

Bob Taft
Governor



Barbara Riley
Director

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OFFICE OF FAMILY STABILITY LETTER #53

July 20, 2006

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Jeanne Carroll, Deputy Director
Office of Family Stability

SUBJECT: SUMMER STORM II (July 10, 2006)

The purpose of this letter is to describe the funding available for families and certain individuals affected by the severe storms, high winds and heavy rainfall which impacted the state on July 10, 2006. Due to these weather conditions, the Governor has declared a state of emergency for Ashland County. This county is being granted additional funding for the Summer Storm II (July 10, 2006) program. Other counties may be added at a later date, if or when declared by the Governor to be in a state of emergency.

TANF-PRC Funds for families

Disaster-related PRC assistance procedures are discussed in the Disaster Plan Resource Guide that was distributed in January 2004 (see pages 5-6). The Guide can be accessed at <http://innerweb/Ofam/pdf/DisasterPlan.pdf>. It may be necessary to amend/revise the PRC plan to access these additional funds if the current plan does not reflect the inclusion of disaster assistance procedures. In order to qualify for PRC services, there are certain conditions that must be met, including evidence of economic need. It is recommended that counties adopt 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). There may be instances where a standard of need that exceeds 200% of the FPL might be appropriate, but such a determination should be accompanied by a logical explanation or justification explaining why the selected standard of need is appropriate and reasonable in those circumstances.

In addition to the requirements discussed in the Disaster Plan Resource Guide, it is necessary to monitor the usage of TANF funds. Ashland County will initially receive \$200,000 with an approved PRC plan. Requests for amounts above \$200,000 must be approved by the Office of Family Stability.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Payments for families under the Summer Storm II (July 10, 2006) program should be entered into CRIS-E as hard services.

Non - TANF funds for elderly and disabled individuals

A one-time cash payment of up to \$750 may be provided to elderly and disabled individuals without a minor child who have been adversely affected by the emergency condition. Only one payment may be made per dwelling. If a disaster-related PRC payment has been made on behalf of a resident of the same dwelling, there is no eligibility for non-TANF assistance under the Summer Storm II (July 10, 2006) program.

As described on page 7 of the Disaster Plan Resource Guide, in order to qualify for a payment under the Summer Storm II (July 10, 2006) program, the following conditions must be met:

- (1) The individual must be age 55 or over and without minor child(ren), or;
- (2) The individual must be without minor child(ren) and in receipt of disability benefit payments such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability, VA Disability, PERS Disability, Railroad Retirement Disability, Black Lung Benefits, etc., and;
- (3) The individual must be a resident of one of the designated counties, and;
- (4) The individual must have been adversely affected by the emergency condition, and;
- (5) The individual must be in need as defined by the county. For purposes of this provision, need is determined by comparing the household's total available income to the need standard/poverty level set by the county. It is recommended that counties adopt 200% of the federal poverty level as the need standard/poverty level. There may be instances where a standard of need that exceeds 200% of the FPL might be appropriate, but such a determination should be accompanied by a logical explanation or justification explaining why the selected standard of need is appropriate and reasonable in those circumstances.

Payments for disabled and elderly individuals, under the Summer Storm II (July 10, 2006) program should not be entered into CRIS-E or the PRC-WRT tracking system but will be tracked weekly as addressed later in this letter.

The Summer Storm II (July 10, 2006) program benefits for elderly and disabled individuals are not subject to state hearing regulations; however, the CDJFS will need to provide written notification on application decisions as well as notification to applicants of the right to a county

conference. Sample approval and denial notices are attached and may be reproduced on county letterhead.

For non-TANF funds, Ashland County will be authorized up to \$25,000. No additional funding above this amount will be available for this specific disaster episode.

In order to receive funds, Ashland County must submit a plan outlining the following criteria:

- (1) Categories or types of assistance that will be provided;
- (2) The county's application process; and
- (3) The county's need standard/poverty level.

A sample plan is found in the Appendix section of the Disaster Plan Resource Guide.

The plan should be submitted to:

Karen Ernes, Chief
Cash Assistance Policy Section
Fax number: 614/466-1767
Phone number: 614/644-1122
E-mail: ernes@odjfs.state.oh.us

General Requirements

Duration: The program will begin July 19, 2006 and run through close of business on August 18, 2006 contingent upon funding.

Reporting and Tracking: In order to monitor expenditures, we are requiring that Ashland County track the number of individuals and families served under the Summer Storm II (July 10, 2006) program and e-mail the numbers to Karen Ernes at ernes@odjfs.state.oh.us by noon each Monday until the program ends. Each weekly report should include the number of individuals who were approved for non-TANF funds and the number of families who were approved for TANF-PRC funds during the prior week. There is no required tracking form to complete; counties just need to e-mail the number of applications approved for the prior week.

Funding and fiscal coding: Ashland County must also submit a revised Cash Forecast diskette to the County Finance Section estimating these additional expenditures in order to receive a supplemental draw to the PA-Fund (APM 7353). The CDJFS must use the codes contained in the table below to report expenditures. These codes may only be used during a Governor-declared state of emergency.

| Financial Reporting Form | Program Code | Title | Definition |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| JFS 02827 | 159-50 | ADA- Adult Disaster Assistance | Funds distributed as part of the time-limited ADA emergency disaster relief effort. |
| JFS 02827 | 158 | TANF - Disaster Related Emergency Assistance | Funds distributed as part of the time-limited disaster relief effort. |

Attachments

JC: ks

c: Barbara Riley, Director Family Stability Staff
 Fred Williams, Assistant Director Larry Long, CCAO
 Neva Terry, Assistant Director Loretta Adams, OJFSDA
 Bruce Madson, Assistant Director Kim Newsome, OCDA
 ODJFS Deputy Directors Crystal Allen, PCSAO

NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF YOUR APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Name | Mailing Date |
| Street Address | |
| City, State, and Zip Code | |

This notice is to tell you that your application for Summer Storm II (July 10, 2006) assistance dated _____, has been approved in the amount of \$ _____.

Additional information:

If you do not understand this notice or you want to talk to your caseworker about it, you may call:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Caseworker | Area | Telephone Number |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|

If you do not agree with this action, you can ask for a county conference within 15 days of the mailing date of this notice. If you want a county conference contact:

NOTICE OF DENIAL OF YOUR APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Name | Mailing Date |
| Street Address | |
| City, State, and Zip Code | |

This notice is to tell you that your application for Summer Storm II (July 10, 2006) assistance dated _____, has been denied because:

If you do not understand this action or you want to talk to your caseworker about it, you may call:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Caseworker | Area | Telephone Number |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|

If you do not agree with this action, you can ask for a county conference within 15 days of the mailing date of this notice. If you want a county conference contact: