

Bob Taft  
Governor



Tom Hayes  
Director

30 East Broad Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[www.state.oh.us/odjfs](http://www.state.oh.us/odjfs)

**OFFICE OF FAMILY STABILITY LETTER #11**  
August 21, 2003

**TO:** Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

**FROM:** Jeanne Carroll, Deputy Director  
Office of Family Stability

**SUBJECT: POWER OUTAGE 2003**

The purpose of this letter is to describe the funding available for families and certain individuals affected by the recent power outage. Cuyahoga County has recently been declared by the Governor to be in a state of emergency and has been approved for additional funding for the Power Outage 2003 program. Other counties may be added at a later date, if or when declared by the Governor to be in a state of emergency.

**PRC Funds for families -**

Disaster-related PRC assistance is discussed in OWF/PRC Guidance Letter #17. It may be necessary to amend/revise the PRC plan to access these additional funds if the current plan does not reflect the inclusion of disaster assistance procedures or to specify the type of services/benefits that will be covered for this particular disaster situation.

In addition to the restrictions discussed in OWF/PRC Guidance Letter #17, due to the possible widespread damage to heavily populated areas in Cuyahoga County, it is necessary to monitor the usage of TANF funds. Cuyahoga County will initially receive \$200,000 with an approved PRC plan. Request for amounts above \$200,000 must be approved by the Office of Family Stability.

Payments for families, under the Power Outage 2003 program should be entered into CRIS-E as hard services.

**Non - TANF funds for elderly and disabled individuals -**

Non-TANF funds are also 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 Power Outage 2003 program. The Power Outage 2003 program will begin **Wednesday August 20, 2003** and run through close of business on Friday **September 26, 2003** contingent upon funding. In

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order to qualify for a payment under the Power Outage 2003 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 for disabled and elderly individuals, under the Power Outage 2003 program should not be entered into CRIS-E or the PRC-WRT tracking system. However, in order to estimate expenditures for future declared disasters involving this population, we are asking to track the number of individuals served under the Power Outage 2003 program and e-mail the numbers to Karen Ernes at [ernes@odjfs.state.oh.us](mailto:ernes@odjfs.state.oh.us) by the close of business on Friday of each week until the program ends.

For non-TANF funds, the CDJFS will be authorized up to \$25,000. No additional funding above this amount will be available for this specific disaster episode.

**Notice and county conference procedures:** The Power Outage 2003 program benefits for elderly and disabled individuals 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  
Karen Ernes, Section Chief  
Cash Assistance Policy Section  
Fax number: 614/466-1767  
Phone number: 614/466-6024  
E-mail: [ernes@odjfs.state.oh.us](mailto:ernes@odjfs.state.oh.us)

**Funding and fiscal coding:** The affected counties must also submit a revised Cash Forecast diskette to the

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County Finance Section estimating these additional expenditures in order to receive a supplemental draw to the PA-Fund (APM 7353). The CDJFS must use the codes contained in the table below to report expenditures. These codes may only be used during a Governor-declared state of emergency.

<b>Financial Reporting Form</b>	<b>Program Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Definition</b>
JFS 02827	159-50	ADA- Adult Disaster Assistance	Funds distributed as part of the time-limited ADA emergency disaster relief effort.
JFS 02827	158	TANF - Disaster Related Emergency Assistance	Funds distributed as part of the time-limited disaster relief effort.

Attachments

JC: ke

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

**NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF YOUR APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE**

Name	Mailing Date
Street Address	
City, State, and Zip Code	

This notice is to tell you that your application for Power Outage 2003 assistance dated \_\_\_\_\_, has been approved in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Additional information:

**If you do not understand this notice or you want to talk to your caseworker about it, you may call:**

Caseworker	Area	Telephone Number
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**If you do not agree with this action, you can ask for a county conference within 15 days of the mailing date of this notice. If you want a county conference contact:**

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**NOTICE OF DENIAL OF YOUR APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE**

Name	Mailing Date
Street Address	
City, State, and Zip Code	

This notice is to tell you that your application for Power Outage 2003 assistance dated \_\_\_\_\_, has been denied because:

**If you do not understand this action or you want to talk to your caseworker about it, you may call:**

Caseworker	Area	Telephone Number
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**If you do not agree with this action, you can ask for a county conference within 15 days of the mailing date of this notice. If you want a county conference contact:**

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