

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATE PROVIDES DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES, ELDERLY
AND DISABLED IN HOCKING AND SCIOTO COUNTIES**

Governor Ted Strickland has declared a state of emergency for Scioto and Hocking counties due to the severe snow storms that swept through southern Ohio January 27 and 28. Residents of these counties adversely affected by the storms may be eligible for state assistance through the Winter Storm 2009 program.

“Based upon the level of damage caused by the winter storms of late January, the state is offering resources to support local response and recovery efforts in Scioto and Hocking counties,” Strickland said. “These resources will help alleviate the burdens placed on many residents who have encountered economic hardship due to the severe snow and ice.”

As a result of the governor's emergency proclamation, disaster assistance is available for residents of the declared counties through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Individuals and families may apply for this assistance at their county department of job and family services office through February 27, 2009. A list of county agency addresses and telephone numbers may be found online at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/County/cntydir.stm>.

In order to be eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) disaster assistance, households must include a child or pregnant woman and have evidence of economic need as established by their county department of job and family services. Elderly and disabled individuals not eligible for TANF assistance may be eligible for non-TANF disaster assistance. To be eligible for this type of assistance, a person must be at least 55 years old and childless or the recipient of certain disability benefits. They must also be impacted by the severe weather and provide evidence of economic need established by their county department of job and family services.