



Department of  
Job and Family Services

Ted Strickland, Governor  
Douglas E. Lumpkin, Director

**OFFICE OF FAMILY STABILITY LETTER #82**  
February 3, 2009

**TO:** Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

**FROM:** Paul Fraunholtz, Deputy Director  
Office of Family Stability

**SUBJECT: WINTER STORM 2009 PROGRAM**

The purpose of this letter is to describe the funding available for families and certain elderly and disabled individuals affected by the severe winter storms, comprised of snow, sleet and freezing rain which impacted the state on January 27-28, 2009. Due to these weather conditions, the Governor has declared a state of emergency for Hocking and Scioto Counties. These counties are being granted funding for the Winter Storm 2009 program. Other counties may be added at a later date, if and 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.odjfs.state.oh.us/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. Hocking and Scioto counties will initially receive \$55,000 with an approved PRC plan. Requests for amounts above \$55,000 must be approved by the Office of Family Stability.

30 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[jfs.ohio.gov](http://jfs.ohio.gov)

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Payments for families under the Winter Storm 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 Winter Storm 2009 program.

As described on page 7 of the Disaster Plan Resource Guide, in order to qualify for a payment under the Winter Storm 2009 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 Winter Storm 2009 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 Winter Storm 2009 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, Hocking and Scioto county will be authorized up to \$11,000. No additional funding above this amount will be available for this specific disaster episode.

In order to receive funds, Hocking and Scioto 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: [karen.ernes@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:karen.ernes@jfs.ohio.gov)

### **General Requirements**

**Duration:** The program will begin February 3, 2009 and run through close of business on February 28, 2009 contingent upon funding.

**Reporting and Tracking:** In order to monitor expenditures, we are requiring that Hocking and Scioto counties track the number of individuals and families served under the Winter Storm 2009 program and e-mail the numbers to Karen Ernes at [karen.ernes@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:karen.ernes@jfs.ohio.gov) 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; the CDJFS just needs to e-mail the number of applications approved for the prior week.

**Funding and fiscal coding:** Hocking and Scioto counties need to request the funds on their weekly draw. 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.

<b>Financial Reporting Form</b>	<b>Program Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Definition</b>
JFS 02827	159-515003	ADA- Adult Disaster Assistance	Funds distributed as part of the time-limited ADA emergency disaster relief effort.
JFS 02827	158-515003	TANF - Disaster Related Emergency Assistance	Funds distributed as part of the time-limited disaster relief effort.

Attachments

c: Douglas Lumpkin, Director  
Mary Ann Drewry, Assistant Director  
Sherry Keys-Hebron, Assistant Director  
ODJFS Deputy Directors  
Family Stability Staff

Joel Potts, OJFSDA  
Larry Long, CCAO  
Kim Newsome, OCDA  
Crystal Allen, PCSAO  
Tammy Brown, Chief, Bureau of County Finance

**NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF YOUR APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Mailing Date</b>
<b>Street Address</b>	
<b>City, State, and Zip Code</b>	

This notice is to tell you that your application for Winter Storm 2009 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:

<b>Caseworker</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>
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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**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Mailing Date</b>
<b>Street Address</b>	
<b>City, State, and Zip Code</b>	

**This notice is to tell you that your application for Winter Storm 2009 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:**

<b>Caseworker</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>
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**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:**