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Online Chat About Assistance Available to Struggling Hamilton County Residents

Cincinnati (July 25, 2008) Hamilton County residents struggling with the high cost of gas, food, health care and other items can learn more about assistance available to them in a July 30 online chat with Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services.

The chat is an opportunity to ask questions about public assistance programs. Many who are working but making lower incomes do not realize they are eligible for a debit card to help pay for food. Also, the elderly and many low-income children are eligible for health care assistance. And those in between jobs can receive cash assistance to help them back on their feet.

Jim Ashmore, a manager in Performance Improvement, will discuss Medicaid, food assistance, cash assistance and other programs from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on July 30.

To participate, visit www.hcjfs.org and click on the link posted under Today at HCJFS. Also, an e-mail will be sent to subscribers to the [HCJFS Update](#) newsletter with a link to the chat area.

The chat is another attempt by the Department of Job and Family Services, which handles child support collection, child welfare and public assistance programs, to be more accessible and open to its consumers and the public at large. It follows recent moves such as stationing employees in neighborhood non-profits for easier access to serves and establishing a Speaker's Bureau to help educate the public on how the agency does business.

"We serve hundreds of thousands of people in this county each year and we're always trying creative ways to reach out to them," said Moira Weir, director of the department. "Our goal is to be accessible, responsive and accountable."

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.