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New Time and Attendance System Launched for Publicly Funded Child Care

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has launched a new Time, Attendance and Payment (TAP) system for publicly funded child care services, which is expected to improve payment accuracy, reduce fraud and ensure accountability for those using the program. The TAP system tracks attendance and calculates appropriate payments to providers. When parents and other approved caregivers drop off or pick up their children, they now have three options, all of which require just a few clicks and a confidential PIN code. They can:

- Use an electronic tablet provided to the program,
- Use a free app downloaded to their own smart phone, or
- Use the program's phone and dial into an interactive voice response system.

“All the TAP tools are easy to use and have built-in data authentication that will help safeguard taxpayer dollars by ensuring that providers are reimbursed only for the time they spend caring for children,” said ODJFS Director Cynthia C. Dungey. “Parents and caregivers no longer have to worry about misplacing swipe cards, as the app is available on any internet-connected mobile device. Now, they can TAP, not swipe.”

All providers participating in the publicly funded child care program have been sent a free tablet with detailed instructions and access to videos, webinars and other materials. Providers can use the system to track the time and attendance of all children in their care, including children not participating in the publicly funded child care program.

ODJFS offers financial assistance to eligible parents to help them with child care costs while they engage in work, education or job training. To become eligible, a family's income must be below 130 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). After that, families may remain eligible unless their income becomes greater than 300 percent of the FPL. Families can be eligible for all or part of their monthly child care expenses, as they work to increase their incomes and achieve self-sufficiency.

To research their child care options, families in Ohio can visit childcaresearch.ohio.gov. Programs can be searched by county, city, zip code, program type and/or Step Up To Quality rating. Step Up To Quality is Ohio's quality rating system for child care programs. Highly rated programs require continuing education for teachers and staff, use child assessments to guide learning and development, and take additional steps to help prepare children for kindergarten.

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The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.



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