

OFFICE OF FAMILY STABILITY LETTER #3

November 15, 2002

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Jeanne Carroll, Deputy Director
Office of Family Stability

SUBJECT: TORNADO RELIEF 2002

Due to the recent tornado devastation, five counties in Ohio are granted additional funding for the Tornado Relief 2002 program. The individuals who may be eligible for assistance under the Tornado Relief 2002 program will be explained below. The counties affected by this letter are Van Wert, Ottawa, Seneca, Putnam, and Paulding. Other counties may be added if declared by the Governor to be in a state of emergency.

This funding is in addition to the TANF funds available for disaster-related PRC assistance for families in those counties in which the Governor declared a state of emergency. Disaster-related PRC assistance is discussed in OWF/PRC Guidance Letter #17.

Non-TANF funds are available to provide a one-time cash payment of up to \$750 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 pursuant to OWF/PRC Guidance Letter #17 has been made on behalf of a resident of the same dwelling, there is no eligibility for assistance under the Tornado Relief 2002 program. The Tornado Relief 2002 program will begin Friday, November 15, 2002 and runs through close of business on Monday December 16, 2002 contingent upon funding.

In order to qualify for a payment under the Tornado Relief 2002 program, the following conditions must be met:

- (1) The individual must be age 55 or over and childless, or;
- (2) The individual must be childless 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.

Payments under the Tornado Relief 2002 program should not be entered into CRIS-E or the PRC -WRT tracking system.

Notice and county conference procedures: Tornado Relief 2002 program benefits 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.

In order to receive funds, each affected county must submit a plan outlining the following criteria:

- Categories or types of assistance that will be provided,
- The county's application process,
- The county's need standard/poverty level

The plan should be submitted to:

Office of Family Stability
 Jeanne Carroll, Deputy Director
 Fax number: 614/752-7193
 Phone number: 614/466-4815

The affected counties must also submit a revised Cash Forecast diskette to the County Finance Section estimating these additional expenditures in order to receive a supplement to the PA-Fund Advance (APM 7353). The CDJFS must use the code contained in the table below to report expenditures. This code may only be used during a Governor-declared state of emergency. Each county will initially receive \$50,000. Amounts above \$50,000 must be approved by the Office of Family Stability.

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.

Attachments
 JC: jf

d: Tom Hayes Bob Blair CCAO
 China Widener Deputy Directors OFS Staff
 Melissa DeLisio OJFSDA