

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Providing children, adults, and families an effective support system to assist in obtaining self-sufficiency and a safe, stable, healthy living environment



Wear Blue 2020!
Taking a stand against child abuse!



Child Support

Portage County Job & Family Services (PCJFS) buildings have been closed to the public. The PCJFS Child Support division is working diligently to accommodate requests and has been processing payments during the pandemic. At this time there are no anticipated delays in receiving your child support payment. Unfortunately, the closure has required clients to alter their method of payment.

Until further notice, PCJFS will not be able to take cash payments at the Child Support building. However, the following payment options are still available to you. Make a payment online at <https://oh.smartchildsupport.com>. Call us to make a credit card payment Monday through Friday 8AM-4PM at (330)297-3791. You can also call 888-965-2676 (option 5) to make a credit card payment 24 hours a day. Mail your payment! Checks or money order payments may be mailed to the Ohio Child Support Payment Central (OCSPC), PO Box 182372, Columbus, OH 43218-2372. One last way to make a payment is through Money Gram. Make a Money Gram payment at Wal-Mart, CVS, or any other Money Gram "Pay Bill Center". When making a Money Gram payment, please use Ohio's 'Receive Code' of 14674. Please be aware that fees may apply.

Child and Adult Protective Services Virtual Parenting

As the agency modifies its practice during the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is important to remember that the children we serve are our silent victims. In an effort to follow the mandates of limiting contact with others, it is crucial that we do all we can to ensure children continue to have contact with their parents. An estimated 80% of households now have access to the internet in North America. It is therefore not surprising that children and use online technologies and the internet more than any other medium to communicate and socialize (Kaynay & Yelsma, 2000). Virtual Parenting Time is defined as the use of electronic communication tools such as Facetime, Skype, Zoom and Microsoft Teams to enable contact between a parent and their children. This allows parents to maintain contact with their children until the health crisis resolves.

Child and Adult Protective Services Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In 2018, 4.3 million reports were made to child protective service agencies, impacting approximately 7.8 million children across the country. In 2019, Portage County alone received 4,033 suspected child abuse and neglect calls resulting in 433 children placed in custody. Of those, 27 children were placed into permanent custody and 9 were adopted. In 2019, the agency was dependent on 50 foster homes to take in on average 60 children per month. To report child abuse and neglect, please call our 24/7 hotline at (330)296-CARE (2273).



Unemployment

OHIO MEANS JOBS PORTAGE COUNTY

If you were recently displaced from your job due to COVID-19, you may be wondering what are the steps to applying for unemployment and who to talk to. OhioMeansJobs is here to help you in your time of need and worry. Although OMJ is not the unemployment office, our Job Counselors are available to answer any questions you have and connect you with resources that can assist you in filing your unemployment claims.

To start, clients can upload their resume to the OhioMeansJobs.com backpack, make the resume public so employers can search for them, and complete the career profile. Completing this profile will help employers search for you and may assist in finding employment quicker.

To file for unemployment you can call the toll free phone line at 1-877-OHIOJOB (644-6562) or TTY 1-888-642-8203 or apply online at unemployment.ohio.gov. Call center hours have been extended and are operating Monday – Friday 7AM - 7PM Saturdays from 9am – 5pm and Sundays from 9AM – 1PM. During the application process, you may be asked for the following information: name, address, telephone number, social security number, drivers license (or state ID number), dates of employment, reason for unemployment, and information regarding your occupation and job skills. Additional information is required if you have dependents and are married. It is important to note that either process will take the client approximately 20-25 minutes too apply. Additionally, If you have ever filed unemployment in the past your PIN number will be the same PIN number you used to file your last claim. If you need a PIN reset please call toll-free at 1-866-962-4064.

To remain eligible for benefits, clients must actively seek work throughout the unemployment period. To accomplish this, clients are asked to complete two work search activities per week while they are receiving unemployment. Search activities may include attending a job fair, applying for a job, completing a career profile at OhioMeansJobs.com, or creating a professional user profile on websites such as LinkedIn.

Rest assured, OhioMeansJobs Portage County is still virtually here for you! The center is still offering OhioMeansJobs center services such as assistance with resume writing, job search, mock interviewing, and ohiomeansjobs.com assistance. Our Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program is still assisting youth ages 14-24 with employment and educational needs. Youth interested in applying can download the application at co.portage.oh.us/ohio-means-jobs/pages/youth-programs and email the completed application to carly.spencer@jfs.ohio.gov.

Are you an employer? OhioMeansJobs is serving Portage County with the following needs: Job orders, pre-screening of resumes and applications, hiring events, and rapid response. For assistance please email: Portage_Recruiter2@jfs.ohio.gov. Additionally, OhioMeansJobs is still serving Prevention, Retention, and Contingency eligible families with emergent needs. Examples of services include: COVID_19 services (one time \$300 payment for loss of employment), employment expenses, family support services, home extermination, and home repair utility housing assistance. Please visit co.portage.oh.us/jfs for the PRC application. OhioMeansJobs is here for you during this difficult time. Call us today at (330)296-2841.

Additional Resources:

For more information and general Questions and Answers specific to COVID-19 please follow the link below <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/CoronavirusAndUI.stm>

Please click on the link below to watch the instructional video on how to file your claim online. If you have any follow-up questions please contact your processing center. Video on how to file <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/tutorials/OUC/IntroductionToUI/introduction.htm>

Assistance during COVID-19

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The Portage County Job & Family Services Public Assistance division has programs available to assist families and individuals who have been effected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The following are programs that can assist: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Childcare subsidy, and Non-Emergency Transportation. Please see below for specific information regarding each program.

Medicaid:

If you are an individual with low income, a woman who is pregnant or has an infant or child/ren, are an older adult, or an individual with a disability you may qualify for Medicaid coverage in Ohio. To be eligible for coverage, you must be a United States citizen or a qualified alien, have or obtain a Social Security number, be an Ohio resident, and meet the financial requirements.

Additionally, Medicaid has the following financial requirements that must be met as well: Children younger than age 19 with income below 206% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for household size, pregnant women with income below 200% FPL for household size, adults over the age of 19 with income below 133% FPL for household size, youth between the ages of 18 and younger than 26 who aged out of foster care on their 18th birthday and received Title IV-E payments, individuals who are age 65 and older, or are legally blind, or are determined disabled by the Social Security Administration with income below \$783/month for single disabled individual or \$1175/mo. for a married disabled couple, long-term services and supports are programs or services that help older adults and people with disabilities accomplish everyday tasks – must meet income and resource eligibility and Medicare Premium Assistance Program – in receipt of Medicare Part A & B with income below 135% FPL for household size.

You can apply for Medicaid by phone at 1-844-640-4664 or log onto www.benefits.ohio.gov to apply online. You can also contact Portage County Job and Family Services at 330-297-3750 to have an application mailed to you. When you apply, you will need to verify the following information: US Citizenship or qualified alien status, income, residency, living arrangement, resources – as applicable to program that you are applying for.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) assists Ohioans with purchasing healthy food. These benefits are distributed through the Ohio Direction Card which is similar to a debit card. To qualify, your household's gross monthly income must be under the 130% of the federal poverty guideline. You can apply for SNAP by phone at 1-844-640-4664 or log onto www.benefits.ohio.gov to apply online. You can also contact Portage County Department of Job and Family Services at 330-297-3750 to have an application mailed to you. When you apply, you will need to verify the following information: You will need verify: your Social Security number or proof of application, proof of income, proof of identity such as a driver's license or state ID, housing and utility costs, any childcare or dependent care costs, child support payments made for children that are not living in the household, and any medical expenses for those with disabilities or over the age of 60 (this includes prescriptions).

Assistance during COVID-19 continued...

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TANF) provides up to 36 months of cash assistance to families in need. Families that may be eligible must have children and meet a gross monthly income test in which takes into account unearned income as well as earned income. Unearned income could be Social Security benefits and an example of earned income could be your paycheck from work before taxes. Other individuals may be eligible for TANF assistance as well. This could include minor children that are eligible for child only assistance if they are living with guardians other than their parents, women who are at least six months pregnant. In addition, unmarried minor parents and pregnant minors must be in approved, adult supervised living arrangements or live with a parent, legal guardian, relative or legal custodian and also most adults and minor heads of households must participate in work activities such as on the job training, community service, and education directly related to unemployment.

You can apply for TANF by phone at 1-844-640-4664 or log onto www.benefits.ohio.gov to apply online. You can also contact Portage County Department of Job and Family Services at 330-297-3750 to have an application mailed to you. When you apply, you will need to verify the following information: social security number or proof of application, relationships/bloodlines, school enrollment/attendance as applicable, proof of income, or child support notice), identity such as a driver's license or state ID.

Childcare Subsidy

Children from infant to school aged may be eligible for part time or full time publicly funded childcare. To become eligible for this program, the family must have an income below the 130% of the federal poverty level. After approval, families may remain eligible unless their income reaches above the 300% federal poverty level. Families can be eligible for all or part of the monthly childcare expenses. To apply, please contact Portage County Job & Family Services at (330)297-3750 to have an application mailed to you. When you apply, you will need proof of the following: U.S. citizenship, or qualified alien status, Social Security number or proof of application, and income.

Non-Emergency Transportation

The Non-Emergency Transportation program ensures necessary transportation for Medicaid recipients to and from Medicaid providers for medical appointments, dialysis, addiction treatment, physical therapy and to the pharmacy. For more information, please call (330)297-3785 or email Portage_NET@jfs.ohio.gov. It is important to note that individuals receiving only Medicare premium assistance and individuals residing in a nursing facility or ICF-IID Care facility are not eligible for Non-Emergency Transportation. To apply for the program, you may call Portage County Job & Family Services at (330)297-3785 or email a request to

Portage_NET@jfs.ohio.gov. The following information will be needed: name, Social Security number or case number, and appointment date, time, name of provider, and address of provider. You will also be asked if you are in need of door to door service or gas cards.



Job & Family Services

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PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

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THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION IS A PUBLICATION OF PORTAGE COUNTY JOB & FAMILY
SERVICES. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE
CONTACT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
KIM MCCLENDON AT (330)357-7190 OR KIM.MCCLENDON@JFS.OHIO.GOV

*DON'T FORGET TO CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PCJFS
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