

John R. Kasich, Governor
Cynthia C. Dungey, Director**BCFTA Update**

Date: June 12, 2017

Sequence: BCFTA Update 2017 - 03

Topic: Cost Associated with County Lay-off of staff for SFY18

Over the last several years ODJFS has utilized an automated process by which county agencies can 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.

BCFTA will again provide county agencies with an opportunity to submit estimates of costs associated with possible lay-offs for SFY 18 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018). 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.

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 these circumstances. If your county submitted a request to claim FFP for SFY17 and did not actually incur those costs, but plan to lay-off staff in SFY18, please indicate 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 beginning June 12th, 2017 through COB June 26th. County agencies may access the "County Agency Lay-off Survey 2018" through the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5QHS5M6>

Please remember that the costs associated with a lay-off are different than costs associated with an early retirement incentive plan (ERIP) where staff is offered an incentive to leave government service early. Request for approval to claim costs associated with incentive plans requires a review and a recommendation by ODJFS.

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