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OFFICE OF FAMILY STABILITY LETTER #21A
September 22, 2004

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Jeanne Carroll, Deputy Director
Office of Family Stability

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF OFS LETTERS #20 AND #21 ADDRESSING THE RECENT FLOODING

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification regarding a number of issues that have arisen as a result of the unprecedented nature of the recent devastating back to back disasters that occurred this month.

TANF and non-TANF funds

From the time period of September 9-19, 2004, fifteen counties were declared to be in a state of emergency due to flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Frances. As a result of this state declaration, OFS Letters #20, 20A and 20B were written and distributed authorizing \$200,000 TANF and \$25,000 non-TANF to each of the following counties: Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Stark, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Washington.

On September 19, 2004, these same fifteen counties were again declared to be in a state of emergency as a result of the remnants of Hurricane Ivan that hit these counties the previous week. These fifteen counties were each authorized a **second** TANF allocation of \$200,000 and a **second** non-TANF allocation of \$25,000. These fifteen counties have received a total of \$400,000 in TANF funds and \$50,000 in non-TANF funds to assist families and individuals who were affected by the flooding.

Also on September 19, 2004, three additional counties, Athens, Meigs and Vinton were declared to be in a state of emergency as a result of the effects of Hurricane Ivan. Each of these counties received \$200,000 TANF funds and \$25,000 non-TANF funds to assist in this disaster.

Providing assistance to families or individuals affected by both floods

If a family or individual has been affected by both floods, it is a local decision that each county will need to make regarding whether to provide assistance for one or both of the flooding incidents. If the funds are stretched because of the limited amount of funds, you may want to consider providing one payment for the household no matter which flood hit them. On the other hand, if your county has enough funding to cover the same household twice (because they got hit by one flood and then another), that would be a decision you would need to make. The PRC and Adult Disaster Assistance plans must reflect how you are handling these situations.

Charging costs to September Flood 2004 or Hurricane Ivan Flood

In many circumstances, it will be too difficult to distinguish between which flood caused the damage that affected the family or individual. As long as you document the flood damage, the funds can be used from either pot of money as appropriate, i.e TANF or non-TANF.

Non-TANF funds

There are no more non-TANF (GRF) funds for the elderly or disabled population. Any amount authorized over the \$25,000 for Athens, Meigs and Vinton or the \$50,000 for Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Stark, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Washington would need to come out of county funds.

Duration of the September Flood 2004 and Hurricane Ivan Flood Programs

Both of the flood programs will run until the close of business on Friday October 15, 2004, contingent upon funding. This is a change from the ending date that was indicated in OFS letters #20, 20A and 20B. The alignment of the program ending date was done for ease of county administration in accepting and processing applications for assistance to families and individuals affected by the floods. When reporting weekly on the amount of elderly or disabled who have been approved for assistance, you do not need to report them separately.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact Karen Ernes at ernes@odjfs.state.oh.us or (614) 466-6024.

JC: ke

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