

Assistance Available for Those Struggling to Make Child Support Payments

Immediate Release

August 12, 2010

Batavia, Ohio. The Board of Clermont County Commissioners has proclaimed August as *Child Support Awareness Month* to draw attention to the importance of the program. “Child support payments and collections are especially challenging during these difficult economic times,” said Clermont Child Support Enforcement (CSE) Director Brenda Gilreath. “Compared to last year at this time, child support collections are down 2.5 percent. In addition, there are over 3,500 cases in default with no payments made in the last 60 days; this represents approximately 26 percent of our cases.”

“We are seeing an increase in unemployment collections for the payment of support,” said Gilreath. “In March 2008, CSE collected \$71,033 in child support from deductions received through unemployment compensation. In March 2010, that number had increased over 200 percent to \$257,055 for the month.” For those who have experienced a decrease in pay and want a modification of their child support payments, forms are available on the Web site www.ClermontSupportsKids or at CSE offices, located at 2400 Clermont Center Drive in Batavia. The forms must be mailed Clermont Child Support Enforcement, 2400 Clermont Center Drive, Suite 107, Batavia, Ohio, 45103. Requests for modification of child support have increased by almost 40 percent in the last three months.

For parents who are unemployed and under employed, a valuable resource for assistance is Workforce One of Clermont County. Workforce One, located at 756 Old State Route 74 across from the Eastgate Mall, offers a wide range of services including GED classes, assistance in preparing a resume, and other job training skills. Visit the Workforce One Web site at www.WorkforceOneClermont.com or call (513) 943-3000.

“In spite of difficulties linked to the economy, many children and families are benefitting from the diligence of CSE employees,” added Gilreath. “Over \$95,000 was secured for a family that had waited almost 16 years for support payments. The caseworker was able to track down the delinquent parent in Brazil and when told he could be indicted for a felony and have his passport suspended, he paid his child support balance in full.”

#

For additional information about this or other county news, contact Clermont County Communications Director Kathy Lehr at (513) 732-7597 or by e-mail, klehr@co.clermont.oh.us.