



THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

# Investing in Ohio's Families



State Fiscal Year  
**2005**

Ohio's TANF Program



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	1
Family Safety Net .....	3
Employment and Advancement.....	5
Support/Prevention .....	9
Continuous Improvement .....	13
Priorities for TANF SFY 2006 .....	14
TANF Expenditures .....	16

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Throughout State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2005, Ohio's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program continued to support Ohio's low-income families by:

- Providing a safety net for Ohio's most vulnerable families while parents look for employment or improve job skills;
- Helping families secure, retain and advance employment;
- Delivering support services to help stabilize families and prevent or minimize dependency on cash assistance; and
- Continuously improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Ohio's program to improve outcomes for participating individuals and families.

Ohio's investment in families continues to benefit those who leave the Ohio Works First caseload by providing services and opportunities that improve their economic well-being and self-sufficiency. Ohio has again been awarded a federal High Performance Bonus of \$14.7 million as a result of its efforts to help TANF clients retain employment and increase earnings.

This report provides an overview of Ohio's TANF program for SFY 2005 (July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005), including data on Ohio's TANF expenditures and participation. It also highlights the success of just a few of the many Ohio families assisted by the program.

The successful transition of TANF families to greater self-sufficiency would not be possible without Ohio's 88 County Departments of Job and Family Services. We thank them for their delivery of these vital services and for their ongoing participation in efforts to improve and enhance the TANF program.

Thank you for your interest.

Barbara E. Riley  
Director, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)  
April 2006

## INTRODUCTION

Since Congress enacted the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program in 1996, Ohio's Job and Family Services agencies have worked to achieve the four TANF purposes:

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
- End needy parents' dependence on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.
- Reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numeric goals for decreased incidence of these pregnancies.
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

To accomplish these purposes, Ohio implemented the Ohio Works First (OWF) and Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) programs along with other TANF-funded benefits and services as established by the Ohio General Assembly or Executive Order issued by the Governor. These state-supervised and county-administered programs have produced a dramatic shift in focus away from ongoing cash assistance and toward providing services designed to help Ohioans reach and maintain self-sufficiency and

family stability. Figure 1 (on the following page) illustrates this shift, indicating a sharp decline in cash assistance and increased investments in Ohio's TANF-supported workforce development, family stability and child care services.

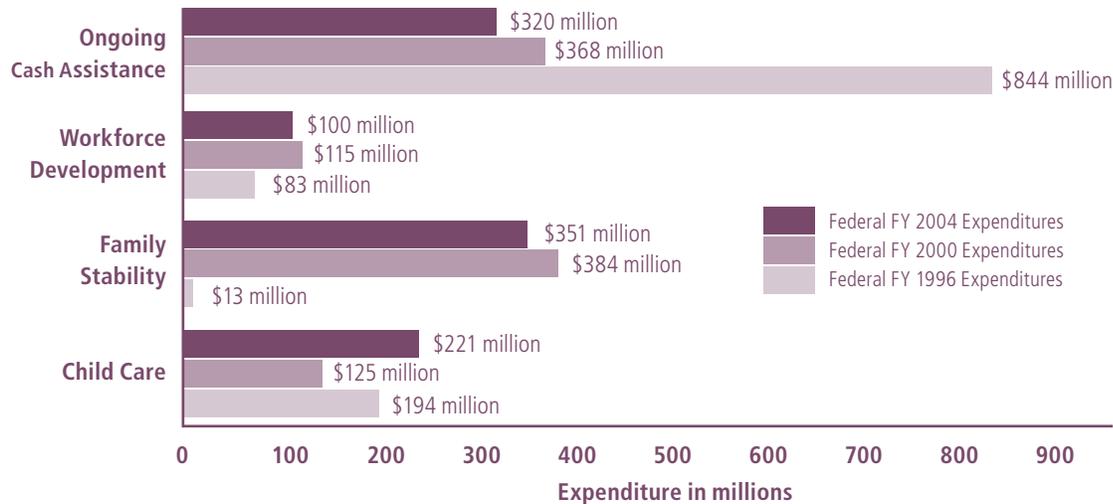
The strategy has worked to reduce dramatically the number of individuals receiving ongoing cash benefits, which dropped from nearly 552,000 in January 1996 to fewer than 182,000 in June 2005. For those Ohioans still needing assistance, Job and Family Services agencies continue to partner with other departments and organizations to provide a full range of services. Resources are leveraged in a way that complements and expands TANF services to:

- Provide a safety net for vulnerable families.
- Help individuals transition into employment and achieve self-sufficiency.
- Deliver support services to help stabilize families and prevent dependence on cash assistance.
- Continuously improve outcomes for individuals and families accessing TANF services.

This report provides financial and program performance information on Ohio's TANF services for state fiscal year (SFY) 2005 (July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005), exploring the four service areas mentioned above.



**Figure 1.**  
**Shifting Focus of TANF Strategies From Federal Fiscal Year 1996 to FFY 2004**



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ACF 196 Report

## Family Safety Net

The TANF program provides a “safety net” of temporary assistance to help families overcome unforeseen events such as loss of employment, divorce or natural disaster. Time-limited cash assistance is available through Ohio Works First. Families who experience losses due to floods, storms or other emergencies can receive several kinds of emergency help including housing repair, food and clothing.

## Employment and Advancement

The TANF program supports employment and wage gain through education and training, job search, child care, transportation assistance and other post-employment support services.

## Support/Prevention

Many working families continue to struggle due to under-employment or unforeseen crises. To help alleviate these situations, Ohio is continuing efforts to expand access to the Food Stamp program, Medicaid and the child support program. Additional supportive services

are often operated through collaborating agencies. Examples include domestic violence programs providing emergency shelter and relocation, family preservation and family reunification programs, pregnancy prevention and early childhood development.

## Continuous Improvement

Job and Family Services agencies have adopted performance standards and have implemented strategies to help ensure that services are delivered effectively. Progress in such areas as job entry rate, earnings gain and child care participation is monitored quarterly.

## Creating Value for Ohioans

As a comprehensive package of safety net and support services, TANF creates value for all Ohioans by assuring basic security, improving the lives of individuals and families, increasing incomes in local communities, and helping to prevent or mitigate the impact of negative events.

This report reviews the TANF program’s efforts to help Ohio families increase job skills and earnings, improve the quality of their lives and achieve self-sufficiency.

## FAMILY SAFETY NET

For families facing circumstances that prevent or threaten their self-sufficiency, TANF offers a safety net of cash assistance and other supports. Unemployment, limited education or skills, divorce, separation or other unforeseen crises are just several obstacles that can affect a family's stability. The TANF program provides programs and strategies to ensure that vulnerable families have the resources they need to be safe, regain stability and move toward greater independence.

### Ohio Works First (OWF)

OWF provides time-limited cash assistance to families while requiring parents to work or search for work. Ongoing OWF cash assistance is also provided to child-only cases.<sup>1</sup> In SFY 2005, Ohio served approximately 191,000 cash assistance participants per month, about 3,000 fewer than the monthly average in SFY 2004. A typical family of three received a maximum of \$373 per month in OWF cash assistance in SFY 2005. As a supportive service, families receiving OWF cash assistance are also eligible for Food Stamps.

OWF emphasizes three goals: self-sufficiency, personal responsibility and employment. County Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS) agencies throughout the state work to help OWF participants build the

skills and experiences they need to reach economic independence and provide a healthy, safe and stable environment for their families.

### Disaster Assistance

For families that have sustained losses resulting from state-declared natural disasters (for example, floods, tornadoes, and snow and ice storms), counties provide benefits such as housing repairs, food, clothing, bedding and cooking utensils. In SFY 2005, Ohio invested \$2.1 million to provide disaster assistance services to 1,038 individuals a month on average. An additional \$276,000 was spent to provide food boxes to victims of disaster.

### Supplemental Nutritional Assistance

The State also provides nutritional assistance through foodbanks and pantries. In SFY 2005, \$5.5 million was transferred from TANF to Title XX for the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. Through the association, 12 regional foodbanks distributed food to approximately 2,000 local foodbank facilities. All 88 counties were covered by the program and provided resources to supplement the assistance available through



### ***Work experience builds skills and a better job***

*George and his wife Loretta<sup>2</sup> had three children to support. George lost his low-wage job and sought OWF assistance. Assigned to a Work Experience Program site by the Asbland CDJFS job placement staff, George acquired marketable skills and obtained a full-time job at better wages. The family is moving toward self-sufficiency as it continues to receive some support services to help the transition off cash assistance. With the help of Asbland CDJFS, George and Loretta are gaining financial independence.*

<sup>1</sup> The child's legal parent, guardian, custodian or other specified relative is not eligible for OWF.

<sup>2</sup> Names of all participants have been changed in this report.

foodbanks under the Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

**Short-Term Assistance**

Families sometimes need short-term assistance to cope with specific crisis situations or episodes of hardship or need. These services (e.g., heating assistance, home or car repairs, provision of clothing) are designed to help families resolve one-time urgent problems or challenges that, if not addressed, could result in the family needing long-term public

assistance. Often times self-sufficiency begins with meeting basic clothing and shelter needs. In SFY 2005, more than 14,000 individuals per month on average were provided clothing and shelter assistance through the TANF program.

Individual county TANF-funded PRC programs provided a wide array of services to vulnerable families in SFY 2005. In Washington County, for example, the CDJFS distributed school clothes to approximately 2,600 children in December 2004 and contracted with the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) to provide energy assistance to families utilizing bulk fuel and unregulated utilities.

***Basic assistance helps mother keep vehicle and job***

*County Departments of Job and Family Services, like Pickaway County's, have worked to increase the self-sufficiency of OWF participants. Joanna, mother of two bright home-schooled children, could hardly make ends meet in a part-time job after her husband left her. The Pickaway CDJFS provided her with gas cards, helped cover costs associated with registering her vehicle, and gave her the support she needed. She also received Food Stamps and Medicaid. With her transportation assured, she was able to keep her job, support her family and remain self-sufficient.*



**Table 1.**  
**Family Safety Net**

TANF Expenditure Categories	Participants (Avg. per month)	Expenditures (in millions)
OWF	191,085	\$323.3
Disaster Assistance	1,038	\$2.1
Clothing & Shelter	14,196	\$19.9
Total	206,319	\$345.3

Source: ODJFS TANF WRT Report

# EMPLOYMENT AND ADVANCEMENT

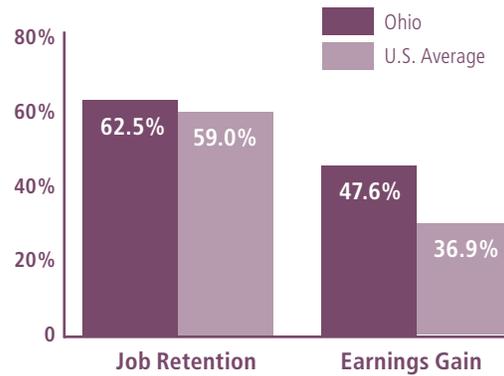
A major goal of the TANF program is the development and implementation of strategies and activities to help Ohioans prepare for and find employment, and increase their incomes once they are employed. To accomplish this goal, the TANF program provides services that range from training for job entry, to job retention, to provision of child care – all as a means of keeping parents at work.

## Success in the Workforce

During the past three federal fiscal years (FFY), Ohio has been a national leader in helping working families retain employment and increase earnings. Figure 2 illustrates the State’s “success in the workforce” compared to the national average in FFY 2004, the most recent performance period for which figures are available. Ohio’s job retention rate was 62.5 percent, compared to the national average of 59 percent. In earnings gains, Ohio stood at 47.6 percent compared to the national average of 36.9 percent.

Ohio ranked ninth nationally in the category Success in the Workforce for the performance year 2004 based on its combined rankings in job retention and earnings gains. In September 2005, based on this ranking, Ohio was awarded a TANF High-Performance Bonus of \$14.7 million. Table 2 shows the bonus amounts awarded to Ohio in the past three federal fiscal years.

**Figure 2.**  
**Success in the Workforce -**  
**Federal Performance of Ohio**  
**Compared to the U.S. Average: FFY 2004**



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

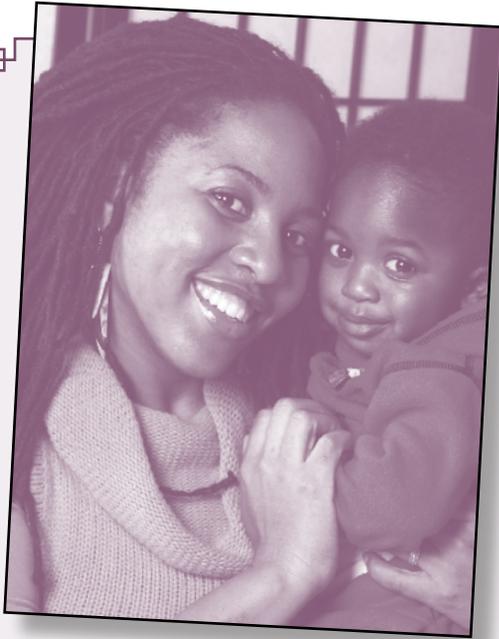
Services such as child care provided through the TANF program are important factors in Ohio’s effort to help employed individuals remain employed or continue training programs.

**Table 2.**  
**Continuous Improvement**

High Performance Bonus - FFY 2002	\$21.4m
High Performance Bonus - FFY 2003	\$28.1m
High Performance Bonus - FFY 2004	\$14.7m
<b>Total to Date</b>	<b>\$64.2m</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services





**Partner agency helps injured nurse get back on her feet**

*Efforts to promote success in the workforce through the TANF program have reduced Ohioans' dependence on cash assistance. One Lorain County client is closer to self-sufficiency thanks to a CDJFS partner agency, Career Counseling. JoLynn was a nursing assistant who hoped to become a licensed practical nurse but was forced to give up nursing because of a knee injury. Through Career Counseling's First Step program, she was trained for a new career. JoLynn became a security officer, began to provide for her family and no*

*longer needed cash assistance. She then underwent corrective surgery, regained full use of her knee, and was welcomed back into nursing by her old employer. JoLynn now works three 12-hour shifts at the two jobs and is saving money for a home for herself, her mother and her children.*

**Work Participation**

Figure 3 shows the extent to which Ohio has exceeded the federal All-Family Work Participation requirement in the last four fiscal years. In FFY 2005, Ohio's All-Family Work Participation rate was almost 10 percentage points above the federal requirement of 50 percent and also above the State requirement of 55 percent.

**Figure 3.**  
**Federal All-Family Work Participation**



Source: ODJFS, Office of Research, Assessment, and Accountability

## Training, Job Entry and Job Retention

The TANF program prepares individuals to enter the workforce, including training in specific skills, finding employment and understanding the concept of self-sufficiency.

TANF supports public and private services that benefit low-income families and enhance community and economic development. With local businesses as partners, work support strategies help reduce employee turnover and produce earnings gains. TANF expenditures for work support totaled \$41.7 million in SFY 2005. Participants averaged just over 9,000 each month (see Table 3).

One example of a successful work support program is Hamilton County's Accountability and Credibility Together (ACT, Inc.), a non-profit organization that provides comprehensive services focusing on work and self-sufficiency. ACT is funded through a contract with the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services.

ACT assists an average of 1,200 new families each year with programs aimed at helping them overcome welfare reliance. Most are single parents, and all are referred to ACT by Hamilton CDJFS. Services include self-sufficiency planning, preparedness for work and job search assistance, retention services for persons already employed and basic college classes.



### ***CDJFS partner helps struggling family find a better job***

*Johnny, a cook in a Lorain County restaurant, wasn't making a living wage and was struggling to support his wife and five children. Turning to the Lorain CDJFS for assistance, he was referred to a career counselor in the Focus Program, a contract service. The program arranged for several job interviews, including one for a position in a local pizza restaurant. The interview went so well that Johnny met the next day with a corporate official and was hired as general manager. Johnny now makes a good salary with full benefits and plans to study for work in the ministry. He says he's happy to be able to use his new management position to work with young people and help "keep them off the streets." Johnny credits his career counselor, "Thanks for believing in me when no one else did."*

### **College course opens way for entrepreneur**

*When Megan, a case manager at a transitional house for chemically dependent adults, lost her job through funding cuts, she reached out to the same program that had helped many of her former clients. The Hamilton County ACT Program helped her get on a budget, find a source of income and create a plan to complete a degree in social work. Specific services the program offered were budgeting classes, help with job search and college-level courses offered in the ACT building. A course on entrepreneurship inspired Megan to open her own business selling fashionable shoes in large, hard-to-find sizes. With the help of scholarship money, she found vendors willing to work with her and eventually raised enough money to find retail space and open a store. Her advice to others is to take advantage of the support available. "It was put there to help you if you ran into hard times. If you use it for its purpose, the rewards are great."*



## **Child Care**

To ensure that they can continue to work or participate in training programs, many parents need child care. Ohio's 88 ODJFS agencies determine eligibility for TANF child care assistance and help parents locate certified child care homes or licensed centers. In SFY 2005, as Table 3 shows, TANF expenditures for child care totaled \$206.4 million. A monthly average of nearly 85,000 children received TANF-funded child care services.

## **Transportation Assistance**

The TANF program also helps people overcome problems with transportation in order to retain their jobs. Many ODJFS agencies look for innovative ways to provide transportation assistance. Eligible households in Washington County, for example, receive fuel vouchers to help with transportation to and from work. Statewide in SFY 2005, TANF transportation programs expended \$7.5 million and assisted an average of more than 3,700 persons a month.

**Table 3.**  
**Employment and Advancement**

TANF Expenditure Categories	Participants (Avg. per month)	Expenditures (in millions)
Child Care	84,712	\$206.4
Training, Employment and Work Support	9,056	\$ 41.7
Transportation Assistance	3,712	\$ 7.5
Other Work-Related Services	n/a	\$ 0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,480</b>	<b>\$256.3</b>

Source: ODJFS, TANF WRT Report

## SUPPORT/PREVENTION

Unforeseen events such as job loss or a medical emergency can present significant challenges to vulnerable families moving toward self-sufficiency. This section describes support and prevention services accomplished by both non-TANF programs as well as TANF programs that are designed to strengthen and preserve families and help them overcome situations that might lead to crisis.

### Non-TANF Family Supports

- **Food Stamps**

Ohio Works First participants, as well as former participants with gross incomes at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level, are eligible for Food Stamps. The Food Stamp program is an essential support for families as they move up the career ladder from minimum-wage jobs. As the number of OWF cash assistance participants has declined, Food Stamp participation has increased. In June 2005, at the end of the fiscal year, 1,084,420 Ohioans received Food Stamps. The comparable number at the end of 1999 was 669,450. In SFY 2005 a typical family of three was eligible for a maximum monthly allotment of \$399 in Food Stamp benefits.

In 2004, Ohio ranked 15th among states in assuring that working families with children received Food Stamps. Ohio's participation average was 45.8 percent of potentially eligible families, compared to the national average of 37.4 percent.

- **Child Support**

As a condition of receiving OWF cash assistance, TANF requires OWF participants to cooperate with child support enforcement efforts. The TANF program provides services to encourage non-custodial parents to become better parents and help them find and retain employment.

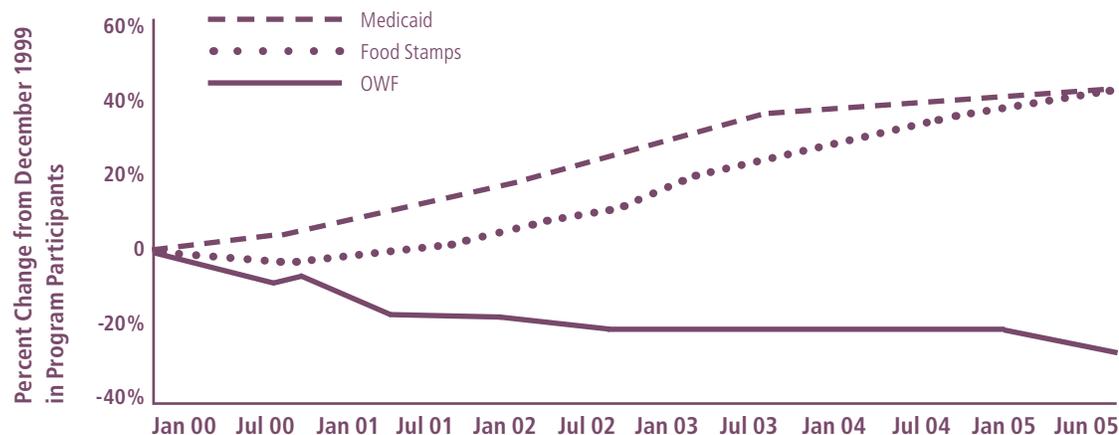
- **Medicaid**

The Medicaid program supports low-income Ohioans to ensure that they have access to quality medical care. Many low-income working Ohioans lack access to affordable health care coverage through their employers. Participants who leave OWF may have up to one year of Medicaid eligibility to help them transition off cash assistance. Some families also may continue eligibility for Medicaid through the Healthy Start and Healthy Families programs. Medicaid participation in Ohio increased from about 1.07 million in December 1999 to about 1.72 million in June 2005, with children accounting for the majority of the increase.

Ohio ranked 16th in the nation in 2004 in its effort to help families leaving OWF retain Medicaid benefits, with a rate of 81.4 percent. The national rate was 77.5 percent.

Figure 4 illustrates these trends in graph form, showing how participation rates changed by six-month increments from December 1999 through June 2005.

**Figure 4.**  
Percent Change in OWF, Medicaid  
and Food Stamp Program Participants



Source: ODJFS, Office of Research, Assessment and Accountability

Table 4 shows the change in OWF participation and the increases in Food Stamp and Medicaid participation between the months of December 1999 and June 2005.

**Table 4.**  
**OWF, Medicaid and**  
**Food Stamp Program Participants**

	December 1999	June 2005
OWF	259,828	181,128
Food Stamps	669,450	1,084,420
Medicaid	1,070,994	1,723,882

Source: ODJFS, Office of Research, Assessment, and Accountability

## TANF Services to Assist Families

The TANF program provides services designed to strengthen and sustain families and help them overcome unexpected obstacles to greater independence. This category includes the following programs/services, some operated by collaborating agencies:

- **Substance Abuse Treatment**

For families who struggle with addiction, the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) administers a treatment and counseling program. It provides prevention, treatment and mentoring services to families with dependent children and incomes less than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline. TANF provided \$5 million for the program in SFY 2005.

- **Domestic Violence**

Victims of abuse face a significant barrier to achieving self-sufficiency. Domestic violence programs provide emergency shelter and relocation and supportive services for those who have experienced domestic violence.

- **Family Preservation**

One of the goals of TANF is to “encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.” Family preservation services provide counseling, intervention, case management and parent education services for families experiencing crises so severe that children are at imminent

risk of removal from their homes. Services are aimed at ameliorating the underlying issues or problems. TANF also supports AdoptOHIO in its efforts to find permanent homes for foster children.

An average of nearly 6,200 participants per month received family preservation and support services during SFY 2005. AdoptOHIO services benefited nearly 1,000 children during the year. Expenditures for the two programs totaled nearly \$21 million in SFY 2005.

- **Child Care Services**

Child care services are a critical support to families as they transition to employment. Child care services are described in the “Employment and Advancement” section of this report. In addition to the \$206.4 million in TANF funds, Ohio invested an additional \$197.6 million through the Child Care Development Block Grant for a total child care investment of \$404 million.

- **Family Reunification**

Reunification services provide counseling and support to families with children in foster care when there is a good prospect for successful reunification with their primary families. Examples of services include supervised visitation, mental health and substance abuse counseling, home management instruction, stress management and training in parenting skills.

- **Kinship Care/Kinship Navigator**

These services provide information, referral and support for relatives acting as caregivers, legal guardians or court-ordered legal custodians responsible for the day-to-day care of minor children. Services may include identifying kinship caregivers, facilitating access to services and referrals for legal services, child care, support groups and parenting education classes. Participation averaged 1,800 individuals a month during SFY 2005.

- **Visitation/Mediation**

These services link trained monitors with individuals who require supervised visits with minor children. These programs also may provide mediation services to facilitate discussions between parties and help in settlement decisions.

***Countywide summit links variety of agencies***

Since 2004, the Pickaway County Department of Job and Family Services has held a Faith-Based and Community Group Summit every six months. The county's community service agencies, churches and other faith-based organizations meet to discuss the needs of families and how agencies can work together to solve problems. At a recent summit the initiatives were narrowed to four: mentoring, information and referral, volunteer services and family advocacy. The summit has opened the door for better collaboration and communication between the faith-based groups and community agencies.

Accomplishments include:

- Establishing a mentoring program for Head Start children with older students as mentors.
- Developing a data base of community volunteers.
- Fostering communication between churches and community agencies on services and programs.

## **TANF Services to Assist Children and Youth**

TANF supports additional programs designed to nurture and protect children and youth, and to help young people become responsible adults. Examples include:

- **Help Me Grow**

The Help Me Grow program, a collaborative effort with the Ohio Department of Health, promotes health, learning and child development for children up to 3 years of age. Counties receive a separate allocation to provide Help Me Grow services, including welcome-home visits to provide information on infant care to parents of newborns, Early Start services to promote child health and development, early intervention to identify developmental delays and community outreach to expand enrollment.

In SFY 2005, the TANF investment in the health and well-being of young children provided an average of almost 23,000 families a month with Help Me Grow services. Expenditures for the program totaled \$34.5 million in the fiscal year.

- **Head Start Plus**

The Head Start Plus program, administered by the Ohio Department of Education, focuses on early childhood education and development. The program provides eligible 3- to 5-year-olds with activities and opportunities designed to improve their cognitive abilities and prepare them for kindergarten and the rest of their lives. TANF funds allocated to Head Start Plus during SFY 2005 totaled \$45.7 million. Participation totaled 4,441 youngsters.

- **Before- and After-School Programs**

Youth education and support services are designed to help school-age children develop to their fullest potential and grow into healthy, educated, responsible and productive adults. These programs include before- and after-school activities as well as family and youth intervention services such as counseling, tutoring and self-esteem building.

- **Reducing Out-of-Wedlock Births/Teen Pregnancy**

One goal of TANF is to "Reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numeric goals for decreased incidence of these pregnancies." PRC-funded out-of-wedlock pregnancy prevention programs provide family planning, education and support services for TANF-eligible families. An average of more than 5,000 individuals per month received services in SFY 2005. TANF spending for these programs totaled about \$3.2 million.

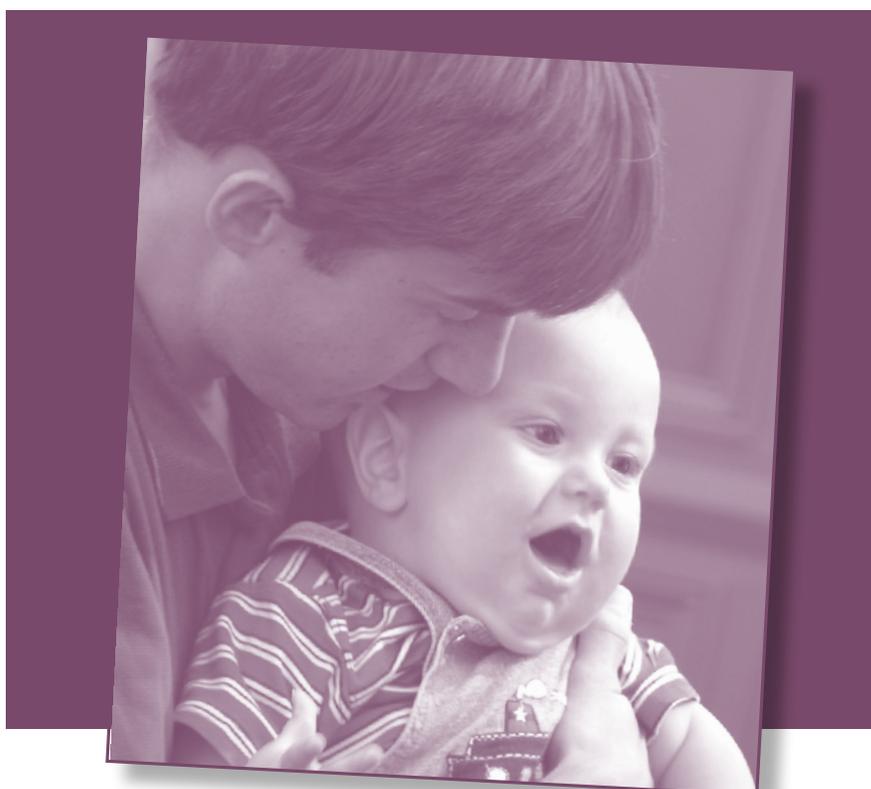
- **Youth Workforce Development**

The TANF program is required to participate with the Workforce Investment Act system to provide education and support services to help school-age youth develop to their fullest potential and grow into healthy, educated, responsible and productive adults. Programs include such services as career planning and job search techniques. The program served an average of 753 young people per month. Expenditures totaled \$2.1 million for the fiscal year.

Participation numbers and expenditures for these programs and services are as follows:

**Table 5.**  
**Support/Prevention**

TANF Expenditure Categories	Participants	Expenditures (in millions)
Substance Abuse Treatment and Mentoring (ODADAS)	8,263/yr. total	\$5.0
Domestic Violence	271/mo. avg.	0.6
Family Preservation/Support Services	6,189/mo. avg.	19.3
Family Reunification Services	389/mo. avg.	0.9
Family and Youth Intervention	5,502/mo. avg.	8.5
Kinship Care/Navigator Services	1,807/mo. avg.	1.1
Visitation/Mediation Services	253/mo. avg.	0.2
AdoptOHIO	999/yr. total	1.5
Youth Workforce Development	753/mo. avg.	2.1
Before- and After-School Programs	1,187/mo. avg.	2.0
Help Me Grow	22,518/mo. avg.	34.5
Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancy Prevention	5,040/mo. avg.	3.2
Head Start Plus	4,441/yr. total	45.7
Total	n/a	\$124.6



## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The TANF program emphasizes ongoing performance management and continuous improvement consistent with ODJFS goals and objectives. State and county Departments of Job and Family Services have identified specific measures and outcomes across program areas and operations within the TANF program. Tracking and reporting of performance assures accountability to both taxpayers and program participants, and contributes to program efficiency and effectiveness.

### Creating Value for Ohio Taxpayers

Continuous improvement in the programs serving Ohio's most vulnerable families benefits not only those participants but all Ohio citizens. Timely access to necessary services that effectively promote self-sufficiency results in more cost-effective expenditure of public funds and better results for participants.

The use of continuous improvement strategies has resulted in federal High-Performance Bonuses over the past three years. In the fall of 2005, Ohio received \$14.7 million as a bonus for workforce success achievements in federal fiscal year 2004.

### Workforce Success Achievements

Through the Office of Family Stability (OFS), County Departments of Job and Family Services receive program performance information, access to data related to performance measurement, and continuous improvement tools and strategies regarding the TANF and Food Stamp programs. Office of Family Stability staff provide direct assistance to help counties develop customized approaches to performance improvement on statewide measures. In turn, performance data collected on the measures guides operational and strategic decisions at both the local and State levels. Performance measures include job entry, earnings gains and job retention, retention in Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, OWF work participation, family Food Stamp benefits, child care and Learning, Earning, and Parenting (LEAP) program participation and timely application processing.

OFS staff provide assistance to county agencies by offering program technical assistance and training and a variety of workshops such as targeted marketing for more effective outreach to clients, problem solving and teen pregnancy prevention.

### Increasing Emphasis on Accountability in TANF

Performance standards, performance management and continuous improvement are all initiatives designed to enhance delivery of services and ultimately to improve the lives of Ohioans in need. ODJFS focuses on performance standards and program outcomes, producing public value while at the same time building organizational integrity. The effect on the TANF program is to make it more accountable to participants, agency staff and taxpayers. Measuring progress and continuously evaluating programs and services helps to focus efforts on meaningful outcomes for everyone.

### ***Innovative approach helps individuals with special needs***

When ODJFS issued the first round of TANF High-Performance Bonus dollars, the Miami County Department of Job and Family Services contracted with an Adult Basic Literacy Education provider for a learning disabilities screening. As a result of the screening, some individuals are placed in GED classes while some are referred to the local mental retardation and developmental disability agency. Some of the participants begin the process of applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). In some instances the screening reveals hearing or vision problems that can be readily remedied, allowing the individuals to work successfully.

The outcome is that people who have gone undiagnosed for years now can begin to overcome this barrier. Once clients are diagnosed, local agencies are able to lend appropriate help to move them towards self-sufficiency through employment or SSI.

# PRIORITIES FOR TANF SFY 2006

In SFY 2005, the TANF program provided Ohioans with services and supports needed to help families reach and maintain self-sufficiency and family stability. A number of changes to the TANF program also occurred during SFY 2005 through legislation and by Executive Order with implementation occurring in SFY 2006. Consequently, the following TANF priorities and initiatives will be pursued in SFY 2006:

## 1. Family Safety Net

*The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will continue to provide a critical safety net for vulnerable families who face unexpected obstacles to self-sufficiency – hardships such as unemployment, divorce, separation or other crisis. Specifically, this safety net will be strengthened through the following TANF-supported programs and strategies:*

### Improved Support Through the Ohio Works First Program

The Ohio Legislature established a 10 percent increase in individual grants beginning October 1, 2005. For a typical family of three, the maximum grant increased from \$373 to \$410 per month. The Legislature also changed the way that cash assistance eligibility is determined. OWF eligibility was previously based on a specific annual family income dollar amount. Beginning in FY 2006, the eligibility need standard is indexed to the annual federal poverty level and allows eligibility requirements to keep pace with inflation.

### Heating Assistance Project

To help Ohioans through the 2006 winter season, Governor Taft issued an Executive Order in 2005 that took effect in SFY 2006. The order:

- Authorized \$75 million in TANF funds to supplement the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), providing a 10 percent increase over the average benefits Ohioans received during the 2004-2005 heating season.
- Increased income eligibility from 151 percent to 175 percent of the poverty level, allowing the state to serve approximately 70,000 more households than the 330,000 served in 2004-2005 under HEAP.

- Instructed the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and the Ohio Departments of Development, Job and Family Services and Aging to conduct regional briefings to educate Ohioans on conservation and weatherization strategies.
- Initiated a public awareness campaign about the HEAP/TANF program that will be implemented through the Ohio Department of Development.

## Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort

As a response to Hurricane Katrina, Governor Taft issued an Executive Order to create the Hurricane Evacuee Assistance Program, which sets aside TANF funds to aid in evacuee disaster assistance. Families that include a minor child or a pregnant woman, and who come from a hurricane-affected area, may qualify for \$1,500 in disaster assistance funds.

## 2. Employment and Advancement

*Ohio will continue to expand efforts to increase opportunities for families to engage in, retain and advance gainful employment through the following initiatives:*

### Employment Retention Incentive

ODJFS will implement an \$8.6 million employment retention incentive program to provide incentives of up to \$1,000 to families who are working and remain employed after leaving the Ohio Works First program, during their first year of employment.

### Demonstrations

The General Assembly required that ODJFS establish a TANF demonstration program that will provide \$25 million for statewide demonstration projects (including \$15 million for a student intervention initiative) and \$10 million for county demonstration projects each year during the SFY 2006-2007 biennium. Projects, which will be required to meet all TANF program requirements, will test prevention and intervention strategies for high-risk, hard-to-serve populations with barriers to self-sufficiency.

### 3. Support/Prevention

*In SFY 2006 ODJFS will remain committed to supporting TANF programs and services designed to strengthen and preserve families and promote the protection of children through the following programs and initiatives:*

#### Kinship Permanency Incentive Program

County public children services agencies place nearly 6,000 children in relatives' homes each year. Effective January 1, 2006, Ohio will invest \$10 million annually in the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program to provide incentives to grandparents, relatives or other "kinship caregivers" to assume the legal and physical custody of minor children. Eligible families will receive a one-time payment of \$1,000 per child, and then \$500 every six months up to \$3,500 per child, to ensure stability in the home and promote permanency.

#### Access to Better Care (ABC) Initiative

Failing to provide children with adequate alcohol, drug or mental health services can result in larger problems and costs down the line. To support at-risk children, Ohio will continue to invest critical resources in the ABC initiative, which provides prevention and early intervention for youth at risk for developing behavioral and mental health disorders.

#### Ohio Strengthening Families Initiative

Administered by the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, \$12 million in TANF funds per year will be made available to fund faith-based and community-based organizations that are working to reduce Ohio's out-of-wedlock birth rate and promote healthy marriages. With long-term goals of improving child well-being and reducing childhood poverty, the initiative will focus on three populations: vulnerable youth, ex-offenders and their families during re-entry, and couples seeking a healthy marriage. The Legislature also allocated funds for demonstration programs and faith-based initiatives focused on improving family support services.

#### Youth Employment Programs

Youth employment programs and services are designed to provide opportunities for youth to build skills and experiences necessary for long-term self-sufficiency. TANF will continue to support youth employment programs funded in part through the Workforce Investment Act.

### 4. Continuous Improvement

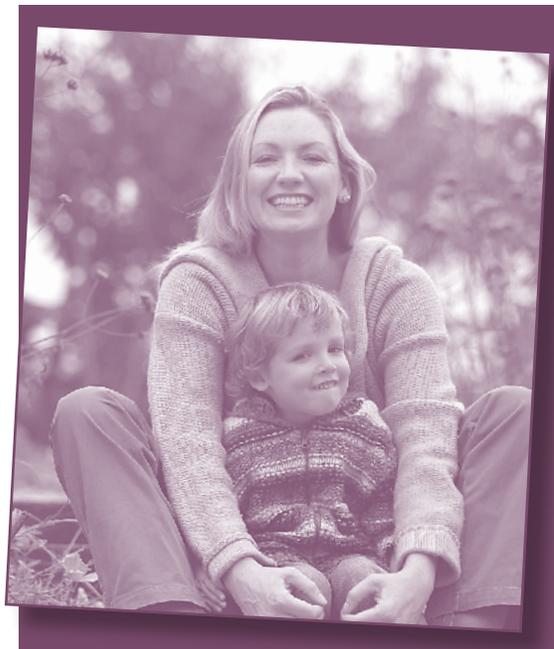
*ODJFS is engaged in an ongoing effort to increase access to TANF services while ensuring the quality of service delivery. County Departments of Job and Family Services share this commitment to high performance.*

#### Program Standards and Continuous Improvement

Statewide performance standards are in place to guide the design and delivery of programs and the effectiveness of TANF program service delivery. With the participation of the County Job and Family Services agencies, Ohio will move forward to meet these standards and achieve the established, higher-level program goals. ODJFS will continue to work with each CDJFS in the new fiscal year to maintain and enhance accountability and to improve the quality of TANF programs and service delivery.

#### Creating Public Value

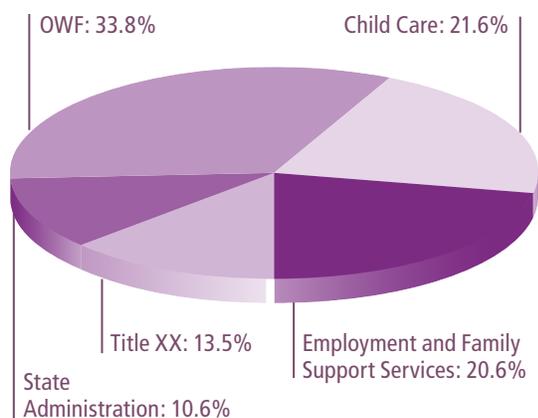
ODJFS will continue to provide vulnerable Ohioans with access to TANF program information and will assist county agencies in delivering services that promote self-sufficiency and family stability. The shared goal is to ensure that all families in need receive appropriate assistance and that the responsible investment of public dollars returns a brighter tomorrow for Ohio citizens.



# TANF EXPENDITURES

During SFY 2005, TANF appropriations were expended on TANF services through five expenditure categories: OWF, Child Care, Employment and Family Support Services, Title XX Transfer and State Administration. Expenditures are those reported by ODJFS in the ACF 196 report, the official financial report for the TANF program, which is filed with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Figure 5.**  
SFY 05 Ohio TANF Expenditures



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF 196 Report

**Table 6.**  
SFY 05 Ohio TANF Expenditures

Expenditure Category	Expenditures (in millions)	Percent
OWF	\$323.3	33.8
Child Care	206.4	21.6
Employment and Family Support Services	196.5	20.6
Title XX	128.6	13.5
State Administration	100.9	10.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$955.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF 196 Report

**Table 7.**  
TANF Employment and Family Support Services Expenditures

Expenditure Category	Expenditures (in millions)	Percent
Head Start Plus	\$45.7	23.3
Training, Employment and Work Support	41.7	21.2
Help Me Grow	34.5	17.6
Clothing and Shelter	19.9	10.1
Family Preservation/Support Services	19.3	9.8
Family and Youth Intervention	8.5	4.3
Transportation Assistance	7.5	3.8
Substance Abuse Treatment and Mentoring	5.0	2.5
Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancy Prevention	3.2	1.6
Youth Workforce Development	2.1	1.1
Disaster Assistance	2.1	1.1
Before- and After-School Programs	2.0	1.0
AdoptOHIO	1.5	0.8
Kinship Care/Navigator Services	1.1	0.6
Family Reunification Services	0.9	0.5
Other Work-Related Services	0.7	0.4
Domestic Violence	0.6	0.3
Visitation/Mediation Services	0.2	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$196.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: ODJFS, TANF WRT Report

Prepared by  
The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
Office of Family Stability  
in cooperation with the Institute for Local Government Administration and Rural Development at  
Ohio University's Voinovich Center for Leadership and Public Affairs

Find this report online at [www.jfs.ohio.gov/0001infocenter.stm#reports/](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/0001infocenter.stm#reports/)