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**Online Chat for Public to Learn More Adoption**

**Cincinnati (Nov. 2, 2009)** Hamilton County residents thinking about adoption can learn more Wednesday in an online chat by the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services as part of its National Adoption Month activities.

The lead recruiter for Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services will answer questions about certification and licensing, home assessments, training and other topics that will help you make the decision to become a foster or adoptive parent. The chat with recruitment manager John Cummings will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4.

The department also has about 215 children available for adoption. They come from a variety of backgrounds, neighborhoods, economic circumstances and living situations. They may have varying levels of medical, emotional or behavioral problems. They all bring their own personalities, strengths, interests and gifts.

Any Ohio resident over 18 years old is eligible. Adoptive parents must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Pass a physical to show they are in good physical health and capable of caring for children
- Pass a local, state and federal (if not a resident of Ohio for the past five years) background check
- Pass a home study process (includes fire inspection as well as other rules and regulations)
- Pass more than 30 hours of specialized training

Residents can participate in the chat by clicking on a link that will be posted on [www.hcifs.org](http://www.hcifs.org) prior to the 10 a.m. start. Also, an e-mail will be sent to subscribers to the [HCJFS Update](#) newsletter and to followers of the agency on Facebook and Twitter (hamiltoncojfs). To sign up for the newsletter, visit [www.hcifs.org](http://www.hcifs.org).

For more information about becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent, call (513) 632-6366 or visit [www.hckids.org](http://www.hckids.org).

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 services 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.