



Photo Credit: Steve Liss

## Athens County Department of Job and Family Services

*"seeking a decent life for all"*



# 2015 Annual Report

State Fiscal Year 7/1/14 – 6/30/15



13183 State Route 13, Millfield, OH 45761-9901  
740.797.2523 or 1.800.762.3775  
[www.jfs.athensoh.org](http://www.jfs.athensoh.org)



## **Our History**

The Athens County Department of Job & Family Services has been serving the residents of Athens County for many years, by administrating public assistance programs of the state and federal government, investigating complaints of suspected child abuse and neglect, and providing needed supportive services.

## **Our Services**

Services are available to any resident of Athens County. Income and resources limitations may apply for programs and services based on economic need. Appointments are scheduled for on-going assistance; walk-ins are welcome for information, referral, or emergency needs.

## **Our Mission**

***Our Mission – as the employees of the Athens County Department of Job and Family Services, we have been charged with the most serious and important responsibility in government, that of helping 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.***

### **Athens County Board of Commissioners**

**Lenny Eliason**

**Charlie Adkins**

**Chris Chmiel**

### **Athens County Department of Job and Family Services Director**

**Robert J. Gallagher**

### **Athens County Job & Family Services Advisory Board**

**Robert Gallagher**

**Lisa Kamody**

**Penny Keith**





## Our Agency

Athens County Job and Family Services is supervised by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and administered by the Athens County Commissioners.

We coordinate a wide range of programs for people of all ages in Athens County. We receive federal, state and local funding for our programs, and we serve thousands of people every day.

Our programs provide assistance with food, cash, medical care, child care, child support, adult education, job training, job searches, resumes, career development, care for senior citizens, transportation and numerous other areas of support.

To learn more about issues related to poverty and our agency, visit our website at [jfs.athens.oh.org](http://jfs.athens.oh.org), and you can follow us on Facebook.



# 2015 Expenditures By Category/Program

Medicaid	\$126,936,559.00
Food Assistance	\$ 15,011,588.00
Direct Services	\$ 5,148,361.00
Ohio Works First (OWF)	\$ 3,566,813.00
CSEA admin costs	\$ 1,769,961.00
Contract Services	\$ 1,512,688.00
Public Assistance admin costs	\$ 1,537,739.00
Disability Financial Assistance	\$ 233,591.00
PRC	\$ 202,951.00
WIA / WIOA	\$ 518,920.00

## Examples of Contract Services include:

- ❖ Transportation services for Medicaid clients
- ❖ The Summer Youth Employment Program administered by the Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action Program (HAPCAP)
- ❖ A Work Experience Program coordinated by HAPCAP

## Examples of Direct Services include:

- ❖ Adult Protective Services (APS)
- ❖ Homemaker Home Health Aide Program
- ❖ Additional transportation services



# Our Supportive Services/Programs

## **Medicaid** – 15,681 clients receive Medicaid coverage each month.

Since the expansion in 2014, Medicaid eligibility is now open to more people in Ohio than ever before. This year saw a 15 percent increase from last year in the average number of people receiving coverage each month.

Medicaid is a state and federally funded health program for certain individuals who are low-income and/or medically vulnerable. The program provides coverage to adults who meet income guidelines, children, pregnant women, women with breast or cervical cancer, adults over 65, those with disabilities and individuals in institutional care. Last year on average 13,253 clients received coverage each month.

## **Food Assistance Program** – 10,535 recipients per month



Ohio's Food Assistance Program is part of the federal government's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP or food stamps. The program is only intended to provide 75 percent of the monthly food needs for a family. Benefit levels vary depending on the size of a household. The average monthly benefit per household in Athens County during FY15 was \$226 slightly down from last year's \$229. Last year, 11,481 individuals received food assistance.

Despite the still struggling economy, Ohio officials once again this year opted out of a statewide exemption of the work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents. For this year, just 18 counties (not including Athens) are exempt from the food assistance work requirement. The federal government allowed states to waive minimum work requirements during the recession and from 2007 through 2012. Ohio officials had applied for and received a statewide waiver until 2013.

## **Emergency Food Line** – Distributed 5,040 food boxes/bags during the year

The county's Emergency Food Line, which is managed by our agency, is responsible for screening telephone requests, determining eligibility, maintaining records and directing those in need to a local food distribution site. We also provide food boxes on site. Our agency works with the Athens County Food Pantry and the Athens Catholic Community Food Pantry to provide food to local families who meet income guidelines and other requirements. Our agency routinely runs out of food boxes due to high demand from struggling families. This year's distribution increased from last year's 4,991 individuals served.





## **Ohio Works First (OWF) – 1,788 recipients per month**

OWF is Ohio's cash assistance program. It is only available to families with dependent children, and they can only receive it for a total of 36 months, although a certain percentage of the agency's caseload is eligible for hardship extensions.

The goal of the program, which also has work requirements, is to help stabilize families and move them toward sustainable employment. The maximum amount a family of three can receive each month is \$473. The vast majority of recipients of cash assistance in our county are children.

## **Ohio Works Incentive Program (OWIP) - \$512,000 in incentives, 203 newly employed**

Through the Ohio Works Incentive Program, the agency paid \$512,000 in incentives to 203 newly employed individuals who had been receiving cash assistance. The program also funded another \$76,697 in supportive services to help ensure these individuals were able to continue to get to work.

## **Child Support Enforcement – collected \$5,553,286.50 in child support payments**

The program's goal is to ensure that all children are supported financially by both parents. Services provided include: location of non-custodial parents; paternity establishment; creation and modification of support order; collection of payments and/or alimony; and enforcement of child support orders, medical support orders and alimony. The program collects support payments for 5,008 children each month. During the last year, the Child Support Enforcement Agency completed 177 DNA test and established paternity for 124 children.

## **County Medical Services (CMS) – 235 approvals this year**

This program provides limited medical benefits for clients who are waiting on disability determination from the Social Security Administration and have been approved by state reviewers for this disability program.

## **Homemaker Home Health Aid Program –**

### **Conducted an average of 110 visits per month**

This program has provided homemaker and home health aide services to clients who are 60 years of age or older. With these services, many clients are able to extend the time they live independently in their own homes.

This is a uniquely Athens County program, as many agencies across the state have had to eliminate this program due to budget constraints.



## **Transportation Services – 912 one-way transports; 18,462 gas vouchers issued**

Securing reliable transportation is one of the most common challenges faced by our clients. Our agency provides transportation services to and from medical appointments and social service agencies for recipients of Medicaid or Title XX (*over age 60 and income eligible*). Vouchers to cover gas expenses and bus tickets are also available for medical appointments in and out of the county.



## **Child Care Assistance – 159 children served by licensed child care providers each month**

This program provides assistance to help Athens County parents/guardians who are working, or in school to pay for child care with a licensed provider. Our agency works with on average 40 licensed child care providers in Athens County. We provided \$ 579,823 in child care payments for local families in the last year.

## **Adult Protective Services – took on 178 new cases this year**

Referrals for this program are taken from anyone having a reasonable cause to believe an individual who is age 60 or older is being abused, neglected or exploited. This program, which consistently sees increases year after year, assists Athens County adults who are in danger of harm, unable to protect themselves and have no one else who is able to assist them.



## **Disability Assistance – Average of 188 recipients each month**

This program provides a very small and time-limited amount of cash and/or medical assistance to disabled individuals who meet income requirements, do not have more than \$1,000 in resources, and are not eligible for other assistance programs. The maximum monthly benefit is \$115 for individuals and \$159 for households with two people. We provided \$ 579,823.40 in disabilities assistance in the last year.



## **Healthchek – 11,364 children received services during the year**

Prevention and treatment services are offered through this Medicaid program for children up to the age of 21.

Healthchek services help children stay healthy and reduce the chances of sickness by treating health problems early.

## **Voter Registrations**

### **– 718 Athens County residents registered to vote**

In an effort to increase the number of eligible citizens who register to vote, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 – commonly referred to as the “motor voter law” – designated state agencies, including “all offices in the state that provide public assistance,” as voter registration locations.

Of those who registered with our agency, 385 were new registrants and 333 changed their address.



# The Work Station

Located in The Plains, **The Work Station** houses our employment services programs, adult education and a variety of other services for area residents and local employers. All of the services are free of charge to the public.

The Work Station is also a part of the state's **OhioMeansJobs** system. All **OhioMeansJobs** Centers assist job seekers, employers and youth with job search assistance, employee recruitment, job training, and more.



**The Work Station's** mission has remained the same since it's opening in 1999 – to provide career development services to anyone in need.



## Annual Job Fair – 260 attendees; 81 employers

For the 11<sup>th</sup> year, The Work Station worked with the OhioMeansJobs centers from Meigs and Perry counties to hold the Annual Regional Job Fair at the Athens Community Center in April.

With 81 area employers available, 260 attendees were able to make employment contacts.

Of the employers who were hiring, several attendees reported they had found work through the contacts made at this event.

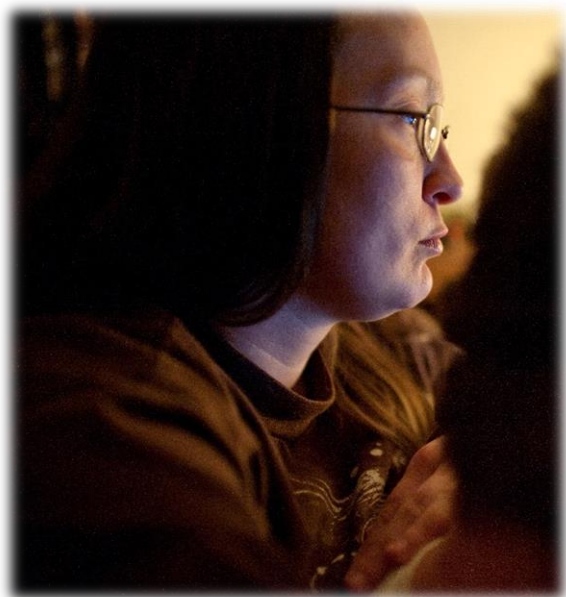


## Employment Services – assisted 3,838 clients, helped 237 find jobs

Our Employment Counselors provide free assistance with resumes, job searches and job interview preparation. The counselors meet with area residents individually and in group settings.

Staff also host numerous hiring events throughout the year. The Work Station's employment services extend to county employers, as well. The Work Station staff, including the supervisor, had contact with 181 local employers this year to discuss the job market and their employment needs.





## **WIA:** (*Workforce Investment Act*)

### **Adult and Dislocated Workers**

**– assisted an average of 33 individuals per month**

The Workforce Investment Act provides Athens County residents with employment and training opportunities to help them obtain a job or find a better one. In addition to helping eligible residents go back to school for training, the services include resume' preparation, job search and placement assistance and information on other community resources. Due to budget constraints, demand for this program is frequently higher than we can accommodate.

## **WIA for Youth** – assisted an average of 67 individuals per month

This program provides employment and training opportunities for low-income Athens County residents between the ages of 14-21. Enrollment is also limited in this program due to funding constraints.

## **ABLE Program** – assisted 13 students earn their GED

The Adult Basic Literacy Education program provides educational support to adults who want to improve their basic literacy skills and for those who want to earn their GED. One-on-one and classroom-like settings are provided by our teachers at The Work Station and Tri-County Career Center.

Students of all ages study at The Work Station throughout the year as they prepare to take the GED exam. Each year in the spring, the ABLE program holds a graduation ceremony in order to honor all of the graduates.

Since the switch in January 2014 to a computerized version of the GED test, many adult learners have found success in obtaining their GED. Students are also given the opportunity to take a free computerized practice version of the test before attempting the actual GED test.



## **Workshops**

The Work Station hosts free workshops on a wide range of topics of interest to Athens County residents. Some of the workshops are targeted toward specific audiences such as ex-offenders, veterans and grandparents raising their grandchildren, while others are beneficial to all area residents. Please contact The Work Station for further information, (740) 797-1405.

## **Veteran Services and Mature Services**

Representatives from Veteran Services and Mature Services host offices in The Work Station and provide specialized assistance to residents. Mature Services operates the Senior Community Service and Employment Program in Athens County and served 8 seniors in the last program year. Veterans Workforce Services assisted 59 veterans within the county, which resulted in 48 obtaining employment.

## **Athens County Reentry Services – assisted 661 individuals**

The Athens County Reentry Program, which is located at The Work Station, provides guidance and assistance for ex-offenders who are preparing to leave the prison system, as well as those who have been out of prison for any length of time. Our Reentry Coordinator helps individuals build independent lives so they can avoid the problems that led them to prison. In 2015, our program added 136 new clients to the caseload and assisted 661 individuals.

## **Athens County Reentry Task Force**

In 2009, our agency helped created this community coalition. Since that time, an average of 25 local community partners have met monthly to help ex-offenders transition back into society and become independent. All meetings, which are open to the public, result in productive and meaningful shared information on the topic of offender reentry.

## **Citizen Circle**

Our agency hosts monthly Citizen Circle meetings, which are designed to provide support for ex-offenders. Meetings are held at the former County Home office. Representatives of several community organizations attend the Citizen Circle meetings to talk with ex-offenders about the challenges they are facing and to see how they can offer assistance.





## Athens County Department of Job and Family Services

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### Contact Information:

#### County Home

13183 State Route 13  
Millfield, OH 45761-9901

#### Family Services

740.797.2523 or 1.800.762.3775

#### Child Support Enforcement Agency

740.593.5046 or 1.800.436.8933

#### Mailing Address:

13183 State Route 13  
Millfield, OH 45761-9901

**Email:** [jfs@athensoh.org](mailto:jfs@athensoh.org)

**Website:** [jfs.athensoh.org](http://jfs.athensoh.org)

#### Denver White Building

184 N. Lancaster Street  
Athens, OH 45701  
740.592-4477 or 1.800.338.4484

#### The Work Station

70 N. Plains Road, Suite C  
The Plains, OH 45780  
740.797.1405 or 1.877.351.0405

For additional information on our programs and/or information on poverty related issues,  
visit our website or contact our Community Relations Office at  
740.677.4258 or 1.800.762.3775.

Athens County JFS is an equal opportunity employer and service provided.