

**Erie County PRC Plan
Effective 03/22/2019**

The Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) Program is designed to provide benefits and services to needy families and low-income employed families who are in need of help with essential supports to move out of poverty and become self-sufficient. These services are discussed in Section A of this plan. In addition, this PRC plan is designed to provide services to prevent the need to permanently remove a child (ren) from his or her home. Services are limited to those normally provided in the Children Services Unit. These services are outlined in Section B of this plan.

This program shall be in operation according to the standards of policy and procedures as set forth within this document for 24 months beginning October 1, 2017. The covered benefits or services or the amounts specified for the benefits and services may be amended.

Section A: Benefits and Services to needy families and low-income employed families who are in need of help with essential supports to move out of poverty and become self-sufficient.

The Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) Program is designed to provide benefits and services to needy families and low-income employed families who are in need of help with essential supports to move out of poverty and become self-sufficient. These supports include non-recurrent, short-term, crisis-oriented benefits and on-going services that are directly related to the four purposes of the TANF program (reference 45 CFR 260.20) which do not meet the federal definition of assistance. Non-recurrent, short-term assistance addresses discrete crisis situations which do not provide for needs extending beyond four months. These non-recurrent benefits and services may encompass more than one payment a year, as long as the payment provides short-term relief and addresses a discrete crisis situation rather than meeting on-going or re-current needs. These benefits and services are consistent with the federal definition of non-assistance as found in 45 CFR 260.31(b). The definition of non-assistance includes:

1. Non-recurrent, short-term benefits that:
 - a. are designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need;
 - b. are not intended to meet re-current or on-going needs; and
 - c. will not extend beyond four months;
2. Work subsidies (i.e. payments to employers or third parties to help cover the costs of employer wages, benefits, supervision and training);
3. Supportive services such as transportation provided to families whom are employed;
4. Refundable earned income tax credits;
5. Contributions to, and distribution from, Individual Development Accounts (IDAs);

6. Services such as case management, transitional services, job retention, job advancement, and other employment-related services that do not provide basic income support; and
7. Transportation benefits

Assistance Group Composition

PRC benefits and services are available to a family assistance group (AG) which includes a minor child or pregnant individual as defined in Sections 5108.01 and 5108.06 of the revised code. PRC benefits and services are also available to the non-custodial parent that resides in Erie County with a minor child who lives in Ohio and does not live in the same household as the minor child.

At a minimum, an eligible family must consist of a minor child who resides with a parent, caretaker relative, legal guardian or legal custodian (or consist of a pregnant individual). No family is eligible for PRC assistance unless the family includes a minor child who resides with the parent, caretaker relative, legal guardian or legal custodian. PRC assistance may also be provided to a pregnant individual with no other minor children.

A child may be temporarily absent from the home in accordance with the time frames established in rule 5101:1-3-04 of the Ohio Administrative Code and still qualify for PRC. During the temporary period, the child is considered to be residing with the parent, caretaker relative, legal guardian, or legal custodian. An eligible family may also consist of a minor child residing with a parent, caretaker relative, legal guardian or legal custodian and other members of the household (who may or may not be related to the minor child) who may significantly enhance the family's ability to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Eligibility

In order to receive PRC benefits and services, a member of the AG must be a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien as defined in Section 5506(d) of Public Law 105-33 (the Balance Budget Act of 1997).

Eligibility for PRC is dependent upon the AG's demonstration and verification of need for financial assistance and/or services. In order for eligibility to be determined, the income of the AG must be compared to the economic need standard established for the benefits and services requested. The economic need standards are based upon federal poverty guideline measures which shall be updated when the federal poverty guidelines are released. When determining eligibility for the PRC AG to receive benefits or services, the AG income must be equal to or less than the economic need standard.

Income

The total gross income, both earned and unearned of all members of the PRC AG shall be counted except for gross earnings of a minor child as defined in Section 5101:1-23-201(i) of the Administrative Code as well as the following excluded income:

- Child support payment distributions made by the Ohio department of job and family services (ODJFS) pursuant to division I of Section 1 of Am. S.B. 170 of the 124th General Assembly (10/25/2001).
- All income that is federally excluded in the determination of eligibility for federal needs-based programs. Federally excluded income includes the income sources identified in paragraphs I and (D) of this rule.
- Drug discounts and transitional assistance received under the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act, at Section 1860D-31(g)(6) of the Social Security Act (12/08/2003). The language in Section 1860D-31(g)(6) of the Social Security Act, states that the availability of negotiated prices or transitional assistance under this section shall not be treated as benefits or otherwise taken into account in determining an individual's eligibility for, or the amount of benefits under any other federal program.
- Monetary allowances paid under Section 401 of the Veteran's Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000, effective December 1, 2000. Payments authorized and made by the Veteran's Administration (VA) to provide certain benefits, including a monthly monetary allowance for children with covered birth defects who are the natural children of women veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam from February 28, 1961 through May 7, 1975.

All income which is received or expected to be received during the thirty (30) day budget period is considered when determining financial need. The 30-day budget period begins 30 days projected from the date of the PRC application unless this period of time does not accurately reflect expected income. In this instance, income received 30 days prior to the date of the application may be utilized.

For cases in which the income cannot be accurately obtained, the implementation of practices that are reasonable and prudent should occur when determining countable income. More stringent verification is required for Section A benefits when PRC benefits and services involve a direct monetary gain by the applicant and opportunities for fraud are prevalent. Income can be self-declared for Section B services.

Unearned Income

The following are examples of unearned income which must be counted. These are examples only and are not meant to be an all-inclusive list:

- RSDI Benefits
- Child Support
- Alimony
- Veteran Administration Benefits
- Worker's Compensation Benefits
- Lump-Sum Payments (Including Tax Refunds)
- Unemployment Benefits
- Pension and Retirement Benefits
- Strike Benefits
- Investment Income
- Rental Income
- OWB, DA or Supplemental Income (SSI) Payments

Earned Income

Earned income is income in which the AG member must perform some type of labor or service to receive it. The following are examples of earned income. This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list:

- Earnings from work as an employee
- Earnings from self-employment
- Strike benefits if striker is required to perform services in order to receive them
- Training allowance

Residence

PRC benefits and services are available to residents of the county in which they reside. Residence is established by living in the county voluntarily with the intent to remain permanently or for an indefinite period. Residence is also established by an applicant who is not receiving assistance from another county and entered the county with a job commitment or seeking employment, whether or not currently employed.

Ineligible Family Assistance Groups (AG's)

Federal and State law must be adhered to when providing PRC benefits and services. Listed below are federal and state prohibitions based upon 42 USC 608, section 431 of PRWORA (as amended by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 and the Balanced Budget Act of 1997) and the Ohio Revised Code:

1. No assistance for families without a minor child.
2. No assistance to a single individual, unless such individual is pregnant.
3. No medical services except for pre-pregnancy family planning services.

4. No benefits or services to an individual who is not a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien.
5. No assistance for families that fraudulently receive assistance under the ADC, TANF, OWF and PRC programs until repayment occurs. Ref. 5101.83 of the ORC.
6. No assistance to fleeing felons/probation/parole violators.
7. No assistance to residents of public institutions.

Scope of Benefits/Services

The focus of this program is to provide and authorize benefits and services within ten (10) days of the receipt of a signed application. In some instances, this time frame will not be met due to unavoidable delays on the part of the applicant or the agency.

The ten-day standard of promptness is a suggested time frame that is intended to stress the importance of dealing with PRC applications in an appropriately efficient manner. The denial of a PRC application due only to the expiration of the ten-day period is not acceptable eligibility determination practice. The AG record should contain sufficient documentation of the case activity on the PRC application, including an explanation of unexpected or unavoidable delays in processing the application.

Community Resources

The availability of resources within the local community shall be explored prior to the authorization of PRC. A PRC AG shall apply for and utilize any program, benefit or support system which may reduce or eliminate the presenting need.

Personnel authorizing PRC should be aware of any community resources that could assist a family in need of immediate services. The knowledge of those resources that are available is necessary to determine if any other means within the community may meet or help meet the presenting needs. Local contracts with other entities may be initiated to provide services which may meet or help meet requested needs (i.e. planning transportation services).

Applicant Responsibility

An applicant for PRC is responsible for completing all necessary documents, furnishing all available facts and information, and cooperating in the eligibility determination process. The PRC recipient is not responsible to repay or provide co-payment for any services received.

Application

The ODHS 3800, "Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Program Application" has been developed for use when a family is applying for PRC benefits and services in Section 1 unless otherwise noted within the service grid. The application and any other information gathered during the eligibility determination process should be kept in the on-going OWF, Medicaid, and/or Food Stamp AG record. If the AG is not in receipt of on-going OWF, Medicaid, and/or Food Stamp assistance, a separate AG folder should be maintained for the

PRC application and related verifications. In addition, PRC benefits and services provided to non-custodial parents shall also be kept in a separate AG record.

Eligibility factors, time restraints, and the amounts available to pay for the various benefits and services covered must be explained. Anyone applying for PRC services must receive appropriate information about, referrals to and access to Medicaid, food stamps, child care assistance and other programs that provide benefits that could help them successfully transition to work. It is also important to make the voter registration application as prescribed by the Secretary of State under Section 3503.10 of the ORC available to persons who are applying for, receiving assistance from, or participating in the PRC program. Reference Section 329.051 of the ORC.

PRC assistance will be authorized with the expectation that the PRC AG will be able to function without additional agency help. Services and benefits shall be provided which directly lead to or can be expected to lead the family in becoming self-sufficient by accomplishing one of the four purposes of TANF:

1. To provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
2. To end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
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; and
4. To encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families

Notice of Approval/Denial

If it is determined that an application for PRC is approved, the ODHS 4074, Notice of Approval of Your Application for Assistance shall be mailed or otherwise delivered. If it is determined that an application for PRC is denied, the ODHS 7334, Notice of Denial of Your Application for Assistance shall be mailed or otherwise delivered.

Once eligibility for PRC is established, authorization shall occur and a payment for the benefits or services will be generated. Authorization may occur at any time during a period beginning on the date that PRC is approved. As long as payment is authorized within 30 days, actual payment may be made to vendors according to the procedures in place. All payments shall be made to the vendor or PRC AG. Policy has been written to ensure all auditing requirements are maintained.

Section B: Family Preservation and Reunification Services/TANF Child Welfare:

The Erie County Department of Job & Family Services may provide services to a child(ren) and his parent, guardian, or custodian as the agency determines necessary. The purpose of this PRC Service is to prevent the need to permanently remove a child(ren) from his or her home. Services are limited to those normally provided in the Children Services Unit and are listed in Parts: IV, V, VI, and VII of the services grid.

Kinship Caregiver Program:

This program is intended to provide reasonable and necessary relief of child care functions so that kinship caregivers can provide and maintain a home for a child in place of a child's parents.

Relief of child care functions under the PRC plan are to include assistance with payments for child care up to 4 months in the event the kinship caregiver is not eligible for Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC). Kinship Caregiver Program will be explored for kinship caregivers that are employed, enrolled in training, or other extenuating circumstances to be determined by the Children Services Management team.

Assistance Group Definition For Family Preservation and Reunification Services/TANF Child Welfare:

*PRC payments may be issued for supportive services to promote family stability as the agency determines necessary and subject to the availability of funds.

A child removed from the home of his parents shall constitute a PRC Assistance Group of one for the purposes of this service. The child(ren) must be eighteen years of age or younger and the child(ren) must be in the home of one or both of parents or placed by Erie County Job & Family Services. There must be a reunification plan for the child(ren) to return to the home of his/her parents, specified relative, legal guardian or legal custodian.

Assistance Groups where minor child(ren) are residing with their parents or legal guardian can apply for Family Preservation and Reunification/TANF Child Welfare PRC Services. In such cases, all household members residing in the household shall be treated as one-assistance group. The PRC Assistance Group shall contain at least one minor child. A minor child is defined as a child eighteen years of age or younger who resides with his parent(s) or other specified relative who has legal custody of the child. Verification of legal custody must be documented.

A child(ren) temporarily absent from their home for up to six months in accordance with the time periods in ORC 5107.10 are eligible for the PRC program. A temporary absence from the home is an absence that is expected to be no longer than six months in duration, the children services' case plan must specify that the intent is for the child to return to the home of his/her parents, specified relative, legal guardian, or legal custodian. Children falling into this category shall be considered a family of one for the purposes of PRC eligibility.

Eligibility and Application For Family Preservation and Reunification Services/TANF Child Welfare:

An application can be the Request for Supportive Services, Case Plan, Safety Plan or the ODHS 3800.

Eligibility for these services is dependent upon the PRC Assistance Group's demonstration of need for financial assistance and/or services and the determination that provision of PRC services will satisfy the need. For the purposes of this section, the agency providing services shall document that the services provided relate to the risk of the minor child(ren) or will facilitate reunification or help maintain the child(ren) in their current placement, or that services provided prevented adjudicated unruly or misdemeanant youth from out-of-home placement.

Application for Family Preservation and Reunification Services/TANF Child Welfare may be made by an adult family member or a Children Services representative applying on behalf of the family.

Notice and State Hearing Requirement

PRC notices must be in compliance with Chapter 5101:6 of the Ohio Administrative Code. Rules 5101:6-2-02 and 5101:6-2-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code set forth the requirements for issuing notice when an application for public assistance benefits, including benefits or services under the PRC program, is approved or denied.

County agencies may modify the format, but not the content, of state hearing notices mandated in Chapters 5101:6-1 to 5101:6-9 of the Administrative Code to accommodate computer generation of the notice. All such modifications must be prior approved by the Bureau of State Hearings.

At the time of application, individuals must be informed in writing of their right to request a state hearing. This can be done by providing a copy of the JFS 04059, "Explanation of State Hearing Procedures." The applicant must have the opportunity to be heard in a state hearing or an administrative appeal. Pursuant to Section 5108.09 Revised Code, PRC hearing decisions are based upon the county PRC plan in effect at the time of the adverse decision, and the county agency must provide a copy of the PRC plan and all amendments to the hearing officer.

Erie County Prevention, Retention, Contingency Plan

Part I: Contingency Services: TANF Purposes 1 and 2

| Service or Benefit | Eligibility & Verifications | CAP | Economic Need Standard | Assistance Group | Targeted Group |
|--|--|--|------------------------|---|---|
| <p>Rent/Security Deposit/Mortgage* Total agency expense not to exceed \$70,000 annually</p> | <p>Completed PRC Application with all required verifications attached</p> <p>Proof of Earned and Unearned Income for 30 days prior to date of application</p> <p>*Verification of unexpected/unavoidable situation (beyond control of the family) which occurred within the last 60 days that placed the household in need of services</p> | <p>Maximum of \$700 per 24 month period</p> | <p>100% FPL</p> | <p>Parents with minor children and all other household members</p> <p>Legal custodian with minor children and all other household members</p> <p>Pregnant woman with no other minor children</p> <p>Non-Custodial Parents residing in Erie County with a court-ordered support order for a minor child residing in Ohio. Must be cooperating with CSEA.</p> | <p>Families in need of assistance to maintain or obtain self-sufficiency</p> <p>Underemployed Recently employed Dislocated Worker</p> <p>Victims of Domestic Violence</p> |
| <p>Assistance entering a Sober Living Community**</p> | <p>**Assistance into sober living community to prevent children from being removed from the home and/or to reunite children with the family.</p> | <p>Maximum of \$900 per assistance group per 12 month period</p> | <p>200% FPL</p> | <p>OR</p> <p>Currently working a reunification plan</p> | |

Erie County Prevention, Retention, Contingency Plan

Part II: Employment and Training Services: TANF Purposes 1 and 2

| Service or Benefit | Eligibility & Verifications | CAP | Economic Need Standard | Assistance Group | Targeted Group |
|---|---|---|------------------------|--|--|
| <p>Transportation SPARC Tickets for employment, job searching or education</p> <p>Driver License Reinstatement fees</p> <p>Short Term Training/Education – to be no longer than 4 months (Tuition, Books, Fees, testing, physical, CPR, First Aid) **Approval for training is dependent on background check**</p> <p>Supportive Services for employment/training: uniforms, work/dress shoes, hygiene products</p> | <p>Completed PRC Application with all required verifications attached</p> <p>Proof of Earned and Unearned Income for 30 days prior to date of application</p> | <p>Maximum of 4 months' worth of tickets</p> <p>\$500 once every five (5) years (Total fees must result in reinstatement of DL)</p> <p>\$1500 once per lifetime</p> <p>\$200 once per 12 month period</p> | <p>200% FPL</p> | <p>Parents with minor children and all other household members</p> <p>Legal custodian with minor children and all other household members</p> <p>Pregnant woman with no other minor children</p> <p>Non-Custodial Parents residing in Erie County with a court-ordered support order for a minor child residing in Ohio. Must be cooperating with CSEA.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Currently working a reunification plan</p> | <p>Underemployed Recently employed Dislocated Worker</p> <p>Victims of Domestic Violence</p> |

Erie County Prevention, Retention, Contingency Plan

Part III: Disaster Services: TANF Purpose 1

| Service or Benefit | Eligibility & Verifications | CAP | Economic Need Standard | Assistance Group | Targeted Group |
|--|---|--|------------------------|--|--|
| <p>Family Disaster Assistance Benefits to assist with damage or loss sustained as a result of natural disaster upon declaration by County Commissioners, identified by the local American Red Cross, Governor or President of the United States</p> | <p>Completed PRC Application with all required verifications attached</p> <p>Proof of Earned and Unearned Income for 30 days prior to date of application</p> <p>Families must demonstrate that the disaster has created an economic need</p> | <p>Program availability and duration is dependent upon allocation terms from ODJFS</p> | <p>200% FPL</p> | <p>Parents with minor children and all other household members</p> <p>Legal custodian with minor children and all other household members</p> <p>Pregnant woman with no other minor children</p> <p>Elderly or disabled individuals meeting specific eligibility criteria for non TANF funded services</p> | <p>Families sustaining disaster damage or loss upon disaster declaration by Governor or President of the United States</p> |

Erie County Prevention, Retention, Contingency Plan

Part IV: Family Preservation and Reunification Services/TANF Child Welfare: TANF Purposes 1 and 2

| Service or Benefit | CAP | Economic Need Standard | Assistance Group | Targeted Group |
|--|-----------|------------------------|---|--|
| Diagnostic/Assessment Services (excluding medical expenditures) Parent/Child Education Services Respite Care (excluding medical expenditures) In-home Services (excluding medical expenditures) Special Services for Drug and Alcohol Addiction (excluding medical expenditures) Transportation Domestic Violence Supportive Services Post-finalization Adoption Services (excluding medical expenditures) Counseling and Therapeutic Counseling Services (excluding medical expenditures) Prevention and Reunification Services Emergency Housing (non-recurrent, short-term, not to exceed four months per incidence) Home Health Aide Services (excluding medical expenditures) Family Stability Services Family Case Conferencing Services Mentoring Programs Lice Removal/Prevention/Education Specialized Equipment/Home Modification for Special Needs Population Life Skill Services Adoption Services | As Needed | 200% FPL | Assistance Group definition for Family Preservation and Reunification Services / TANF Child Welfare | Families with children at risk of abuse or neglect. Purpose to prevent the need to permanently remove a child(ren) from their home. For families, if in the judgment of Erie County PCSA staff, services will facilitate reunification or will help maintain a child in their current placement. |

Erie County Prevention, Retention, Contingency Plan

Part V: Family Preservation and Reunification Services/TANF Child Welfare: TANF Purpose 1

| Service or Benefit | CAP | Economic Need Standard | Assistance Group | Targeted Group |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| Visitation Services These are in addition to supervised visitation at PCSA | Per contract, as needed | 100% FPL | Assistance Group definition for Family Preservation and Reunification Services / TANF Child Welfare | Children temporarily placed out of their home |

Part VI: Family Preservation and Reunification Services/TANF Child Welfare: TANF Purposes 1, 2, and 4

| Service or Benefit | CAP | Economic Need Standard | Assistance Group | Targeted Group |
|---|---|------------------------|---|---|
| Services To assist with such things as clothing, school expenses, extra-curricular activities, or any other service needed to maintain the child in their current placement or to reunify child(ren) with parent/caretaker. | No Cap, as needed, not to exceed 4 months in duration | 100% FPL | Assistance Group definition for Family Preservation and Reunification Services / TANF Child Welfare | Child(ren) temporarily placed out of their home or families with child(ren) at risk of abuse or neglect. Families, if in the judgment of the Erie County PCSA staff, the services will facilitate reunification or will help maintain a child(ren) in their current placement. NOTE: The services must facilitate reunification or must help maintain child(ren) in their current placement. Approval for any service will be based on ability to maintain improved situation. |

Part VII: Kinship Caregiver Program/TANF Child Welfare: TANF Purpose 1

| Service or Benefit | CAP | Economic Need Standard | Assistance Group | Targeted Group |
|---|--|------------------------|--|--|
| <p>Child Care Assistance Provide reasonable and necessary relief of child care functions so kinship caregivers can provide and maintain a home for children placed in their care. **Eligibility for PFCC must be explored before KCP**</p> | <p>No Cap, as needed, not to exceed 4 months in duration</p> | <p>200% FPL</p> | <p>Assistance Group definition for Family Preservation and Reunification Services / TANF Child Welfare</p> | <p>Children temporarily placed out of their home with Kinship Caregivers</p> |

Erie County Prevention, Retention, Contingency Plan

Part VIII: TANF “Soft” Services: TANF Purposes 1 and 2

| Service or Benefit | Eligibility & Verifications | CAP | Economic Need Standard | Assistance Group | Targeted Group |
|--|--|--|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| <p>Employment and Training Services Services for eligible individuals and families to promote family stability by providing employment related services. Services are provided through ECDJFS contracts with community partners and are funded with TANF funds. ECDJFS may act as a referral source, or may offer TANF funded services onsite to promote self-sufficiency.</p> | <p>Completed PRC Application with all required verifications attached</p> <p>Proof of Earned and Unearned Income for 30 days prior to date of application</p> <p>All other required forms per the contract(s).</p> | <p>Limited to the availability of funds.</p> | <p>200% FPL</p> | <p>Individuals that are OWF and/or TANF eligible and who are 16 – 24 years of age and are required to participate or volunteer in CCMEP or target populations specified in the contract(s) with provider(s).</p> <p>Non-Custodial Parents residing in Erie County with a court-ordered support order for a minor child residing in Ohio. Must be cooperating with CSEA</p> | <p>16-24 year olds</p> |

Director Signature Page

Karen Balconi Ghezzi
Karen Balconi Ghezzi, Director

3/22/19
Date

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