

PRC FACT SHEET

What is PRC? Prevention Services: Services provided with the intent to divert an Assistance Group from ongoing cash assistance, Retention Services: Services provided with the intent of allowing an employed, adult caretaker in an AG to maintain earned income and employment, Contingency Services: Services provided with the intent to meet an emergent need, which threatens the health, safety or well-being of one or more assistance group members. PRC is designed to serve eligible Mercer County Families by encouraging families to attain and retain employment, prevent dependency and promote family stability.

What is an Assistance Group? In general, an AG is composed of one or two adult caretakers and their minor child(ren), (An individual under age eighteen (18), or eighteen but not yet nineteen (19)) including step-child or natural child, or a child for whom they have assumed responsibility. The AG must include at least one minor child or a woman whose pregnancy is medically verified or a noncustodial parent who has a legal obligation to pay child support for a child living in Ohio. With regard to Job Readiness Expenses, there must be a minor child residing in the home, however, that child does not need to be a direct dependent of the applicant. Persons not US Citizens and fugitive felons and probation/parole violators are not eligible for PRC Services. Households with an outstanding fraudulent OWF or PRC claim are not eligible for PRC Services until claim is repaid. Additional ineligibility situations may apply for Shelter Expenses.

Shelter Expenses: Assistance with rent requires a written notice for applicant to leave the premises from the landlord. Emergency Shelter is only for an individual(s) living in a domestic violence shelter, to allow these individuals to move from the shelters. Utilities require a shut off notice issued to the applicant. Rental deposit requires a copy of the lease agreement and/or verification from the potential landlord of the requirements for the agreement. Utility connection deposit requires verification that the utility service will be connected following the payment from MCDJFS. Assistance may also be provided to replace or repair hot water heaters. Rent Eviction/Rent Deposit is subject to a \$650 limit per 1 year period. Utility Shut off/Utility connection deposit is subject to a \$450 limit per 1 year period. Shelter expenses can be utilized no more than 2 times every 1-year period.

Job Readiness: When engaged in the job search process, MCJFS may provide readiness expenses including: grooming, daycare application fees, GED testing fees, interview and job search clothing, prior testing required by potential employer (but not paid for by employer), transportation for job search and assistance with job search. Assistance is available to qualified individuals for up to \$500 per AG per year.

Work-Related Expenses: Verification of current & substantial (25 hours a week) employment required

Fees: An eligible person may receive assistance with vehicle insurance, vehicle payments, driver's license reinstatement fees>(* fees limited to one time only and shall not include fees due to OVI or traffic fatalities or equivalent) up to \$400 per year.

Fuel & Travel Expense To and From Employment: For new employment, assistance is available for Fuel & Travel Expenses, for up to 30 days. Total assistance for the first 30 days will not exceed \$100.00 which will be issued weekly in \$25 increments. If the applicant does not have any access to transportation, for the first 2-weeks of employment, transportation may be provided by a MCDJFS employee. Once the 2-week transport period is exhausted, applicant may be issued an additional \$50 in gas vouchers for the remaining 2 weeks of the 30 days of eligibility. (Limited to 2 occurrences per year)

Continuing assistance is available for fuel expenditures in the form of vouchers up to \$100 per month, with a limit of \$600 per year. Every 30 days, the applicant must submit verification of current income to remain eligible for this continuing assistance.

Vehicle Repair: Assistance is available to qualified persons for vehicle repairs up to \$3000 for one 36 month time period provided the vehicle is the only available vehicle in the household. If towing or diagnostic testing is required, repairs will be completed by the MCJFS procured vendor. Vehicle repair excludes motorcycles.

Bicycle Purchase: Assistance is available up to \$250 for the one-time purchase of a bicycle and safety-related equipment for job search and employment transportation for qualified persons who have no ability to obtain a driver's license or purchase a vehicle.

Employment-Related Accessories: Assistance is also available for safety related and required shoes, uniforms and equipment necessary for employment up to \$250 per year.

Child Care Expense: When actively employed, MCJFS will provide child care assistance to qualified AGs. This assistance will be a reimbursement to the AG. Annual limit of 12 calendar weeks per year.

Employment Retention Support: Assistance is designed to support the retention of at least 30 hours a week employment with the same employer. Application is required within the first 30 days of employment. \$300 after the first 3 months, \$300 after the first 6 months, \$600 after the first 9 months and \$800 after the completion of 12 months with the same employer. If there is no gap in employment, the support may continue if a more profitable employment is obtained.

If you feel you may qualify for services or if you have questions regarding Mercer County's PRC Program, please contact:

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