

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES BEGINS
DISBURSEMENT OF EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
BENEFITS**

Over 40,000 Eligible Ohioan's Issued Benefits on First Day of Disbursement

COLUMBUS – Yesterday the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) began disbursement of seven weeks of extended unemployment compensation benefit payments to eligible Ohioan's. According to ODJFS research, Ohio was second among high unemployment states to initiate extended benefit payments to eligible individuals. Over 40,000 recipients were issued benefits on the record setting first day. These benefits are in addition to the 13-week extension issued in July, 2008.

“It was our commitment that all individuals eligible for extended benefits receive those payments as quickly as possible,” said Jan Allen, Interim Director of ODJFS. “Our performance on Day One shows we are working extremely hard to ensure these benefits get to those facing difficulties during this extreme economic climate. We will continue to work diligently until all those who are eligible for extended benefits receive them.”

ODJFS distributed a one-day amount of regular unemployment compensation claims totaling \$23,865,671.06, along with an additional \$19,579,534.81 in extended benefits. This adds up to a sum of \$43,445,205.87 in benefits. The extended benefits disbursement is well above the prior first-day issuance average of \$4 million. Between the 23 million regular unemployment compensation claims and more than 19 million received for extended benefits, ODJFS' Office of Workforce Development set all-time records in one-day claims and payments to Ohioans.

During November, ODJFS received close to 400,000 calls to its Unemployment Compensation and Extended Benefits Call Centers. This is almost four times the call volume seen in November of 2007 when 100,000 calls were received. Anticipating greater demand, ODJFS implemented a call system which proactively contacted approximately 70,000 individuals using an auto-dialer system. The first wave reached 40,000 Ohioans and explained the extended benefits process. This initial call gave eligible recipients contact information to a special customer service center which was staffed with live operators charged with gathering their benefit information for processing. This information was then entered into a computer system which begin making payments to eligible Ohioans yesterday.

The Federal government amended existing legislation on November 21, 2008 which will provide up to 20 weeks of additional federal unemployment compensation benefits to eligible Ohioans. Amended federal legislation requires states to update their computer systems to ensure the computations in the software comply with the amended law. The first extension of benefits in July,

2008 required over one month of software updating and testing. This extension was expedited with the coordinated effort of several state agencies and completed within 28 days.

For an more information on who is eligible go to:

http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocomm_root/Ext%20Benefits%20FAQ%202008REV.pdf