

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Morgan County Fiscal Issue Resolved

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association (OJFSDA) today announced that an agreement has been reached with the Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS) for the county to meet its financial obligations to the state by the end of the state fiscal year in June. As a result, the state will be releasing its hold on Morgan County's financial draws, so that the agency can continue to provide uninterrupted service to the families and children who count on it for help.

"We are extremely pleased with the progress we have made today," said ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin, after a meeting of the Morgan County commissioners, the Morgan CDJFS director, the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio, and OJFSDA and ODJFS staff. "This was the best possible outcome not only for the state and the county, but for the citizens of Morgan County."

Added OJFSDA Executive Director Joel Potts: "This agreement was a true collaboration. It was a fair and reasonable outcome for everyone involved, especially for Morgan County families."

The ODJFS Office of Fiscal and Monitoring Services has been performing financial analyses of all county agencies. As part of this, it was discovered that the Morgan CDJFS had underreported approximately \$200,000 in expenditures. Therefore, on May 13 a communication was sent to the agency informing it that its draw requests would be placed on temporary hold until current expenditures were reported to bring the agency into compliance with cash management requirements.

At the conclusion of the May 14 meeting, Morgan County officials agreed to acknowledge in writing their commitment to bring expenditures in line with draws by June 30. In turn, ODJFS agreed to release the hold on its financial draws upon receipt of that acknowledgment.

ODJFS will continue to work with Morgan County and all other counties in similar situations to provide meaningful technical assistance, to resolve any financial issues, and to ensure this situation doesn't happen again. The agency will continue to work with its local partners to provide much-needed services to Ohio's families.