

State Provides Flexibility on Summer Youth Dollars to Meet COVID-19 Needs

We are thankful for ODJFS' favorable consideration to expand the use of the \$10M Summer Youth Employment Program announced earlier this month. Today, Director Hall shared that the \$10M will be allocated to all counties as soon as possible and can be used either for Summer Youth Employment Programs, or to fund any other PRC service a county agency deems necessary – in example, something like a one-time COVID payment that could go to clients for their ability to purchase items commodities and resources in this era of recommended social distancing and self-quarantining. Director Hall indicated this is an initial step, and more conversation will be occurring on this front.

It is clear that the State of Ohio is relying on the JFS system, and in particular the nimble nature and established infrastructure of PRC programs, to assist individuals during this unprecedented crisis. We will be sharing an example of an online PRC application that some counties have developed to allow individuals to apply for PRC electronically as it seems more than ever, PRC is going to be viewed as mission critical for county agencies. We encourage you to examine how you can modify your application process and PRC plans to meet the needs of the vulnerable families we serve throughout the pandemic – particularly in April and May when it is projected to peak.