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**Hamilton County Job and Family Services to Stay Open Through Weekend
to Help Provide Emergency Assistance to Local Residents**

Cincinnati (Sept. 18, 2008) Hamilton County’s Department of Job and Family Services will offer weekend hours to those who suffered losses in Sunday’s windstorm and want to apply for emergency assistance.

The Department’s downtown location, 222 E. Central Parkway, will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. The weekend hours are offered only to low-income residents who suffered home damage, vehicle damage, loss of food or other storm-related damage and losses (see eligibility requirements below). Current food stamp recipients who lost food in the storm and want to apply for replacement can also stop by.

Those wishing to conduct normal business with the Department should come during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

“Even though we’ve been flooded with requests for help, we’re also aware a lot of people who were hurt by the storm had to return to work this week and were not able to take the time to apply for assistance,” said Moira Weir, director of the Job and Family Services Department. “We hope offering these weekend hours gives them an additional chance to visit with us. The process is very quick and should not take much of their time.”

Gov. Ted Strickland has declared a state of emergency for all 88 Ohio counties and made a limited amount of money available to help those who suffered storm-related damage and losses. To qualify, Hamilton County residents must have an income level at 200 percent of the poverty level or below (see chart below) and meet one or more of the following eligibility requirements:

- Have children under 18 in the home
- Be age 55 or older
- Be disabled

Help is also available to current food stamp recipients who lost food during the power outage. Those recipients need only re-apply for their monthly benefits within ten days of the storm (Sept. 24).

However, those applying for emergency storm assistance have until Oct. 17 to hand in their applications. Once received, the application will be reviewed and, in some cases, applicants will be contacted by phone to discuss the case (applicants must provide a phone number). All will be notified by mail of a final decision.

To apply for either windstorm assistance or replacement of food stamp benefits:

- Visit 222 E. Central Parkway and pick up an application (applications are different for the two different forms of assistance)
- Call 513-946-1000 and ask for an application to be mailed to you
- Download an application at www.hcjfs.org and fax it to 513-946-1076 or mail it to:

Hamilton County Job and Family Services Department
Attn: Performance Improvement
222 E. Central Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Poverty Level Chart

Family Size	Maximum monthly household income to be at 200% of poverty level	Maximum annual household income to be at 200% of poverty level
1	\$1,734	\$20,808
2	\$2,334	\$28,008
3	\$2,934	\$35,208
4	\$3,534	\$42,408
5	\$4,134	\$49,608
6	\$4,734	\$56,808
7	\$5,334	\$64,008
8	\$5,934	\$71,208
9	\$6,534	\$78,408
10	\$7,134	\$85,608

About Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services

The Department of Job and Family Services administers federal, state and local programs for those in need. The Department helps with local child protection, elderly protection, child care, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement. Servicing Hamilton County since 1947, the Department helps hundreds of thousands each year and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.