

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 5, 2019

**Bret Crow, Bret.Crow@jfs.ohio.gov or
(614) 466-6650**

Disaster Unemployment Assistance Now Available to Mahoning County Residents

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Mahoning County has been added to the list of counties in which residents may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance if they lost their jobs because of the severe storms, straight-line winds, flooding and landslides that damaged several counties on May 27 and 28.

Individuals who became unemployed as a direct result of the storms but who are ineligible for regular unemployment benefits may qualify. This includes self-employed workers, farmers and anyone who was prevented from starting employment or self-employment because of the storms in Auglaize, Darke, Greene, Hocking, Mercer, Miami, Mahoning, Montgomery, Muskingum, Perry and Pickaway counties. Mahoning County residents must apply by Aug. 5. Residents of the other affected counties must apply by July 22.

To be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-4447-DR, individuals:

- Must be an unemployed or self-unemployed worker whose unemployment was caused as a direct result of the major disaster declared by the President;
- Must be a U.S. national or a qualified alien; **and**
- Must not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits from any state; **and**
- Must have worked or were self-employed in, or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in, one of the counties listed above; **and**
- Must establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income.

Also eligible to apply are individuals who:

- Can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of a disaster; **or**
- cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster; **or**
- became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of the household; **or**,
- cannot work or perform self-employment due to closure of a facility by the federal government.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and administered by ODJFS with guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor. Benefits may be available for up to 29 weeks, beginning the first full week after the storms. Anyone interested in applying should call 1-877-644-6562 toll-free.

-30-

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.

