



**Athens County**  
**Department of Job and Family Services**  
2017 Annual Report

13183 State Route 13, Millfield, Ohio 45761  
740.797.2523 or 800.762.3775  
[www.jfs.athensoh.org](http://www.jfs.athensoh.org)

## 2017 ATHENS COUNTY

### Athens County Commissioners

Charlie Adkins  
Chris Chmiel  
Lenny Eliason

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

Robert Gallagher  
\* through 3/11/17  
Scott Zielinski  
\* 3/13/17 - present

### Athens County Department of Job and Family Services Advisory Board

Penny Keith  
Lisa Kamody  
Robert Gallagher  
\* through 3/11/17  
Scott Zielinski  
\* 3/13/17 - present



## Our Agency

As proud public servants and stewards of the state and federal government programs, the Athens County Department of Job & Family Services team is committed to providing the best possible safety net of social services and resources to the local community.

Our dedicated professionals make a dramatic difference in lives of thousands of residents each day. It is truly an honor to be a part of this outstanding effort. This report compiles summaries from each division of the agency, providing a snapshot of programs and their impact on our local community.

In 2017, Athens County professionals responded to the needs of the community by efficiently and effectively managing a wide array of mandated and quality programs in the areas of Public Assistance, Child Care Services, Child Support Enforcement, and Workforce Development. Their arduous work, skill, and dedication shows a strong commitment to the integrity of public programs and to the well-being of Athens County residents.

The benefits and services administered by the agency impact Athens County's children, families, and seniors, with a primary focus on safety, stability, basic needs, and self-sufficiency. Addressing both needs and goals, the agency succeeded in providing basic support and progressive tools to help customers maintain stability, achieve self-sufficiency, and improve the quality of their future.

### Athens County Department of Job and Family Services – Mission Statement:

*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.*

# 2017 Annual Report

The 2017 Annual Report for the Athens County Department of Job & Family Services compiles summaries from each division of the agency, providing a snapshot of programs and their impact on our local community.

Several special initiatives and achievements were noteworthy in 2017.

The state of Ohio in an initiative to unify marketing messages of the One-Stop/Workforce Development centers, co-branded all centers as “OhioMeansJobs - (county name).” Henceforth, “The Work Station” of Athens County, has been renamed as “OhioMeansJobs – Athens County.”



The OMJ-AC center continues to offer career development services and host a variety of employment and community events. Most notably the center held the 14th Annual OhioMeansJobs – Job Fair in partnership with the Area 14 Workforce Development Board and the OhioMeansJobs centers of Meigs and Perry counties. This free event continues to showcase companies, careers, educational and training opportunities from throughout the Southern Ohio region.

While Athens County’s unemployment rate is one of the higher rates in the state at 7.3% (as of June 2017), area employers have increased their utilization of the valuable services available at the OhioMeansJobs – Athens County center, *proud partner of the American Job Center network.*

The Reentry program and its partners assist ex-offenders with resources and understanding to rebuild a quality of life upon exiting the corrections system. Through a variety of community acknowledgments our Reentry program has continued to grow in standing with the support of the Reentry Task Force. On average 175 reentry clients per month are served with stabilization and self-sufficiency services.

Notoriety of the program drew the attention of Global Dialogues, Story Corps of Atlanta. “*Their mission is to preserve and share humanity’s stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world.*” Through the assistance of our Reentry Program Coordinator, six Reentry clients shared their stories of struggles and reentry success with the world. Visit the website at: <https://archive.storycorps.org/user/global-dialogues/> to view their stories.

Our core public assistance services continue to enhance our impact through not only individual services but also through community outreach projects with our area partners. Some of these projects and partners include: Athens Area Stand Down, Athens County Children Services, Kidsfest, Athens County Fair, Central Ohio Blood Bank Services, Athens County Hunger Prevention Coalition, Community Food Initiatives, the Athens County Food Pantry, Athens County WIC, Hopewell Health Centers, Health Recovery Services, Integrated Services, The Hive of Nelsonville, HAPCAP, COAD and many more.



As proud public servants and stewards of our government programs, the Athens County Department of Job and Family Services team is committed to the lives of thousands of residents each day. It is truly our honor to be a part of this agency and serve of the residents of Athens County.

## Expenditures by Category/Program – SFY 2017

Medicaid	\$ 124,306,172.10
Food Assistance	\$ 13,829,212.00
Direct Services	\$ 6,060,693.12
Ohio Works First (OWF)	\$ 2,528,168.00
CSEA admin costs	\$ 2,175,228.45
Contract Services	\$ 1,734,628.89
Public Assistance admin costs	\$ 1,633,474.28
Disability Financial Assistance	\$ 213,499.50
PRC	\$ 161,653.65
WIOA	\$ 586,278.67
Total expenditures SFY 2017	\$ 153,229,008.66

## Examples of Contract Services

- ❖ Assist with mentoring costs for Big Brothers, Big Sister programming
- ❖ Transportation services for Medicaid clients
- ❖ Summer Youth Employment Program administered by the Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action Program (HAPCAP)
- ❖ Work Experience Program, a job readiness program coordinated by HAPCAP
- ❖ Aspire program, offering GED classes for adult learners in collaboration with Buckeye Hills Career Center
- ❖ The Hive of Nelsonville, after school programming, a service of Integrated Services

## Examples of Direct Services

- ❖ Homemaker Home Health Aide Program
- ❖ Adult Protective Services (APS)
- ❖ Additional transportation services
- ❖ Food Box Distribution in collaboration with Athens County Food Pantry
- ❖ Career counseling and development services
- ❖ Reentry programming and counseling



## Supportive Services/Programs

### Medicaid – 15,848 clients receive Medicaid coverage

Medicaid is the nation's largest public insurance program and is a crucial source of health insurance coverage and provider payments.

On average, 15,848 county residents received Medicaid coverage in the state fiscal year 2017. The program fills gaps in health insurance coverage for rural people, particularly low-income families and children, and elderly and disabled Medicare beneficiaries.

Medicaid provides accessible and cost effective healthcare coverage for Ohioians by promoting personal responsibility and choice through transformative and coordinated quality care.

### County Medical Services (CMS) – 69 approvals

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

The CMS program ended effective December 31, 2017 due to the repeal of the Ohio Disability Financial Assistance program.

### Disability Assistance – monthly average of 198 recipients

Prior to \*December 2017, this program provided a very small and time-limited amount of cash and/or medical assistance to disabled individuals who met income requirements, do not have more than \$1,000 in resources, and were not eligible for other assistance programs. The maximum monthly benefit was \$115 for individuals and \$159 for households with two people.

*\*In accordance with Section 812.40 of the Ohio Revised Code, the DFA program was repealed. State funding is no longer available and the program ended effective December 31, 2017.*

## MEDICAL SERVICES

### Medicaid



### County Medical Services



### Disability Assistance



## Supportive Services/Programs

### Food Assistance Program

– 10,146 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 intended to provide 75 percent of the monthly food needs for a family. Benefit levels vary depending on the size of a household.

SNAP is designed to raise nutritional levels, to expand buying power, and to safeguard the health and well-being of individuals in low-income households. A household may consist of an individual or a group of individuals who live together and usually purchase, prepare, and eat their food together.

The average monthly benefit per household in Athens County during 2017 was \$300, slightly higher than last year's \$220. An average of 10,146 individuals received monthly food assistance.

### Emergency Food Line – Distributed 5,626 food boxes 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 when supplies are available. Our agency partners for this program are Athens County Food Pantry and the Southeast Ohio Food Bank and Regional Kitchen.

Our agency works diligently to meet the high demand from struggling families. This year's distribution showed an increase from 5,417 to 5,626 individuals served.

## FOOD ASSISTANCE

### Food Assistance Program

#### Emergency Food Line



## Supportive Services/Programs

### Ohio Works First (OWF) - \$2,528,168 in support

The Ohio Works First (OWF) program provides time-limited cash assistance to low-income families with minor children. Adult recipients participate in job readiness programming and supervised work activities in order to increase their employability and move toward self-sufficiency before their time-limited benefits expire.

The goal of the program, is to help transition and stabilize families while moving them toward sustainable employment. In 2017, OWF benefits in Athens County totaled \$2,528,168.

This program is referred to as the federal “Temporary Assistance for Needy Families” (TANF) program. TANF is the title used in federal legislation and regulations; while Ohio has adopted the title Ohio Works First (OWF) for this program.

### Ohio Works Incentive Program (OWIP)

- \$181,967.50 in incentives and support

The OWIP program provides incentives for job placement and retention of individuals in on-the-job training and unsubsidized employment opportunities. Through the Ohio Works Incentive Program, the agency paid \$166,500 in incentives to newly employed individuals who had been receiving cash assistance. The program also funded another \$15,467.50 in supportive services to help ensure these individuals were able to continue to get to work.

### Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – \$586,278.67 in support

The WIOA program is for adults, dislocated workers and youth who are in school or are seeking a post secondary education.

WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

Last year in Athens County \$586,278.67 of support was offered to the WIOA participants.

## WORK SERVICES

### Ohio Works First (OWF)



### Ohio Works Incentive Program (OWIP)



### Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act WIOA



## Supportive Services/Programs

### Child Support Enforcement Agency

– \$4,595,854.60 collected in child support payments

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; creation and modification of support orders; collection of payments and/or alimony; and enforcement of child support orders, medical support orders and alimony. Last year, the Child Support Enforcement Agency completed 113 DNA tests, established paternity for 51 children and collected \$4,595,854.60 in child support payments.

### Homemaker Home Health Aid Program

– an average of 106 visits per month

This program provides homemaker and home health aide services to clients who are 60 years of age or older. With this service many clients are able to extend the time they live independently in their own homes. This program is unique to Athens County, as many agencies across the state have eliminated this program due to budget constraints. Total home visits for this year were 1,272 visits.

### Transportation Services

– 1,108 one-way transports; 18,403 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 for eligible clients.

### Voter Registrations – 424 residents registered to vote

In an effort to increase the number of eligible citizens who register to vote, Athens County Department of Job and Family Services offers voter registration at all our offices. Of those who registered last year, 424 were new registrants and 317 changed their address information.

CSEA, HOMEMAKER  
HOME HEALTH,  
TRANSPORTATION,  
VOTING

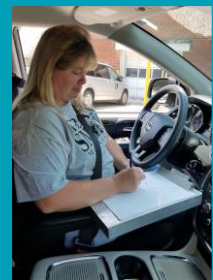
#### Child Support Enforcement Agency



#### Homemaker Home Health Aid Program



#### Transportation Services



#### Voter Registration Services





## Supportive Services/Programs

### Child Care Assistance – monthly average 154 children served

This program provides assistance to help parents/guardians who are working or are in school pay for child care with a licensed provider. Our agency works with an average of 25 licensed child care providers in Athens County. Our providers offer care to infants, toddlers, preschool age children and school age children outside of school hours.

ACDJFS provided a total of \$691,954 in child care payments for local families in the 2017 year.

### Healthchek – 9,268 children received Healthcheks

Healthchek is Ohio's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program. It is a service for infants and children below the age of 21 who are enrolled in the Ohio Medicaid program.

Healthchek services are committed to being a resource for proactive wellness screenings. Children stay healthier and less susceptible to illness through these preventative screenings. If a potential health problem is found, further diagnosis and treatment are covered by Medicaid.

### Adult Protective Services (APS)

– 122 reported new cases

Referrals for this program can be received from anyone with a reasonable cause to believe an individual, who is age 60 or older and is being abused, neglected or exploited.

This program assists Athens County adults who are in danger of harm, unable to protect themselves and have no support providers. APS offers a multidisciplinary step approach to helping older adults who are victims. Step 1 is the initial investigation of mistreatment; Step 2 is health and supportive services; and Step 3 would be legal interventions when necessary.

This service is free and offers Toll Free Emergency After Hours Reporting: 810-299-9903.

## CHILD CARE, HEALTHCHEK, ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

### Child Care Assistance



### Healthchek



### Adult Protective Services



**Athens County  
Department of  
Job and Family  
Services Offices**



## Our service locations

### Athens County Department of Job and Family Services

13183 St. Rt. 13, Millfield, Ohio 45761  
(former County Home location)

**Family Services programs:**

Phone: 740-797-2523, or toll free 800-762-3775

Fax: 740-797-2447

Email: [athensjfs@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:athensjfs@jfs.ohio.gov)

**Child Support Enforcement Agency:**

Phone: 740-593-5046, or toll free 800-436-8933.

Fax: 740-797-2934

Email: [athenscsea@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:athenscsea@jfs.ohio.gov)

The Athens County Home site hosts our Family Services and Child Support Enforcement programs and their respective administrative offices. Most client visits take place at this beautiful historic Athens County location.

### OhioMeansJobs – Athens County

70 North Plains Road, Suite C, The Plains, OH 45780

Phone: 740-797-1405, or toll free 877-351-0405

Fax: 740-797-3105

Email: [ohiomeansjobsathenscounty@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:ohiomeansjobsathenscounty@jfs.ohio.gov)

OhioMeansJobs - Athens County is our career development services center. This site hosts adult education - the Aspire program, job search assistance, jobs board, job training, computer center, Reentry services, employer outreach services, WIOA programming and Veteran services. This center also provides meeting space for our community partners and frequently hosts workshops, hiring events and special career development and community events.

### Denver White Building

184 N. Lancaster St., Athens, OH 45701

Phone: 740- 592-4477, or toll free 800-338-4484

Fax: 740-593-6373

Email: [athensjfs@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:athensjfs@jfs.ohio.gov)

The Denver White building serves as the office for our healthcare programming services. These programs include Adult Protective Services, Homemaker Health Aide Program, Senior Citizen Guardian Program and additional community outreach services.

*To contact us or for additional information*

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

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Visit ACDJFS on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/athenscountyjfs/](http://www.facebook.com/athenscountyjfs/)

Visit OMJ-AC on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/OhioMeansJobs.AthensCounty](http://www.facebook.com/OhioMeansJobs.AthensCounty)

Visit OMJ-AC on Twitter at: [https://twitter.com/OMJ\\_AthensCo](https://twitter.com/OMJ_AthensCo)



*Proudly serving the residents of Athens County, Ohio.*

*Athens County Department of Job and Family Services is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.*