

Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services

2014

Program Overview



▶ **Public Assistance**

Through its partnerships with community organizations and state and federal government agencies, Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services provides a number of services to families and individuals in need of assistance. These services range from food assistance, cash assistance, child care subsidies to child support enforcement, and access to medical care.

▶ **Child Protective Services**

The Tuscarawas County Public Children Services Agency administers local adoption assistance, foster care services, and child welfare intervention programs. The agency strives to reunify children with their families when possible, or find other permanent living arrangements for them when they cannot safely return home.

▶ **Adult Protective Services**

Provided for those over age 60 and older who have been reported to be abused, neglected, or financially exploited.

TCJFS

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the local County Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability or political beliefs.

Public Assistance Programs

Cash Assistance

- ▶ **Ohio Works First (OWF) is a federal, cash assistance program for families with dependent children.**
 - OWF provides **time-limited cash benefits** while the adults are participating in work or training activities to develop skills that will help them become self-sufficient.
 - Every participant is required to sign a self-sufficiency contract which establishes work activities and other obligations the recipients must fulfill in order to receive cash benefits. It also outlines the supportive services the county will provide to the participants.
 - All adult and minor heads of households receiving OWF benefits are **required to work**. All participants are evaluated to determine their employability and educational ability. If not currently employed and working, they must take part in approved work activities.
 - Minor children who are being raised by a specific relative, legal custodian, or legal guardian may qualify for OWF.
- ▶ **KINSHIP:** These are funds available to kinship providers who have obtained legal custody of a child after July 1, 2005. See also Child Protective Services (page 12).

Public Assistance Programs

Food Assistance

The Food Assistance program is designed to:

- ▶ raise nutritional levels
- ▶ expand buying power
- ▶ safeguard the health and well-being of individuals in low-income households in Ohio

What can be bought with Food Assistance benefits?

- ▶ Food or food products intended for human consumption

Income guidelines:

- ▶ The caseworker will ask for proof of all income in the household and a list of all people in the household to determine eligibility. You may qualify for benefits if your household's gross monthly income is at or under 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

What is the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)?

- ▶ EBT stands for Electronic Benefits Transfer. Your Ohio Direction Card is a debit card. This means you cannot use more benefits than you are eligible to receive. Once you are determined eligible for food assistance, your benefits are automatically deposited once a month into an account just for you.

Public Assistance Programs

Medicaid – Healthcare

- ▶ **Healthchek**
A service for Medicaid-eligible children under the age of 21 and pregnant women which provides a comprehensive package of health care services to promote physical health.
- ▶ **At-Risk Pregnancy**
Services for Medicaid-eligible pregnant women to ensure utilization of all medically-necessary services for the health and well-being of mother and child.
- ▶ **Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**
This program, also known as Healthy Start, provides medical insurance for children through age 18 years and pregnant women.
- ▶ **Low Income Family Medicaid (LIF)**
Provides medical insurance for low-income families with minor children.
- ▶ **Aged, Blind or Disabled Medicaid**
Provides medical insurance to individuals who are 65 and older, legally blind, or disabled as determined by the Social Security Administration.
- ▶ **Home & Community-Based Waiver Services**
Provides medical services for disabled and/or aged individuals to be cared for in their homes rather than institutionalized.
- ▶ **Nursing Home Medicaid**
Provides medical insurance and cost of care for income and resource eligible individuals.
- ▶ **Resource Assessment**
Helps couples determine their total countable resources for Medicaid eligibility when a spouse is in need of nursing home care or waiver services.
- ▶ **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)**
Pays the Medicare premium, co-insurance and deductibles for income and resource eligible individuals and couples.
- ▶ **Specified Low Income Beneficiary (SLMB)**
Pays the Medicare premium for income and resource eligible individuals.

Public Assistance Programs

Disability Assistance

- ▶ **Ohio's Disability Financial Assistance Program** is a safety net for needy individuals who do not meet all of the eligibility requirements necessary to receive help from other federal and state benefit programs, such as Supplemental Security Income and Ohio Works First. Eligibility is determined by county department of job and family services based on Ohio Administrative Code rules.

Individuals who qualify for this program often qualify for Medicaid as well.

- ▶ **Who is Eligible?**

Eligible individuals include:

Individuals who are disabled as determined by the ODJFS Disability Determination Area.

In order to receive assistance, the individual or family must meet all eligibility requirements including income and resource criteria.

Public Assistance Programs

Transportation

Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services provides these transportation services:

- ▶ Agency makes referrals for clients needing transportation to work or an assignment.
- ▶ Medicaid-eligible individuals to get to medical appointments when managed care plan can't assist.
- ▶ Assist Children Services with visitations and medical appointments.
- ▶ Call 330-339-7791 ext. 258

Emergency Assistance (PRC)

- ▶ **Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) is a special category of assistance for citizens with limited income. Recipients must either be pregnant or have minor children in the home. PRC was established to help with limited urgent needs that can make the difference in:**
 - ▶ Getting or keeping a job
 - ▶ The need to request ongoing public assistance
 - ▶ The well-being of one or more of the family members if the need is left unattended

Public Assistance Programs

Child Care

Who qualifies for the various types of child care assistance offered through Tuscarawas County Family Services?

- ▶ **Transitional Child Care**
Anyone transitioning from Cash Assistance to the work force.
- ▶ **LEAP Child Care**
Teen moms attending school to earn a High School diploma or GED.
- ▶ **Employment Child Care**
Parents who are actively employed.
- ▶ **Education and Training Child Care**
Parents who are actively enrolled in an educational or training program.
- ▶ **Protective Child Care**
Parents who currently have a case plan with Children Services.
- ▶ **Special Needs Child Care**
Parents who have a child with special needs.
- ▶ **Important Information**
 - The parent is responsible for paying a weekly co-pay. The co-pay is based on your gross income and the size of your family.
 - The agency offers a list of licensed child care providers.


Child Protective Services

Intake – Assessment/Investigations of Child Abuse/Neglect Incidents

- ▶ This unit assesses incidents of child abuse/neglect/dependency that involve children ages 0– 18 (or 21 if Developmentally Disabled).
- ▶ **Referrals can be made by calling 330-339-7791 ext. 660.**
The following information is helpful to complete an intake in the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) [not all elements are required, but help to make the most comprehensive screening decision]:
 - Child(ren)'s name, date of birth, social security number (if possible), race, ethnicity, current location, school attending (if applicable), school grade, Indian Heritage, current address, juvenile court involvement (if applicable), any current services or groups involved within the community, any medical or mental health issues
 - Parent(s) name, date of birth, social security number (if possible), race, ethnicity, current address, current employer, Indian Heritage, criminal history (if applicable), court involvement (if applicable), current custody order (if applicable – which county, state, visitation orders, etc.), current child support order (if applicable), any current services or groups involved within the community, any medical or mental health issues
 - The current concerns of child abuse (physical or sexual) and/or neglect including date of the incident(s), description of the injury or home environment, any police involvement, any medical treatment sought for the injury sustained by the child, any weapons or drugs the child may have access to, any drug or alcohol abuse by the parent or caregiver while supervising the child(ren), description of inappropriate caregivers that the child(ren) was left with, lack of utilities, lack of basic needs being met, lack of stable housing, lack of supervision or monitoring, pattern of domestic violence in the home
 - Additional information that would be helpful are any known relatives (names, addresses, phone numbers), sibling information, any other witnesses or collateral contacts to the incident being reported
- ▶ **Traditional Investigations** ensue when a child is exposed to incidents of high risk including sexual abuse, serious physical abuse or neglect.
- ▶ **Alternative Response Assessments** ensue when a child is exposed to a low to moderate risk incident of physical abuse, neglect or emotional maltreatment.
- ▶ When a family is unable to safely maintain a child in the home, a kinship or foster care placement is determined. The case becomes court involved and is passed to an ongoing case manager for supervision of the case plan services for the family.
- ▶ **APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH.**

Child Protective Services

Ongoing Case Management

- ▶ These caseloads are managed within two units of the agency.
 - ▶ The case plan is developed with the family and outlines services, such as: parenting, psychological assessments, individual counseling, family counseling, substance abuse treatment, supervised visitation, etc. that need to be successfully completed in **order to maintain the children in their own home** or to work towards the reunification of the family.
 - ▶ Services are provided by local community providers. Payment of services is determined by the family's insurance provider. Our agency does provide a free parent education series that is available to family members involved with an open case.
 - ▶ Monthly case manager visits occur with the children and the parents and/or guardians of the case. Every other month these visits happen in the home. If the child is in foster care, the parent is able to have supervised visits with the child each week as long as the court order permits.
 - ▶ When a child is unable to be reunified with the family and there are no kinship alternatives to provide legal custody to, our agency files for permanent custody of a child which makes the child available to be adopted in the State of Ohio.
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Child Protective Services

Placement Services

- ▶ The placement services unit schedules training periodically throughout the year for prospective foster and adoptive parents. When a person makes an application to become a foster and adoptive parent, our placement services staff completes a home study and licenses the adult to become a foster and adoptive parent for our agency. Inquiries and forms to start the process to become a foster and adoptive parent are able to be found on our agency website www.tcjfs.org .
- ▶ The placement services unit has two staff that manages the permanent custody children caseload. They visit the children monthly and work diligently to find each child a permanent, lifelong family through the adoption process.
- ▶ **NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH.**

Child Protective Services

Kinship Permanency Incentive Program

- ▶ These are funds available to kinship providers who have obtained legal custody of a child after July 1, 2005.
- ▶ **An application can be requested from Mandy Prosser, ext. 204.**
Eligibility is income based.
- ▶ If the application is approved, the first payment is \$525. Eligibility is re-determined every six months. If approved, the payment is \$300 for the remaining payments. Payment can be received over a four-year period every six months. The payment amounts are determined by the state and are subject to change every fiscal year.

Child Protective Services

Adult Protective Services

- ▶ This caseload is managed by one worker in Tuscarawas County.
- ▶ Elder abuse refers to intentional or negligent acts by a caregiver or “trusted” individual that causes (or potentially causes) harm to a vulnerable elder. Most common categories of elder abuse are neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse and exploitation, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect (including verbal abuse and threats), abandonment, and self-neglect.
- ▶ Referrals can be made by calling 330-339-7791 ext. 297 or 295.

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY IS JUNE 15TH.



Public Assistance

- Please call 330-339-7791 if you are not on any assistance and want information on applying. Or, you can go to our agency website: www.tcjfs.org for information and to apply online.

Children Services

- If you need to report known or suspected abuse or neglect of a child, please call 330-339-7791, extension 660.
- After Hours Referrals (Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Department): 330-339-2000. **If it is an emergency, call 911.**

Child Care

- If you want to apply for child care assistance or become a day care provider, please call 330-339-7791, extension **297 or 295**.

Contact us...

Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services
389--16th Street, SW
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 330-339-7791 or
toll free: 1-800-431-2347
Website: www.tcjfs.org
E-mail: help@tcjfs.org