

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 24, 2009**

**Contact: Brian Harter**  
**Phone: (614) 466-6650**  
**E-mail: [Brian.Harter@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Brian.Harter@jfs.ohio.gov)**

### **Ohio Receives Stimulus Funds for Child Support Program**

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Douglas Lumpkin announced today that Ohio has received \$1.3 million in federal stimulus funds to provide child support services to Ohio's families.

"The \$1.3 million award was based on federal incentives spent and reported by 23 Ohio Child Support Enforcement Agencies during the first quarter of federal fiscal year 2009," Director Lumpkin said. "This money will be distributed to these county agencies as a federal match for the incentives spent to support the child support programs in their areas."

Under a provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the federal government is temporarily allowing state child support programs to use their federal incentive dollars as a match to draw down additional federal reimbursement funds. The federal Office of Child Support Enforcement awards incentive money to states based on established criteria in five performance areas: paternity establishment, support-order establishment, collections on current support due, collections on cases with arrears (unpaid support) and cost-effectiveness. The better Ohio performs on these measures, the more funds Ohio has to provide child support services for children and families.

Even with Ohio's economy experiencing difficult times, in FFY 2008 the state's child support program improved its performance in four of five categories, as compared to the prior year:

- 97.6 percent of cases had paternities established for them.
- 75.6 percent of open IV-D cases had support orders established for them.
- 68.2 percent of IV-D cases with an arrearage due received at least one payment from the obligor.
- The state's cost effectiveness rate was \$6.78, which means for every dollar spent, Ohio collected \$6.78 in support.

For more information about how the Recovery Act will benefit state child support programs, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/cse/incentivesimpact.html>. For more information about Ohio's Child Support Program, go to [http://jfs.ohio.gov/families/child\\_support/index.stm](http://jfs.ohio.gov/families/child_support/index.stm).