



**Main Office:** 222 East Central Parkway • Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-1225  
**General Information:** (513) 946-1000  
**General Information TDD:** (513) 946-1295  
[www.hcjfs.org](http://www.hcjfs.org)

Dear Child Support Customer,

I am excited to tell you about a new opportunity that Hamilton County Job and Family Services is offering to a select number of our non-custodial parents. We have partnered with SmartMoney Community Services, a local non-profit organization with a history of empowering individuals and families to achieve their financial goals, to offer workshops and customized one-on-one counseling to you ***free of charge***.

You have been identified as a quality candidate who could potentially benefit from the services offered by SmartMoney. It is our hope that by taking advantage of these services you will be able to maintain or enhance your ability to support your child(ren).

I have enclosed a flier that includes information about the programs and services available through SmartMoney and how you can take advantage of this unique opportunity. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Michael Patton  
Section Chief  
Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Service  
222 E. Central Parkway  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

## **Cuyahoga County Child Support Program Aids Children by Helping Parents Reach Financial Stability**

**Parents who owe child support will be tutored on money management,  
debt reduction, credit scores, home ownership**

**Cleveland (Feb. 21, 2011)** Cuyahoga County Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) has been selected by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Office of Child Support to participate in an innovative program designed to improve the financial well-being of children by increasing the financial literacy and standing of parents who pay child support. The Asset Building for Financial Responsibility Program will connect low-income, non-custodial parents involved in the child support system with financial education and asset building programs. The goal is to develop financial stability among the parents, so their children will receive the support they need to lead happy, healthy lives.

The CSEA is partnering with Wealth, Education Collaboration Opportunity Fund (WECO), an organization with a vision to provide comprehensive financial services and economic education, and empowering families to achieve their financial goals while enhancing the quality of life in the Cuyahoga County community.

Hamilton County and CSEA will pilot the program. CSEA is not receiving any funds for participation, but the financial groups will receive funding for their financial literacy classes/sessions, and the clients will receive incentives for participation. The program in Cuyahoga County is expected to begin in April. The grant will accommodate 25 participants from Cuyahoga County and 25 from Hamilton County.

Each participant who is referred to the program will be able to take advantage of one-on-one counseling and coaching sessions and financial literacy workshops. The case plan will detail an agreed-upon level of improvement expected to achieve some financial stability by demonstrating an increased knowledge of effective practices and strategies in managing debt, increasing credit scores, and consistently making child support payments.

There is more to collecting child support than chasing down non-paying parents. There are many non-custodial parents who want to pay consistently, but they don't have the financial stability to do so. The CSEA has a history of working with non-custodial parents in a positive manner and this program adds another option for those parents to take care of their children financially.

Research has shown that parents who regularly pay child support are more involved in the lives of their children. The program will help parents build life and leadership skills to assist them in obtaining employment and financial stability. They will be coached on money management, debt reduction, credit scores, home ownership and more.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Office of Child Support was awarded a grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services based on the need for such services, particularly in Hamilton and Cuyahoga counties. The application for the grant pointed out that "Cleveland (where 42% of children live in poverty) and Cincinnati (where 36% of children live in poverty) have both consistently ranked

among the top ten poorest cities in the country. Ohio is the only state in the Union to have two cities among the top ten." The application also noted that many child support obligations throughout the state were now being met through unemployment compensation and, when that compensation runs out for those parents, children will suffer.

Cuyahoga County's Child Support Enforcement Agency handled more than 145,000 cases and collected nearly \$240 million last year for families that might not otherwise have had the money 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 Cuyahoga County's Department of Health and Human Services**

The Department of Health and Human Services administers federal, state and local programs for those in need. Servicing Cuyahoga County, the Department helps hundreds of thousands each year with local child protection, elderly protection, child care, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement.



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**New Hamilton County Program Aids Children by Helping Parents Reach Financial Stability**

*Parents who owe child support will be tutored on money management,  
debt reduction, credit scores, home ownership*

**Cincinnati (Feb. 15, 2011)** Hamilton County's Job and Family Services Department has been chosen to participate in an innovative program designed to improve the financial well-being of children by increasing the financial literacy and standing of parents who pay child support.

The Asset Building for Financial Responsibility Program will connect low-income, non-custodial parents involved in the child support system with financial education and asset building programs. The goal is to develop financial stability among the parents, so their children will receive the support they need to lead happy, healthy lives.

Hamilton County and Cuyahoga County will pilot the program.

"Collecting child support is about more than chasing down non-paying parents," said Moira Weir, director of the Job and Family Services Department. "We know we have many parents who want to pay consistently, but they don't have the financial stability to do so. We have a history at this agency of working with non-custodial parents in a positive manner and this program adds another tool to our toolbox when it comes to making sure the children of Hamilton County are taken care of financially."

Research has shown that parents who regularly pay child support are more involved in the lives of their children. The program will help parents build life and leadership skills to assist them in obtaining employment and financial stability. They will be coached on money management, debt reduction, credit scores, home ownership and more.

Each participant who is referred to the program will be able to take advantage of one-on-one counseling sessions and financial literacy workshops. The case plan will detail an agreed-upon level of improvement expected to achieve some financial stability by demonstrating an increased knowledge of effective practices and strategies in managing debt, increasing credit scores, and consistently making child support payments.

The Job and Family Services Department is partnering with SmartMoney Community Services, an Over-the-Rhine organization with a vision to provide comprehensive affordable financial services and economic education, empowering families to achieve their financial goals while enhancing the quality of life in the Cincinnati community.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Child Support was awarded a grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services based on the need for such services, particularly in Hamilton County and Cuyahoga County. The application pointed out that "Cleveland (where 42%

of children live in poverty) and Cincinnati (where 36% of children live in poverty) have both consistently ranked among the top ten poorest cities in the country. Ohio is the only state in the union to have two cities among the top ten.” The application also noted that many child support obligations throughout the state were now being met through unemployment compensation and, when that compensation runs out for those parents, children will suffer.

Hamilton County’s Child Support Enforcement Agency handled more than 90,000 cases and collected more than \$143 million last year for families that might not otherwise have had the money 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, 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.

# Make Your Money Work For You!

## Manage your finances and gain control by attending a **SMARTMONEY SmartDollar\$ and Sense Workshop**

You are invited to our  
*SmartDollar\$ and Sense Workshop*.  
This insightful session will help you  
avoid living paycheck to paycheck  
and teach you techniques to help  
increase savings, control spending,  
address credit issues and more.



### Workshop Participants will learn to:

- \$ Identify money saving strategies
- \$ Understand how money values and activities effect spending.
- \$ Understand credit and deal with credit problems
- \$ Choose and use Credit Cards responsibly
- \$ Manage your money
- \$ Avoid rip-offs and scams

**For more information about attending our next workshop, call (513) 241-7266, ext. 109**



In partnership with:



### **SMARTMONEY Community Services**

19 West Elder Street,  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
[www.Smart-Money.org](http://www.Smart-Money.org)

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