



**TED STRICKLAND**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

## **Executive Order 2009 – 11S**

### **Authorization of Payment for Poverty Services for Ohioans**

1. **Too many Ohioans are living in poverty.** In 2006, nearly 1.5 million Ohioans were living in poverty, up from about 1.2 million in 1999. At 13.3% of state's population, this was the largest proportion of Ohio's citizenry to be considered poor since the 1960s War on Poverty. Ohio has historically had a lower poverty rate than the United States; however, 2006 marked the first time the state's poverty rate matched the national rate. Between 1999 and 2006 alone, the number of Ohioans in poverty increased by approximately 316,000.
2. **The number of Ohioans living in poverty is growing.** In 2007, the unemployment rate was 5.7%. In June 2009, the unemployment rate reached 11.1%. While 2009 data on poverty rates are not yet available, the rising unemployment rate from 5.7% in 2007 to 11.1% in June 2009 suggests Ohio will experience even greater increases in the number of Ohioans living in poverty.
3. **Ohio has many programs aimed at reducing poverty, including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("TANF") program.** The TANF program provides assistance and work opportunities to families living in poverty by providing federal funds to the states and granting them wide flexibility to develop and implement programs to reduce poverty and meet the needs of low-income families. The TANF program has four purposes, which are described in federal law:
  - a. assisting needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes;
  - b. reducing the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
  - ~~c. preventing out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and~~

d. encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

4. **The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives ("GOFBCI") works to reduce poverty in Ohio.** By serving as a catalyst for effective public-private partnerships aimed at reducing poverty, GOFBCI helps strengthen individuals, families, and communities. In particular, GOFBCI is working to expand summer learning experiences for low-income children, increase summer food program participation, strengthen fatherhood in Ohio in partnership with the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, fortify family reentry initiatives in partnership with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, enhance services that build bridges between socio-economic classes to bring families out of poverty, and continue to improve the range and effectiveness of the extraordinary services provided by the Ohio Benefit Bank.
5. **Executive Order Required.** In order for TANF funds to be expended on the GOFBCI programs discussed above, Ohio law requires me to issue an Executive Order authorizing that expenditure. Accordingly, I hereby authorize the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services ("ODJFS") to fund TANF-allowable expenses of GOFBCI including those specifically described above and other TANF-allowable initiatives that promote the GOFBCI mission. Those reimbursements shall be for up to \$7,344,863.00 in fiscal year 2010 and \$6,539,371.00 in fiscal year 2011.
6. **Administration of Funds.** The state, county, and private agencies receiving funds as a result of this Executive Order must comply requirements associated with the funds in federal law, Ohio law, their respective interagency agreements, rules adopted by ODJFS, and any relevant directives from ODJFS.
7. I signed this Executive Order on July 23, 2009, in Cleveland, Ohio, and it will expire on my last day as Governor unless rescinded before then.



  
Ted Strickland, Governor

ATTEST:

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Jennifer Brunner, Secretary of State