PUBLIC ASSISTANCE  
By Christie Harper

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Many questions have been posed to and by workers regarding the shutdown and the effect upon the benefits we issue. As of the writing of this, there is no end in sight of the shutdown. The most publicized issue impacting our agency at this time concerns SNAP benefits. Allocations for the Department of Agriculture (which funds SNAP) were only made through the end of December, with designated monies allowed to be spent for an additional 30 days after the continuing resolution was issued. In anticipation of this, all recurring benefits for the month of February will be issued to our customers on January 20. This will happen even if the shutdown ends. In most months, the SNAP allotments for our customers are issued on a staggered 20 day schedule, based upon the last digit of the case number. This could be a budgeting issue for some of our customers. If the January allotment was received on January 10 and the February issuance on January 20, the earliest the next issuance would be is March 10, almost 50 days later. Currently, FNS is not providing any information regarding benefits beyond February.

In 2018, the average monthly issuance for SNAP benefits in Sandusky County was $561,144, to nearly 4800 people in just over 2300 households. Economists estimate that for every SNAP dollar which is redeemed by recipients, $1.70 is generated in local economic activity (Center on Budget and Policy). Using that figure, Sandusky County SNAP recipients contributed over $11 million to our local economy in 2018.

A common misconception about our recipients is that there are large households receiving large amounts of benefits. The average SNAP household size is 2 people and they receive $237 in benefits per month. Also, 84% of Sandusky County recipients are white, 9% are African-American and 7% are Hispanic.

Since the conversion to an Electronic Benefit Card, recipients can use their benefits at any retailer nationwide, where SNAP is accepted. In Ohio there are 9,682 retailers who accept the EBT card, from large stores like Kroger and Wal-Mart, to small convenience stores and local farmers’ markets.

The Food Stamp program, now known as SNAP, started as a way for the government to help farmers sell their products and allow low-income individuals increase their food purchasing dollar. Today it is the largest part of the budget of the United States Department of Agriculture.

![Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

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CHILDREN SERVICES

Fun Family Indoor Activities

Being cooped up in the winter can cause stress on both children and adults. Here are some fun family activities to get you through the long winter months when going outside isn’t an option.

♦ Make a Time Capsule
  ♦ Time capsules are a fun way to record the present and remember the past. They are easy to make, and your child will love making predictions about their life and finding trinkets they think will be of interest in the future.
♦ Create Your Family Tree
♦ Making a family tree is a great way to spend quality time with your kids and helps them to learn about your family history.
♦ Make cookies
♦ Baking together can be fun and teach children how to read recipes, measure ingredients and be safe around the oven.
♦ Write a story
♦ You and your child can create your very own story, together, one word at a time. It’s a blast to see where your imagination takes you when you and your child work together!
♦ Play a game
♦ Whether you choose a family favorite or something new, playing a game together is interactive and fun.
♦ Construct an indoor obstacle course
♦ Your child doesn’t need to go outside to burn off excess energy. If you’re snowbound, you can create an indoor obstacle course that will keep your child entertained for hours!
♦ Read a book
♦ Choose your child’s favorite or introduce them to something new. Take turns reading and act out the characters lines.
♦ Get crafty
♦ Get out the crayons, paper, glitter and glue and be creative. You don’t need a lot of fancy or expensive items. Use old wrapping paper and left-over ribbon, paper plates, Christmas or Birthday cards. Once completed, hang the finished project in a place of honor.
♦ Dance away
♦ Put on some music and have a dance party. This will not only be fun, but will help to burn off some of that extra energy.
♦ Have an indoor treasure hunt
♦ Hide several small toys, books, or special snacks around the house. Give your child clues or draw a map that leads to the treasure.

NEW FACES....

TRISHA FOOS
11/13/2018
WFD–BUSINESS SERVICES CONSULTANT

I am Trisha Foos and I am new to the OMJ Center as the Business Services Consultant. I graduated from Tiffin University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and have lived in Fremont my entire life. My husband, Jeremy, and I have two dogs, Lucky and Rev and a cat, Kitty. I enjoy spending time outside, camping, walking our dogs and taking trips. I am glad to be part of a new team at the OMJ center and enjoy working with the community!
**PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

The following 11 employees used no sick leave during the Fourth Quarter of 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMANDA BRANSTRATOR</td>
<td>CHRISTIE HARPER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARTI CUMMINGS</td>
<td>GINA MURATORI</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELAINE FRANKS</td>
<td>JESSICA MURPHY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLORIA GRAHAM</td>
<td>LAURA WARREN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANCY GROVE</td>
<td>CASEY WILSON</td>
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<tr>
<td>NANCY HALEY</td>
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</tbody>
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**2018 FOURTH QUARTER ANNIVERSARIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISA MULLHOLAND</td>
<td>18 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIKKI BROWN</td>
<td>12 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELA WHEELER</td>
<td>4 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHASTITY MINOR</td>
<td>3 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUDI SIMON</td>
<td>30 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANCY GROVE</td>
<td>25 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LORI HAMPShIRE</td>
<td>20 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELA FEASEL</td>
<td>5 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KORRIN DURBIN</td>
<td>4 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVI ANDERSON</td>
<td>13 YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JACKIE EDMONDS</td>
<td>4 YEARS</td>
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</tbody>
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**Workforce Development**

By: Janet Quaintance

*As mentioned* in the previous quarterly newsletters, we are continuing with change and this past quarter brought about the last (we hope) of the changes for 2018 and hopefully 2019 as well! We *officially* assumed the duties of the **OMJ center** on **Nov. 1, 2018**! And, as mentioned in last quarter’s newsletter we ended the OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) Sandusky County center contract with WSOS (Great Lakes Community Action Partnership) (GLCAP)). The agency had contracted out these services for the past 18 years with 15 years under contract with Terra State Community College and the past 2 plus years with GLCAP.

To introduce our staff to the employers who use the OhioMeansJobs center, we held a “Meet and Greet” October 25, 2018. We reviewed the services in the OMJ center along with introducing the new staff as well as acknowledging Bonnie Nusser and Joyce Miller, the outgoing WSOS staff that have been providing services in the OMJ center. It was a very interactive morning, while not only reviewing the services, attendees were asked questions regarding the services in the OMJ center and were given multiple choice answers and the person with the correct answer was awarded an OMJ thumb drive. We would like to thank the agency staff that attended the event, too!

*Another change*—we hired a business services consultant, **Trisha Foos**, to our team and she has been very busy learning her duties here in the OMJ center. In this position, Trisha has been out meeting county employers and learning what they do and what their hiring needs are. This has definitely increased the activity in the OMJ center! We will report more on that in the next quarterly newsletter.

*Angie and Renee* have become quite the **resume experts**! Last quarter they assisted over **219 people** with their resumes. Some people come in with nothing more than a desire to have a resume completed for the first time, to ones that simply need a revision. Staff upload those resumes to the customers OhioMeansJobs.com backpack or simply create one there, which are then made available for employers to view. Trisha uses OhioMeansJobs.com as a tool to aid employers in finding employees, as she does resume mining in OhioMeansJobs.com to match resumes to employer’s needs.

Staff also assist job seekers in applying for jobs as we are taking applications for over 40 employers in the Sandusky County area. Come take a look at our #WORKSsanduskyCounty board to see what area employers are hiring! This can also be found on the OhioMeansJobs-Sandusky County Facebook page. Trisha posts daily updates of local employer’s help wanted ads on Facebook, too.
According to this, the planet Earth was once populated by humans, then in 2012... they all moved to the cloud.

MIS Marti’s Megabytes

We received a new phone system on November 15th. There were some kinks in the system and we spent time trying to figure out how to do what we needed to do with them, but all has worked out. I can now reset Voicemail PIN’s which was usually a ticket to the State. I can also rename phones. It has been a learning process dealing with a new vendor, but learning we are.

Child Care moved to EDMS on December 3rd. They seem to be doing very well with it and have had no problems. CSEA will be next on January 28th.

I finally received info that our P drives are moving to One Drive “The Cloud” on February 20th. The State sent me a report they created in November. This report told me who have invalid files and folder names. By that, they meant the names of the documents or folders were too long. I have been around to talk to everyone except 3 people. The basic principle of the cloud is that it searches for files. The search can only do 250 characters total. So, if you have folders within folders, those folder names count toward your document name. I hope they will do another report in February, so we can see if we cleaned up ok.

IDAM

After you change your password, it is best to reboot your computer and sign in with your new password.

You will need to update your Outlook password and you might need to re-activate it by signing in with your SUID@id.ohio.gov and new password.

SUID = your 5############

CHILD SUPPORT
By Krista Hovis

There is a saying, “the only constant is change”. Nowhere is that more true than in the wonderful world of child support. It seems every time I write one of these articles CSEA has some change or new thing to report. This article is no different, so I guess it’s more of the same!

For starters, we would like to officially welcome Sue Ewing to our happy little family. Sue comes to us from Ottawa Co. CSEA, so she was already well versed in Ohio child support practices. That meant her training time was drastically reduced and Sue has already been released into the wild (out of training and on the call center). We’re happy to have her here. Please say hello when you see her!

In addition to Sue, we also have Lisa Chaffin coming back from an extended leave. With Lisa’s return we will be fully staffed for the first time in, well...a long time. This means everyone’s case loads will go back to a more manageable state and we should be able to get more enforcement activity accomplished.

In addition to those happy changes we are embarking on learning a new document imaging system. Sandusky Co. has opted to be part of the Statewide EDMS system. This means we will be able to see documents for other child support cases in counties around the State. There are a few counties which have decided not to use this system, but most are on board. The benefit is when our clients have cases in other counties as well we will be able to access information in those cases that we may not have here. We also won’t have to request those documents from the other counties and wait for them to arrive. We’ll also be able to send documents to other counties through the EDMS workflow. These capabilities will help efficiency Statewide.

EDMS will have some interesting features that could help efficiency on a local level as well. We will be easing our way into using some of those features. First, we will be getting used to the system and then increasing our use in time. Luckily, we already use the OnBase system (which the EDMS workflows are part of) so this isn’t going to be a drastic change for us. It will be a matter of learning where our mail now goes when it is scanned and the actions we take to work it.

The majority of the training for the new system is online so workers can complete it as they have time. We “go live” with the new system on January 28th. As long as everyone gets the training done by then, the freak-out factor should be minimal.

Another form of online training we all need to complete soon is FTI (Federal Tax Information) training. We are required to do this every year and dislike it with a fire of a thousand suns. However, it is required by the Federal office that we know how to handle sensitive tax information for our clients. Also, if we don’t complete the training our full SETS access could be revoked so it’s pretty important, especially as tax season will be arriving soon. We have to be ready to handle the questions we may get regarding tax refund money that could be coming our way!
BY THE NUMBERS

5301
Average Daily Hits to the website for the year of 2018.

2,229
The number of Children Services intake calls in 2018.

337
The number of screened in reports for investigation/assessment involving 744 children in 2018.

4,148
The number of walk-ins at the Child Support front desk in 2018.

8,990
The number of Child Support calls to the call center in 2018.

$384,479.32
The amount of money collected at the Child Support front desk in 2018.

$695,404
The amount issued in OWF benefits in 2018.

$8,278,782.75
The amount paid in October 2018 for Sandusky County Medicaid recipients

$5,460,086.44
The amount paid to Sandusky County providers for services to Medicaid recipients in October 2018

12,516
The number of Medicaid recipients in Sandusky County in October 2018

2263
The number of visits to the OMJ center in the fourth quarter 2018

87
The number of attendees at hiring events in the fourth quarter 2018

1912
The number of job seekers that used the resource room in the fourth quarter 2018
LOTS OF FUN THINGS HAPPENING AROUND THE AGENCY....

AGENCY TRICK OR TREAT

COSTUME WINNERS

The Sandusky County DJFS tree decorated at the Courthouse.

The division panel decorating contest was a success!
Congratulations to the PCSA division!!!!

PCSA—WINNER!!!

CSEA

ADMIN/FISCAL/MIS

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
SNAP and the Government Shutdown...

Common questions we have been receiving:

Does this mean I have to spend my SNAP benefits by January 20? No. The early issuance is an advance of the normal food dollars allowed for the month of February. This issuance is expected to last until the next regularly scheduled issuance in March.

Does the shutdown affect my child support? No. At this time, we have received no indication that child support benefits are affected by the shutdown.

ALL STAR
3RD QUARTER 2018

Paula Olds

From the nomination form:

Paula answers millions of questions, both complex and simple, related to daily work with positivity, competency, and a sense of humor. She helps with questions related to Medicaid, SNAP, CASH and systems and never has she turned me away or brushed off a question. She has remarkable patience and understanding for her workers. She is a shining star in our area and should be recognized!!

From: Melanie
To: Mindy Bowling

Mindy will be leaving us on January 24th as she has found new employment. 😊 Mindy started with the agency as a typist in Children Services in April of 2005. She became a case aide doing Independent Living Services with teenage youth in foster care in November of 2014. She spent a lot of time on the road and getting to know these kids on her case load. Mindy has been an asset and will be missed as she takes on her new endeavors! She has quite a sense of humor and a story for everything! Just ask her for a story, but bring your coffee, it might be a long one!