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Community Forums to Discuss Child Support Guidelines

Cincinnati (Aug. 15, 2008) The Ohio Child Support Guidelines Advisory Council will host two community forums on Monday, Aug. 18, to discuss guidelines in the state's child support program.

The events will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Room GN009 of the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services building, 237 William Howard Taft Road. All members of the public are invited to attend and hear about, or comment on, Child Support guidelines.

The guidelines council meets every four years to review child support guidelines and determine whether changes are needed. The council, which is overseen by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Office of Child Support, is hosting forums throughout the state to gather information on the guidelines. It will submit a report with recommendations to the Ohio General Assembly for legislative action.

Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services is hosting the event as part of its Child Support Month schedule. Those activities include an amnesty initiative to help more than 14,000 local residents who have had their driver's licenses suspended for non-payment of support and amnesty for more than 3,000 with child support-related warrants issued through Juvenile and Domestic Relations courts. For more information, call 946-SETS.

Hamilton County's Child Support Enforcement Agency handles about 92,000 cases a year. Last year, it collected \$142 million for families that might not otherwise have had the financial support necessary to pay for such items as food, medical care, child care, school clothes and school supplies. Many of the children who do not receive child support turn to public assistance, with taxpayers providing financial support.

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, adult 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 of residents each year. The Department of Job and Family Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.