
Date: May 5, 2014
Sequence: 2014 – 14
Topic: Costs Associated with County Lay-off of Staff for SFY15

In April 2011, ODJFS established an automated process by which county agencies could submit requests for approval to claim federal financial participation (FFP) for mass/abnormal severance pay costs associated with a lay-off. ODJFS submitted requests to our cognizant agency, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to obtain approval for the claims. These claims have been requested each state fiscal year (SFY) since SFY12.

BCFTA will again provide county agencies with an opportunity to submit estimates of costs associated with possible lay-offs for SFY 15 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015). County agencies that foresee the possibility of a reduction in their workforce and are interested in claiming FFP for the costs associated with those layoffs (to include payout of unused leave and estimated costs of unemployment benefits) should submit this information through the process described below.

ODJFS will compile these estimates and on the county's behalf will submit a request to DHHS for approval to claim FFP for these abnormal severance costs.

Please remember that the costs associated with a lay-off are different than costs associated with an early retirement incentive plan (ERIP) where staff receive an incentive to leave government service early. Requests for approval to claim costs associated with incentive plans must follow the requirements stated in Fiscal Administrative Procedure Letter (FAPL) No 34 Abnormal or Mass Severance Pay.

The submittal of this estimate does not represent a commitment on the part of the county agency; the estimate only provides an effective means to request approval to claim costs associated with a lay-off should the county find itself in those circumstances. If your county submitted a request to claim for SFY14 and did not actually incur those costs, but plans to lay-off staff in SFY15, please provide that information on the survey so that we may inform DHHS that this is a duplicate request.

The information will be gathered via Survey Monkey and the site will be available May 7, 2014, through COB June 13th. County agencies may access the "County Agency Lay-off Survey 2015" through the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3T9QNJH>

Please contact Rick Johnson, Fiscal Analyst, at Richard.johnson@jfs.ohio.gov if you have any questions regarding this update or retirement incentive plans.