

Annual Report



Athens County
Job & Family Services

2006-2007





Letter from the Director

Athens County is the poorest county in the State of Ohio. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Athens County's poverty rate stands at 27.4% (14,728 people). However, Athens County has a relatively low unemployment rate when compared to its surrounding southeastern Appalachian neighboring counties. For example, southeastern Ohio was home to the seven highest county unemployment rates in the state for the month of August 2006. Monroe County topped the state list at 9.3%. Athens County's rate was 6.1%, slightly higher than Ohio's rate of 5.4%. Overall, for the past few years, the average unemployment rate in Athens County has been relatively close to the state unemployment rate. This suggests that many people in the county are working but not earning enough income to rise out of poverty, producing a class of "working poor."

Our agency has been working since 1947, to help our most needy residents by providing aid to address their basic needs. Over the years, much has changed for both low income families and our agency. Great strides have been made in financial and medical assistance. We have seen the growth of a wide range of social and educational services. We have made progress. Yet, changes in the economy, environmental challenges, as well as cultural changes keep driving the forces that result in continued poverty. Faced with these challenges, we remain committed to moving forward.

As always, we are very grateful for the support we receive from the citizens of Athens County.

Thank you,

Jack Frech, Director

Our Impact



Mission

As the employees of the Athens County Department of Job & Family Services, we have been charged with the most serious and important responsibility in government, that of helping our fellow citizens who experience the despair of poverty, hunger, homelessness, and ill health.

We believe that our programs represent the conscience of society and that our strength lies in seeking a decent life for all.

Impacting Lives

During the past year, Athens County Job & Family Services has touched the lives of many county residents through our programs and services:

- ★ Financial Assistance: 24,757 people
- ★ Health Services: 19,633 people
- ★ Employment, Education & Training: 3,152 people; 1,357 gained employment
- ★ Community & Customer Service:
 - Received 243,662 phone calls
 - 59,707 visits to our agency
 - Involved in 51 community outreach events
 - Website had 14,995 visitors.
 - Voter registrations processed for 505 people.



Agency Expenditures

Expenditures

We are funded through a combination of Federal, State and County Government allocations that we administer. With funds that may be tailored to the needs of the community, we used them to create, support and deliver services to our poorest citizens.

Ohio Works First (OWF) Cash Assistance	\$ 2,465,704.00
Disability Assistance (Aged, Blind & Disabled)	361,288.00
Disability Medical Assistance (Aged, Blind & Disabled)	81,230.44
Prevention, Retention & Contingency (PRC)	3,158,307.10
Food Stamps	8,229,498.00
Medicaid	68,481,684.69
Contract Services	2,260,872.00
Administrative Costs	1,701,116.72
Direct Services	7,726,280.09
Child Support Enforcement	1,795,784.67
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<i>Year Ended June 30, 2007</i>	\$ 96,261,765.71

Staffing

The agency is made up of 139 employees; in 4 buildings.

Contract Service Providers

- Appalachian Nutrition Network
- Appalachian Peoples Action Coalition
- Athens City-County Health Department
- Athens City School District
- Athens County Children Services
- Athens County Clerk of Courts
- Athens County Court of Common Pleas
- Athens County Family & Children First Council
- Athens County Food Pantry
- Athens County Juvenile Court
- Athens County Prosecuting Attorney
- Athens County Sheriff's Department
- Athens Farmers' Market
- Athens Meigs Educational Service Center
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Buckeye Hills Hocking Valley Area Agency on Aging
- Edna Brooks Foundation
- Health Recovery Services
- Hocking College
- Hocking.Athens.Perry Community Action Agency
- OU College of Osteopathic Medicine
- OU COM Community Services Program
- OU Kids on Campus
- Paper Circle
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- Tri-County Career Center
- Tri-County Mental Health & Counseling
- Trimble Local Schools
- United Seniors of Athens County

Financial Assistance



24,757 people were served

Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Assists child care providers with the cost of serving nutritious, well-balanced meals to children receiving daycare services.

Child Care Assistance

Athens County parents/guardians who are working or in school can get help to pay for child care with a certified provider.

Child Support Enforcement

The program's goal is to ensure that all children are supported financially by both parents. Services include: location of non-custodial parents; paternity establishment; establishment and modifications of child support orders; collection of child support payments and/or alimony; and enforcement of child support orders, medical support orders and alimony.

Computers for Families Project

Athens County families who meet TANF guidelines are eligible to receive a free personal computer for home use.

Emergency Food Line

The Food Line is responsible for screening telephone requests, determining eligibility, maintaining records and directing those in need to a food pantry distribution site.

Fast & Free Tax Assistance Center

Provides free online tax preparation assistance utilizing IRS-certified volunteers to electronically file tax returns during tax filing season. Services are available to Athens County residents filing basic returns.

Food Stamp Program (Ohio Direction Card)

Food Stamp benefits can be used to buy food or food products intended for human consumption. In Ohio, Food Stamps are issued through the Ohio Direction Card, an electronic benefits debit card.

Ohio Works First (OWF) Program

OWF is a time-limited (36 months lifetime limit) cash assistance program for households with dependent children. The major goal of OWF is to help participants move toward employment.

Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) Program

A group of emergency and short-term assistance programs to help families with dependent children or a pregnant woman present in the household. The need should be emergent, unforeseeable and unavoidable. The assistance may be necessary for the health, safety and well being of the family, to prevent them from coming onto Ohio Works First, or to help gain or retain employment.

Transportation Services

Transportation is available within Athens County to medical appointments and public agencies for recipients of Medicaid or Title XX eligible (over age 60 or income eligible). Referrals are available for transportation to medical appointments outside of Athens County when medical services are not available within the county. Vouchers to cover gas expenses or bus tickets are also available for medical appointments.



Health Services

19,633 people received services

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Referrals are taken from anyone having reasonable cause to believe an adult, age 60 or older, is being abused, neglected or exploited. The intent is to assist adults who are in danger of harm, unable to protect themselves and have no one else able to assist them.

County Medical Services (CMS)

Provides medical benefits for disabled clients while going through the application process for Social Security.

Dental Program

Provides a case management approach linking Medicaid-eligible clients in need of dental service. Appointment reminders, appropriate referrals, transportation, and other support services are provided. Dental education is provided to clients, schools and community groups. For a client not Medicaid-eligible, attempts are made to link the client with dental care.

Disability Assistance (DA)

Provides cash and/or medical assistance to disabled individuals not eligible for other cash/medical assistance.

Healthchek

A group of prevention and treatment services through Medicaid, for children up to the age of 19, to get or stay healthy.

Homemaker Home Health Aide Program

Provides homemaker and home health aide services to clients 60 years of age and older.

Medicaid

Health care coverage for certain low-income and medically vulnerable people. Medicaid programs include coverage for: families, children & pregnant women; aged, blind and people with disabilities; women with breast/cervical cancer; and Institutional Care.

Medicare Premium Assistance Program

Assists Medicare recipients with limited income and assets by paying the cost of Medicare premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance.

Planet Teen: Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

Emphasizes refusals, delaying tactics and alternative actions that students can use to abstain or utilize protections. Also teaches interpersonal and social skills; and motivates students to resist or change high-risk behaviors.

Pregnancy Related Services

Provides enhanced support and linkage with resources, to ensure a healthy outcome for mother and baby.

School Wellness (school nurse for Trimble Local Schools)

Provides health services, wellness education and community referrals for all students in the Trimble School District.

Wellness Advocate

Case management program for OWF recipients who are unable to work due to a disability and unable to meet their work requirements. Helps clients gain access to various supportive services including medical needs/education.

Employment, Education & Training

3,152 people assisted; 1,357 gained employment

Adult Basic & Literacy Education (ABLE)

Provides free instruction for adults who wish to improve their basic academic skills and/or prepare to take the GED (General Equivalence Diploma) test.

Computer Lab & Computer Training

The Community Computer Lab is free and open to the public at The Work Station. Computer classes are taught on a scheduled basis. There are 13 computers with a variety of software and Internet access. The lab is also used to assist individuals with resume and cover letter writing, as well as online job searches and posting of resumes.

Employment Services

Employment Counselors can assist with job searches, resumes and employability skills. Services are open to any resident of Athens County.

Job Skills Class

Assists with job skill training and finding employment.

Seek Work Program

Assists with finding employment for non-custodial parents who are having difficulty making child support payments because they are either unemployed or underemployed.

Work Experience Program (WEP)

Provides an opportunity for individuals receiving Ohio Works First or Food Stamp benefits to acquire valuable training, skill development, work experience and possible job placement. Participants are placed in job settings with community employers for a set number of hours per month, depending on their type of assistance. They are not paid wages, but receive public assistance during the time of their work experience.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) - Adult & Dislocated Worker

Program provides individuals with employment and training services to obtain a job or find a better job. Services include, but not limited to: resume preparation, job search and placement assistance, employment statistics information, initial assessment, information on various community programs and services.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) - Youth Services

A year-round program that provides employment and training opportunities to eligible youth. Serves ages 14 through 21 and requires that the youth is a low-income individual. Enrollment in this program is limited.



Office Locations:

County Home Building

(Rt. 13, Chauncey)

provides child support and family services.

Family Services:

(740) 797-2523 or 800-762-3775

Child Support:

(740) 593-5046 or 800-436-8933

Denver White Building

(184 N. Lancaster St., Athens)

provides age, blind, disabled services and health services.

(740) 592-4477 or 800-338-4484

Administrative Office

(Connett Rd., The Plains)

(740) 797-2523 or 800-762-3775

The Work Station

(70 N. Plains Rd., The Plains)

provides employment & education services.

(740) 797-1405 or 877-351-0405

Athens County Job & Family Services

Mailing Address: 184 N. Lancaster Street

Athens, Ohio 45701

(740) 797-2523

(800) 762-3775

Email: jfs@athenscountygovernment.com

Website: <http://jfs.athenscountygovernment.com>

Blog: <http://athensjfs.blogspot.com>



Contact us for additional information about our programs; publications and reports; additional statistics, data and more information on poverty related issues; and IRis, the Athens County on-line resource directory, visit our website or contact the Community Relations Office at 740-797-2523 or 1-800-762-3775.

Athens County Job & Family Services is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

