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### **Franklin, Cuyahoga and Stark Counties to Receive Child Support Demonstration Grants**

The ODJFS Office of Child Support has learned that three Ohio counties will be receiving federal demonstration grant funding for projects aimed at helping child-support-owing parents overcome barriers to payment.

“These grants will help fund vital child support initiatives in three of Ohio’s largest counties,” said ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin. “Children need and deserve to be financially supported by their parents. For some parents, however, in this economy especially, this is challenging. These grants will help us learn how to better serve these parents, so they can continue meeting their obligations to their children.”

The following three counties will receive funding:

**Franklin County.** Franklin County will receive \$50,000 of federally matched funding per year through May 2012 to support a project to help formerly incarcerated parents navigate the child support and justice systems. The project will be known as Pathfinder Services, or “Pathfinder.” Its primary goal will be to remove barriers reentering parents face to paying child support, while improving their family connections through partnerships with public, private and faith-based organizations.

**Cuyahoga County.** Cuyahoga County will receive \$60,000 of federally matched funds through February 2011 to support a project to help non-custodial parents who are in default on their child support orders. Many of these parents battle a depressed local economy with few job opportunities and have significant barriers to employment. Through this new initiative, these obligors will be referred to employment readiness and placement programs in the community.

**Stark County.** Stark County will receive approximately \$100,000 of federally matched funding through February 2011 to establish a “Project Child Support Rapid Response” program for recently unemployed non-custodial parents. This project will allow for the creation of two case manager positions dedicated to case reviews and adjustments. It also will allow for the creation of a project coordinator position to connect these parents with community resources that can help them find new employment.

The grants will be funded through Section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act.