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**Hamilton County Job and Family Services No Longer
Accepting Emergency Assistance Applications**

Cincinnati (Sept. 22, 2008) Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services has stopped accepting applications for emergency assistance for low-income residents who suffered losses in the Sept. 14 windstorm. The agency will continue accepting applications through Wednesday for food stamp replacement for current recipients who lost food during the power outage.

Agency Director Moira Weir said JFS received more than 7,000 applications for emergency assistance and employees are working diligently to process them quickly and get the money in the hands of those who need it.

"The money the state made available is very limited, but we will help as many people as possible," she said. "We'd love to be able to help everyone, but, the truth is, we are going to have a hard time meeting the needs of our current applicants, so we need to shut down the application process today. If more money from the state becomes available that enables us to meet the needs of additional residents, we may open it back up."

The Department's downtown location, 222 E. Central Parkway, stayed open through the weekend to handle the additional requests for assistance to those low-income residents who suffered home damage, vehicle damage, loss of food or other storm-related damage and losses. Those with incomes below 200 percent of the poverty level who were either over age 55, disabled or had a child under 18 in the home qualified for the aid.

The agency also is helping current food stamp recipients who lost food because of the electrical outage. To receive replacement food stamps for September, recipients must apply by the end of business on Wednesday, Weir said. More than 12,000 have already done so.

To apply for replacement of food stamp benefits:

- Visit 222 E. Central Parkway and pick up an application
- 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 \

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.