

Ohio works First program

Perry JFS helping with temporary cash assistance

Within Reach

a Perry County

Job & Family

Services (J&FS) Column

Ohio Works First (OWF) is a program administered by Perry JFS that assists families with a minor child or a woman who is at least six months pregnant.

OWF was designed to provide eligible families with temporary cash assistance and employment services through the federal TANF program. OWF emphasizes that all able-bodied individuals participate and comply with terms of a self-sufficiency contract individually created with a JFS staff member in order to receive OWF benefits.

OWF benefits include a monthly deposit onto a

debit-like card and access to employment services. Single parent families are required to participate 35 hours per week to receive OWF assistance while two parent families are required to participate between 35 and 55 hours per week. Families are eligible for OWF for up to 36 months and must meet the gross monthly income guidelines.

In general, the amount of cash assistance a family is eligible for per month is determined by the household's total gross monthly income and the number of individuals living in the household. Gross monthly income is not considered in the case of a minor child living with a non-parent relative, such as a grandparent. In this case, the child

alone may be eligible for OWF, and the non-parent relative would not be required to participate for the OWF assistance.

For more information about Ohio Works First, please visit the Benefits page of the Perry JFS website at <http://perryjfs.org>. Individuals interested in applying for OWF can visit the Perry JFS website for an online or printable application or they may stop by the Perry JFS office at 212 South Main St., New Lexington Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to fill out an application or talk to a caseworker.

(Information for this article was provided by Cassandra Argo, HarvestCorps member)