COLUMBIANA COUNTY PRC PROGRAM

A PRC service is not ongoing OWF (TANF) assistance. PRC services are: 1) services that have no direct monetary value to an individual family and that do not involve implicit or explicit income support; or 2) one-time, short-term assistance which is limited to the amount actually required to meet the presenting economic need, up to the cap amount as listed in the County Services & Benefits per 12 consecutive months of eligibility or family preservation and reunification need as specified in the Family Preservation and Reunification Services Section of the PRC Plan. ***Any number of individual payments can be made during this period as long as they are distinctive, non-ongoing occurrences, and do not exceed the cap amount as listed in the County Services & Benefits Matrix and the family maximum cap of $3,000 total in a 12-month period.***

TANF funds must be used in any manner reasonably calculated to accomplish any of the four (4) purposes of the TANF program. The four purposes are:

- Purpose 1: To aid needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.
- Purpose 2: To end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
- Purpose 3: To prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies.
- Purpose 4: To encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Any service or benefits paid through the One Stop System as listed in the matrix will be separate and distinctive from the county's regular cap. A PRC Assistance Group (PRC AG) is a group of individuals containing at least one minor child or a pregnant individual and treated as a unit for the purposes of determining eligibility for the PRC program. The PRC AG unit for the prevention and retention portion of the PRC program will be determined based on OWF standard filing unit procedures. The PRC AG for the contingency portion will be based on all individuals living in the household. A minor child means an individual who has not attained 18 years of age or has not attained 19 years of age and is a full-time student in a secondary school (or in the equivalent level of vocational or technical training). The minor child must be residing with their parent, a relative caretaker or legal custodian (for purposes of TANF eligibility, legal custody can only occur through court order and a relative caretaker must be established through bloodline).

A unit for the purpose of determining eligibility for the PRC Program shall be defined as: 1) all individuals residing with the minor child, or pregnant woman, or 2) a family needing assistance to enable the placement of a child. 3) Employment related services shall be available to unemployed or underemployed non-custodial parents, residing in Columbiana County who have a legal obligation to support, and whose minor child resides in Columbiana County. A unit for the non-custodial parent will consist of the non-custodial parent and the minor child(ren)

residing in Columbiana County. Underemployed is defined as – Persons who are employed less than 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings less than the federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

Eligibility for PRC is dependent upon the PRC AG's demonstration and verification of the need for financial assistance and/or services, and whether the county determines that provision of PRC will satisfy the need. In order for the PRC AG to be found eligible, the PRC AG must be: 1) at or below the required percentage of the corresponding poverty level or; 2) homeless; which means an individual who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence or an individual whose primary nighttime residence is a supervised shelter designed to provide temporary accommodations.

PRC assistance is only available to members who haven't received PRC assistance above the monetary cap during the previous 12 months as specified in the plan and matrix. ***Families receiving assistance under another program may receive PRC assistance if found eligible. Families who have received PRC assistance in another county during the past 12 months which equals or exceeds the cap amount listed in the County Services & Benefits or the family maximum cap of $3,000 total in a 12-month period are ineligible for PRC assistance in Columbiana County.***

The county is responsible for using objective criteria when determining eligibility and approving or denying the application within 30 calendar days after completion of the application process in a fair and equitable manner, which includes verification of information. Eligibility will be carefully evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Immediate needs and whether the PRC Program can be of benefit will be determined by the CDJFS. Under this program, an assistance group as defined above and meets the program's eligibility requirements may receive customized assistance, goods, or services, as determined by the County Department of Job and Family Services. All PRC services are contingent of available funding. If funding has been exhausted, the PRC application will be denied.

This program is designed to help overcome immediate barriers to achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency and personal responsibility, thereby preventing the need for ongoing public assistance. However, the fact that an ongoing Medicaid, OWF or SNAP assistance group is active is not a determining factor in the consideration of eligibility for the PRC Program. In addition, the CDJFS must inform individuals about other programs that are available and hearing rights that are applicable. Cooperation with these programs may affect future eligibility for the PRC Program.

PRC assistance will be authorized with the expectation that the PRC AG will then be able to function without additional agency help. If the applicant does not have enough income to meet an ongoing expense, PRC cannot be issued. Since the amount of PRC available cannot prevent the onset or continuation of the emergent need, there is no eligibility for payment.

Services are provided to an assistance group to prevent them from reliance on and divert them from ongoing cash assistance and guide them to self-sufficiency by helping them through the

presenting economic need in order to achieve family preservation and reunification. Services are also provided to a PRC AG to help members retain employment and, thereby, to achieve or continue self-sufficiency. In addition, services are provided to a PRC AG to overcome a presenting emergent economic need which, if not satisfied, threatens the safety, health or decent living arrangement of one or more PRC AG members. PRC assistance for heating fuel and heating utilities may be authorized during winter heating months if the applicant has applied for all available HEAP funds.

All income which is expected to be received during the thirty (30) day prospective budget period is considered when determining financial need. The thirty (30) day calendar period begins with the date that a signed PRC application is received. In certain situations where all members of the assistance group are in receipt of OWF, food assistance, childcare assistance or Medicaid, the CCDJFS shall use the existing income verification in the Integrated Eligibility and Electronic Document Management Systems to document financial need. The associated PRC application must note the qualifying assistance group connection. In order to be counted, the income must be readily available to meet the presenting economic need. The CCDJFS may contact PRC applicant/recipients to accept self-declared no income statements, if not questionable. Questionable income will require further documentation from the applicant/recipient, if CCDJFS has exhausted all their resources in attempt to explore eligibility during the 30-day application processing.

Effective October 1, 2005, the following income is excluded in determining eligibility for PRC benefits and services. Excluded income includes all income that is federally excluded in determining eligibility for federal needs-based programs; income that is excluded for food stamp and OWF eligibility purposes; the amounts of drug discounts and transitional assistance received under the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act; Monetary allowances paid under Section 401 of the Veteran's Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000, and Child Support refunds made by ODJFS as a result of the Governor's Executive Order pursuant to Am S.B. 170.

With the above exceptions, the total gross income, both earned and unearned, of all the PRC AG members, must be counted. Exception: 1.) The gross earnings of a minor child in the Assistance Group who is a full-time student, as defined by the school, unless the minor is a parent. Minor child is defined in Section 5101:02 of the Revised Code. There are no deductions or exclusions allowed from any type of countable income. Exception: 1.) Child Support payments paid by an assistance group member for a child outside the assistance group. The amount paid, up to the amount ordered, is excluded. Written or verbal verification of income is required. For any verification which is obtained by phone, there must be clear documentation in the PRC AG record concerning the name and position of the supplier of the information, the date the verification was obtained, the amount of the verified income, and the name of the individual who obtained the verification. If income verification is unavailable, the client's statement will be documented and may be accepted. The gross amount of the PRC AG's countable income totaled and compared to the amount which is at or below the required percentage of the corresponding poverty level. If the total PRC AG income is equal to or less than the required percentage of the corresponding poverty level, the PRC AG meets the income requirements.

A PRC AG that is discovered to have fraudulently received or improperly disposed of PRC benefits or services, will be required to reimburse the Columbiana County Department of Job & Family Services the full cost of the benefits or service and may be subject to possible prosecution. PRC will not be authorized to these assistance groups until the PRC amount fraudulently received or improperly disposed is paid in full. Providing false information on the application will render the household ineligible for any PRC for a twenty-four (24) month period.

Applicants who are ineligible include: 1) fugitive felons and probation and parole violators; 2) individuals with any outstanding OWF, PRC, Food Stamp/SNAP, or Child Care fraud overpayment balance (unless currently complying with a CCDJFS payment plan or recoupment on a current JFS benefit) 3) individuals ineligible for other programs due to deliberate non-compliance with terms of their assistance, with the exception that family reunification and preservation soft services may be provided to families involved with Children Services to meet the requirements of their case plan; 4) an unmarried, non-graduate parent under 18 not attending high school or equivalent; 5) an unmarried parent under 18 not living in an adult supervised setting; 6) a person found to have fraudulently misrepresented residence in order to obtain assistance in two or more states is ineligible for 10 years; 7) individuals residing outside of Columbiana County, unless Columbiana Children Services re-located a child(ren) in another county; 8) individuals who do not follow through referral.

An adult PRC AG member must complete the form Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Program (PRC) Application to request PRC. A Voter Registration application is made available to persons applying for or participating in the PRC Program.

For services provided under a contractual arrangement with the agency, the application process and eligibility criteria will be included in the contract language.

EXPLORING COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Availability of resources located within the local community shall be explored prior to the authorization of PRC. For the purposes of PRC, the "community" could be defined to include areas beyond the county's boundaries. A PRC AG is required to apply for and utilize any program, benefit, or support system which may reduce or eliminate the ***presenting economic need.*** For contingency service, emergent economic need is defined as an unexpected or unavoidable financial crisis which resulted in an inability to meet a presenting need. County personnel determining eligibility for PRC should be aware of community resources which may be contracted for or otherwise utilized to help meet the need. The PRC application provides a section for written documentation of the agency's attempt to locate and utilize community resources.

The PRC assistance group must explore and use any readily available resources prior to utilizing county PRC funds.

AMOUNT AND TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

PRC payments are limited to the amount actually required to meet the ***presenting economic need*** up to the cap amount as listed in the County Services & Benefits per 12 consecutive month period of eligibility. ***Any number of individual payments can be made during this period as long as they are distinctive, non-ongoing occurrences and do not exceed the cap amount listed in the County Services & Benefits Matrix and the family maximum cap of $3,000 total in a 12-month period.***

Once eligibility for PRC is established, the **CDJFS Director or designee** will authorize and generate payment for the assistance, goods, and/or services. All authorized payments must be based on the lowest and most responsible of three quotes for the cost of meeting the presenting need. Authorization may occur at any time during a period beginning on the date the PRC is approved. As long as payment is authorized within the appropriate period, the actual payment may be made to vendors according to the procedures in place at the CDJFS. All PRC payments are made by the CDJFS to the vendor or PRC AG. The county must ensure that its policies meet all auditing requirements.

FAMILY PRESERVATION AND REUNIFICATION SERVICES

The Columbiana County Department of Job and Family Services may provide family preservation and reunification services to a child and his parent, guardian or custodian as the agency determines necessary and subject to the availability of unencumbered funds. Any number of individual payments can be made if they do not exceed $1,500.00 for the assistance group over the 12-consecutive month period.

Family Preservation and Reunification Services do not affect the $1,500.00 cap if provided by an agency employee or an agency contracted service. Documentation will be provided by Children Services as to the need of services which may involve a case plan.

Rachel C. Ketterman
Rachel Ketterman, Director

10/21/2026
Date

MONTHLY FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINE (FPG) MEASURE

Effective January 15, 2026

Assistance Group	50% Monthly	100% Monthly	135% Monthly	150% Monthly	175% Monthly	185% Monthly	200% Monthly	250% Monthly	300% Monthly	Annual FPG
Size										
1	665	1330	1796	1995	2328	2461	2660	3325	3990	15960
2	902	1804	2435	2705	3156	3337	3607	4509	5410	21640
3	1139	2277	3074	3415	3985	4212	4554	5692	6830	27320
4	1375	2750	3713	4125	4813	5088	5500	6875	8250	33000
5	1612	3224	4352	4835	5641	5964	6447	8059	9670	38680
6	1849	3697	4991	5545	6470	6839	7394	9242	11090	44360
7	2085	4170	5630	6255	7298	7715	8340	10425	12510	50040
8	2322	4644	6269	6965	8126	8591	9287	11609	13930	55720
9	2559	5117	6908	7675	8955	9466	10234	12792	15350	61400
10	2795	5590	7547	8385	9783	10342	11180	13975	16770	67080
11	3032	6064	8186	9095	10611	11218	12127	15159	18190	72760
12	3269	6537	8825	9805	11440	12093	13074	16342	19610	78440
13	3505	7010	9464	10515	12268	12969	14020	17525	21030	84120
14	3742	7484	10103	11225	13096	13845	14967	18709	22450	89800
15	3979	7957	10742	11935	13925	14720	15914	19892	23870	95480
16	4215	8430	11381	12645	14753	15596	16860	21075	25290	101160
17	4452	8904	12020	13355	15581	16472	17807	22259	26710	106840
18	4689	9377	12659	14065	16410	17347	18754	23442	28130	112520
19	4925	9850	13298	14775	17238	18223	19700	24625	29550	118200
20	5162	10324	13937	15485	18066	19099	20647	25809	30970	123880
21	5399	10797	14576	16195	18895	19974	21594	26992	32390	129560
22	5635	11270	15215	16905	19723	20850	22540	28175	33810	135240
23	5872	11744	15854	17615	20551	21726	23487	29359	35230	140920
24*	6109	12217	16493	18325	21380	22601	24434	30542	36650	146600

* For each additional person, add (5,680) to the Annual FPG

Outcomes & Analysis 1/16/2026

FPG2025chart.xls