start, Transportation, and a tax program*, just to name a few.

Another aspect of this endeavor was the creation of a Media Committee, which will engage front line agency staff as a public relations resource that can connect with customers, taxpayers, politicians, and other agencies.

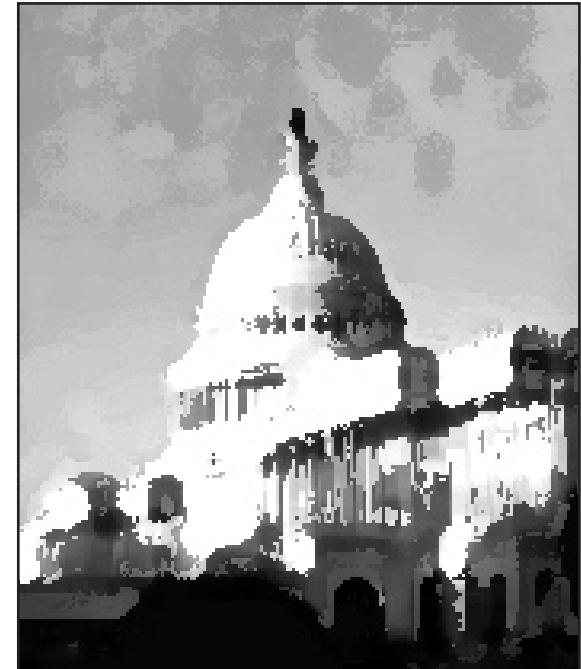
To view the commercials, click on the link provided below which will take you to our web media center. <http://www.clarkdjfs.org/videos.htm>



FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES CHANGES TO TANF WORK ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

After several years of extending the Welfare Reform legislation that was passed in 1996, Congress reauthorized TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) legislation as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Final rules based on this law were released by the HHS Administration for Children and Families on June 28, requiring all states to implement changes in their Work Activities Programs by October 1, 2006. Most of these changes were driven by findings cited in a review of state programs by the General Accounting Office (GAO). These reviews concluded that definitions, activities, verification and documentation in these programs varied so much from state to state that they could not make a valid comparison of each state's effectiveness and success.

In an attempt to address these concerns, the new TANF legislation has defined activities and required specific procedures to verify and document participation of TANF cash recipients in work activities. The result is that much of the flexibility that States and County Departments of Job and Family Services were allowed in the initial Welfare Reform legislation has disappeared. This flexibility was the single most important factor in the success of the reform and from the local perspective of most County DJFS' it represents a giant step backward in the efforts to prepare people for work. It seems apparent that emphasis is being placed more on procedures than outcomes. Examples of these are the requirements for reporting assignments and participation. Beginning October 1, 2006, many participants will be required to be assigned to multiple sites and activities instead of a single assignment that incorporates the same activities. These multiple assignments will require separate reporting from the sites, separate entries by case managers. In addition to the multiple assignments, all reporting and entry of completed hours will be required bi-weekly instead of monthly, which will double the time requirement for both work site and case managers.



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

Forward this pdf. file as an attachment,
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to be put directly on this newsletter distribution list.