



Main Office: 222 East Central Parkway • Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-1225
Neighborhood Center: 237 Wm. Howard Taft • Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
General Information: (513) 946-1000
General Information TDD: (513) 946-1295
FAX: (513) 946-2250
www.hcifs.org
www.hckids.org

Media Contact:

Brian Gregg
Chief Communications Officer
E-mail: greggb@jfs.hamilton-co.org
Phone: 513-946-1728
Fax: 513-946-2248

Hamilton County One of Nation's Best in Food Assistance Education, Outreach and Service

Cincinnati (Oct. 21, 2010) Hamilton County's Job and Family Services Department was the only department in the state of Ohio and one of only 30 in the country to be recognized for providing the community with outstanding service in its food assistance program.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services Kevin Concannon named Hamilton County a Bronze Hunger Champion in the 2010 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Hunger Champion Awards. The awardees demonstrate exemplary service conducting outreach activities and assisting eligible clients to obtain nutrition benefits. There were two Gold Hunger Champions and five Silver Hunger Champions. Hamilton County was one of 23 Bronze Hunger Champions. The only other awardees in the Midwest were Wayne County, Michigan and Union County, Illinois – both Bronze Hunger Champions.

"Putting healthy food within reach for low-income Americans has never been more important," Concannon said. "These local offices have gone the extra mile to reach out to and educate needy members of their communities about the nutrition benefits of SNAP and how to apply. Through innovative strategies and creative partnerships, these honorees serve as models for local offices across the country."

Moira Weir, director of Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services, said she was especially proud the department has remained innovative in lean times. Despite losing half its workforce over the past two years, the agency has managed to serve far more people. The agency's food assistance recipients have jumped from 113,000 to 134,000 over the past year. Five years ago, there were only 76,000 recipients.

"Our top priority is ensuring the citizens of Hamilton County receive the assistance they need and we won't compromise on that," she said. "This award is a nice recognition of our efforts and commitment to this community."

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 assistance 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.