

COLUMBIANA COUNTY PRC PROGRAM

A PRC service is not ongoing OWF (TANF) assistance. PRC services are: 1) services that have no direct monetary value to an individual family and that do not involve implicit or explicit income support; or 2) one-time, short-term assistance which is limited to the amount actually required to meet the presenting economic need, up to the cap amount as listed in the County Services & Benefits per 12 or 24 consecutive months of eligibility or family preservation and reunification need as specified in the Family Preservation and Reunification Services Section of the PRC Plan. **Any number of individual payments can be made during this period as long as they are distinctive, non-ongoing occurrences, and do not exceed the cap amount as listed in the County Services & Benefits Matrix and the family maximum cap of \$1,500 total in a 24 month period.**

Any service or benefits paid through the One Stop System as listed in the matrix will be separate and distinctive from the county's regular cap. A PRC Assistance Group (PRC AG) is a group of individuals containing at least one minor child or a pregnant individual and treated as a unit for the purposes of determining eligibility for the PRC program. The PRC AG unit for the prevention and retention portion of the PRC program will be determined based on OWF standard filing unit procedures. The PRC AG for the contingency portion will be based on all individuals living in the household. A minor child means an individual who has not attained 18 years of age or has not attained 19 years of age and is a full-time student in a secondary school (or in the equivalent level of vocational or technical training). The minor child must be residing with their parent, a relative caretaker or legal custodian (for purposes of TANF eligibility, legal custody can only occur through court order).

A unit for the purpose of determining eligibility for the PRC Program shall be defined as: 1) all individuals residing with the minor child, or pregnant woman, or 2) a family who is in need of assistance to enable the placement of a child. 3) Employment related services shall be available to unemployed or underemployed non-custodial parents, residing in Columbiana County who have a legal obligation to support, and whose minor child resides in Columbiana County. A unit for the non-custodial parent will consist of the non-custodial parent and the minor child(ren) residing in Columbiana County. Underemployed is defined as – Persons who are employed less than 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings less than the federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

Eligibility for PRC is dependent upon the PRC AG's demonstration and verification of the need for financial assistance and/or services, and whether the county determines that provision of PRC will satisfy the need. In order for the PRC AG to be found eligible, the PRC AG must be: 1) at or below the required percentage of the corresponding poverty

level or; 2) homeless; which means an individual who lacks a fixed and regular night time residence or an individual whose primary night time residence is a supervised shelter designed to provide temporary accommodations.

PRC assistance is only available to members who haven't received PRC assistance above the monetary cap during the previous 12 or 24 consecutive months as specified in the plan and matrix. **Families receiving assistance under another program may receive PRC assistance if found eligible. Families who have received PRC assistance in another county during the past 12 or 24 months which equals or exceeds the cap amount listed in the County Services & Benefits or the family maximum cap of \$1,500 total in a 24 month period are ineligible for PRC assistance in Columbiana County.**

The county is responsible for using objective criteria when determining eligibility and approving or denying the application within 30 calendar days after completion of the application process in a fair and equitable manner, which includes verification of information. Eligibility will be carefully evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Immediate needs and whether or not the PRC Program can be of benefit will be determined by the CDJFS. Under this program, an assistance group as defined above and meets the program's eligibility requirements may receive customized assistance, goods, or services, as determined by the County Department of Job and Family Services.

This program is designed to help overcome immediate barriers to achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency and personal responsibility, thereby preventing the need for ongoing public assistance. However, the fact that an ongoing Medicaid, OWF or DA assistance group is active is not a determining factor in the consideration of eligibility for the PRC Program. In addition, the CDJFS must inform individuals about other programs (i.e., Medicaid, CSEA and Food Stamps) that are available and hearing rights that are applicable. Cooperation with these programs may affect future eligibility for the PRC Program.

PRC assistance will be authorized with the expectation that the PRC AG will then be able to function without additional agency help. If the applicant does not have sufficient income to meet an ongoing expense, PRC cannot be issued. Since the amount of PRC available cannot prevent the onset or continuation of the emergent need, there is not eligibility for payment.

Services are provided to an assistance group to prevent them from reliance on and divert them from ongoing cash assistance and guide them to self-sufficiency by helping them through the presenting economic need in order to achieve family preservation and reunification. Services are also provided to a PRC AG to help members retain employment and, thereby, to achieve or continue self-sufficiency. In addition, services are provided to a PRC AG to overcome a presenting emergent economic need which, if not satisfied, threatens the safety, health or decent living arrangement of one or more PRC AG members. PRC

assistance for heating fuel and heating utilities may be authorized during winter heating months as long as the applicant has applied for all available HEAP funds.

Former Family Emergency Assistance (FEA) Program policies and benefits are replaced by the PRC Program. The CDJFS shall enter the PRC AG into CRIS-E for statewide clearance and PRC authorization.

All income which is expected to be received during the thirty (30) day prospective budget period is considered when determining financial need. The thirty (30) day calendar period begins with the date that a signed PRC application is received. In certain situations where all members of the assistance group are in receipt of OWF, food assistance, child care assistance or Medicaid, the CCDJFS shall use the existing income verification in the CRISE system to document financial need. The associated PRC application must note the qualifying assistance group connection. In order to be counted, the income must be readily available to meet the presenting economic need.

Effective October 1, 2005, the following income is excluded in determining eligibility for PRC benefits and services. Excluded income includes all income that is federally excluded in determining eligibility for federal needs-based programs; income that is excluded for food stamp and OWF eligibility purposes; the amounts of drug discounts and transitional assistance received under the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act; Monetary allowances paid under Section 401 of the Veteran's Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000, and Child Support refunds made by ODJFS as a result of the Governor's Executive Order pursuant to Am S.B. 170.

With the above exceptions, the total gross income, both earned and unearned, of all the PRC AG members, must be counted. Exception: 1.) The gross earnings of a minor child in the Assistance Group who is a full-time student, as defined by the school, unless the minor is a parent. Minor child is defined in Section 5101:02 of the Revised Code. There are no deductions or exclusions allowed from any type of countable income. Exception: 1.) Child Support payments paid by an assistance group member for a child outside the assistance group. The amount paid, up to the amount ordered, is excluded. Written or verbal verification of income is required. For any verification which is obtained by phone, there must be clear documentation in the PRC AG record concerning the name and position of the supplier of the information, the date the verification was obtained, the amount of the verified income, and the name of the individual who obtained the verification. If income verification is unavailable, the client's statement will be documented and may be accepted. The gross amount of the PRC AG's countable income totaled and compared to the amount which is at or below the required percentage of the corresponding poverty level. If the total PRC AG income is equal to or less than the required percentage of the corresponding poverty level, the PRC AG meets the income requirements.

A PRC AG that is discovered to have fraudulently received or improperly disposed of PRC benefits or services, i.e. sell tools, tires, car or convert PRC to cash, will be required to reimburse the Columbiana County Department of Job & Family Services the full cost of the benefits or service and may be subject to possible prosecution. PRC will not be authorized to these assistance groups until the PRC amount fraudulently received or improperly disposed is paid in full. Providing false information on the application will render the household ineligible for any PRC for a twenty-four (24) month period.

Applicants who are ineligible include: 1) fugitive felons and probation and parole violators; 2) individuals with any outstanding OWF, PRC, Food Stamp or Day Care fraud overpayment balance; 3) individuals ineligible for other programs due to deliberate non-compliance with terms of their assistance; with the exception that family reunification and preservation soft services may be provided to families involved with Children Services to meet the requirements of their case plan. 4) an unmarried, non-graduate parent under 18 not attending high school or equivalent; 5) an unmarried parent under 18 not living in an adult supervised setting; 6) a person found to have fraudulently misrepresented residence in order to obtain assistance in two or more states is ineligible for 10 years or; 7) Individuals residing outside Columbiana County. 8) Individuals who do not follow through with referrals. 9) AG's referred to Credit Counseling who fail to follow through with the program requirements.

An adult PRC AG member must complete the form Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Program (PRC) Application to request PRC.

For services provided under a contractual arrangement with the agency, the application process and eligibility criteria will be included in the contract language.

EXPLORING COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Availability of resources located within the local community shall be explored prior to the authorization of PRC. For the purposes of PRC, the "community" could be defined to include areas beyond the county's boundaries. A PRC AG is required to apply for and utilize any program, benefit, or support system which may reduce or eliminate the **presenting economic need**. For contingency service, emergent economic need is defined as an unexpected or unavoidable financial crisis which resulted in an inability to meet a presenting need. County personnel determining eligibility for PRC should be aware of community resources which may be contracted for or otherwise utilized to help meet the need. The PRC application provides a section for written documentation of the agency's attempt to locate and utilize community resources.

The PRC assistance group must explore and use any readily available resources prior to utilizing county PRC funds.

AMOUNT AND TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

PRC payments are limited to the amount actually required to meet the **presenting economic need** up to the cap amount as listed in the County Services & Benefits per 12 or 24 consecutive month period of eligibility. **Any number of individual payments can be made during this period as long as they are distinctive, non-ongoing occurrences and do not exceed the cap amount listed in the County Services & Benefits Matrix and the family maximum cap of \$1,500 total in a 24 month period.**

Once eligibility for PRC is established, the **CDJFS Director or designee** will authorize and generate payment for the assistance, goods, and/or services. All authorized payments must be based on the lowest and most responsible of three quotes for the cost of meeting the presenting need. For vehicle repairs, if the vehicle is inoperable, the county may consider utilizing the emergent nature language as per the county procurement plan. Authorization may occur at any time during a period beginning on the date the PRC is approved. As long as payment is authorized within the appropriate period, the actual payment may be made to vendors according to the procedures in place at the CDJFS. All PRC payments are made by the CDJFS to the vendor or PRC AG. The county must ensure that its policies meet all auditing requirements.

FAMILY PRESERVATION AND REUNIFICATION SERVICES

The Columbiana County Department of Job and Family Services may provide the following family preservation and reunification services to a child and his parent, guardian or custodian as the agency determines necessary and subject to the availability of unencumbered funds. Any number of individual payments can be made as long as they do not exceed \$2,000.00 for the assistance group over the 12 consecutive month period. Following are examples of covered services:

Diagnostic Services	Family Counseling	Respite Care
Parent Education	Family Stability Follow-up	In-Home Services
Case Management	Homemaker	Retention
Emergency Caretaker	Post Finalization Services	Transportation
Special Services for Drug & Alcohol Abusers	Unmarried Parent Services	Domestic Violence

Family Preservation and Reunification Services do not affect the \$2,000.00 cap if provided by an agency employee or an agency contracted service.

Other services which in the judgment of CCDJFS staff will prevent the need to permanently remove a child from his or her home or to facilitate reunification of a child to his or her home, or any service deemed necessary by the agency to avoid the placement of a child in the permanent custody of the CCDJFS, may supersede services or targeted

groups listed in the matrix. Documentation will be provided by Children Services as to the need of the services which may involve a case plan.

Eileen Dray-Bardon, Director

Date

Effective 9/23/2015

Prevention, Retention and Contingency Program

MONTHLY FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINE MEASURE
Effective January 22, 2015*

Monthly Federal Poverty Guideline amounts are used to determine income eligibility for PRC. The total gross countable income of all members of the assistance group must be equal to or less than 50%, 100%, 130%, 150%, 175%, 200% or 300% of the Monthly Federal Poverty Guideline amount for the appropriate assistance group size.

Assistance Group Size	50% Monthly FPG	100% Monthly FPG	130% Monthly FPG	150% Monthly FPG	175% Monthly FPG	200% Monthly FPG	300% Monthly FPG
1	491	981	1,265	1,472	1,717	1,962	2,943
2	664	1,328	1,705	1,992	2,324	2,655	3,983
3	838	1,675	2,144	2,512	2,930	3,349	5,023
4	1,011	2,021	2,584	3,032	3,537	4,042	6,063
5	1,184	2,368	3,024	3,552	4,144	4,735	7,103
6	1,358	2,715	3,464	4,072	4,750	5,429	8,143
7	1,531	3,061	3,904	4,592	5,357	6,122	9,183
8	1,704	3,408	4,344	5,112	5,964	6,815	10,223
9	1,878	3,755	4,784	5,632	6,570	7,509	11,263
10	2,051	4,101	5,224	6,152	7,177	8,202	12,303
11	2,224	4,448	5,664	6,672	7,784	8,895	13,343
12	2,398	4,795	6,104	7,192	8,390	9,589	14,383
13	2,571	5,141	6,474	7,712	8,997	10,282	15,423
14	2,744	5,488	6,910	8,232	9,604	10,975	16,463
15	2,918	5,835	7,346	8,752	10,210	11,669	17,503

Numbers are rounded up from \$.50

*** 130% Monthly Federal Poverty Guideline effective 10/1/14**