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January 12, 2022

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## **ODJFS Issuing 1099-G Tax Forms to Unemployment Claimants**

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder today announced the annual process of issuing 1099-G tax forms to individuals who received unemployment benefits the previous year has begun. Damschroder noted that due to the widespread identity theft experienced by unemployment programs across the country, ODJFS has taken additional steps to ensure 1099s go only to legitimate claimants.

“Identity theft has been a widespread national challenge for state unemployment programs since the start of the pandemic,” Damschroder said. “For many individuals in 2020, a 1099 was their first indication that their personal information was used to file a fraudulent unemployment claim. To help ensure we do not generate a 1099 for victims of identity theft, we contacted everyone slated to receive a 1099 and asked them to report potential identity theft through our recently enhanced fraud-reporting portal.”

In September, Damschroder announced improvements to the fraud-reporting portal at [unemployment.ohio.gov](http://unemployment.ohio.gov). The enhancements make it easier for those who have received correspondence in other people’s names to report potential fraud. The department is using information from that database to suppress the generation of the 1099-G tax forms.

To prevent 1099-G tax forms from being issued to victims of identity theft, the department notified approximately 955,000 Ohioans last month that applications for unemployment benefits were filed in their name in 2021. The notice asked individuals who received a notice and did not apply for benefits to report it as soon as possible, if they have not already done so. While the IRS indicates that individuals should not report incorrect 1099-G income on their tax return, ODJFS recommends consulting the IRS or a qualified tax advisor with questions.

Individuals who receive a 1099-G form and did not file for unemployment benefits should visit [unemployment.ohio.gov](http://unemployment.ohio.gov) and click on the red “Report Identity Theft” button or call 1-833-658-0394, if they have not already done so. ODJFS also has posted extensive guidance and frequently asked questions at [unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov/IdentityTheft](http://unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov/IdentityTheft).

Legitimate unemployment claimants who received benefits in 2021 need 1099-G forms so they can report this income when filing their annual taxes. ODJFS issued approximately 1.7 million 1099-G forms in 2021 and 200,000 forms in 2020.

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*The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.*

