

Bob Taft
Governor



Barbara Riley
Director

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OFFICE OF FAMILY STABILITY LETTER No. 33A
September 23, 2005

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services
Directors, Public Children Services Agencies

FROM: Jeanne Carroll, Deputy Director
Office of Family Stability

SUBJECT: Notification of Intent to Utilize Access to Better Care (ABC) Funds

This letter establishes a specific mechanism to release funds to support the Access to Better Care (ABC) initiative. This letter also provides additional follow-up to Letter #33-Access to Better Care, issued by Office of Family Stability on July 28, 2005 and the letter issued by Office of Fiscal Services- **Initial Access to Better Care (ABC) Non-Behavioral Case Management Allocation** issued on August 31, 2005. As part of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' commitment to the ABC effort, \$5,600.00 in TANF funds has been issued to each local county department of job and family services (CDJFS) to serve families with vulnerable multi-need children who do not have substance abuse or mental health conditions.

The allocation can be made once the services to be supported are defined in the county's Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) plan. The services must meet all the criteria of TANF "non-assistance" services, and satisfy all the eligibility requirements of PRC. For many county departments, this will require an amendment to current PRC plans.

In order for ABC funds to be released, the local CDJFS must notify ODJFS of their intent to utilize their ABC allocation. Counties should specify if an amendment to their current PRC plan is necessary, or cite existing language in their current PRC plan that supports ABC services. Please communicate your intent to utilize ABC funds to Krista Kinchen in the TANF Interagency section using one of the following methods:

1. E-mail at Kinchk@odjfs.state.oh.us.
2. Phone at 614-728-5753
3. Fax to 614-728-0761.

Upon successful review of your amended or current PRC plan, funds will be released and available through the normal draw process.

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For further information on the ABC initiative, please contact Sue Williams (Office of Children and Families) at 614.752.6275 or willis07@odjfs.state.oh.us. For specific questions about the TANF funds for the non-behavioral health initiative, please contact Joel Rabb (Office of Family Stability) at 614.466.4815 or rabbj@odjfs.state.oh.us.

Thank you.

cc:	Barbara Riley, Director	Office of Family Stability
	Fred Williams, Assistant Director	Loretta Adams, OJFSDA
	Bruce Madson, Assistant Director	Crystal Allen, PCSAO
	China Widener, Chief of Staff	Kim Newsome, OCDA
	ODJFS Deputy Directors	Larry Long, CCAO
	Susan Williams, Office for Children & Families	Cara Pasqualone, Office for Children & Families