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Hamilton County Best in the Midwest at Food Stamp Accuracy

Cincinnati (Aug. 21, 2009) Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services recently received an award for achieving the highest payment accuracy rate in food stamps among the fourteen largest urban counties in a six-state region of the Midwest.

Hamilton County's accuracy rate of 98.19 percent in Federal Fiscal year 2008 was the best of the largest counties in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois and Minnesota.

The rate was a more than 6 percent improvement over 2007's 91.71 percent rate. Hamilton County issues more than \$11 million in food assistance payments each month. Currently, 104,000 county residents – one in eight – receive food stamps.

This is the third time the agency has received awards from the BIG TEN Conference in the past 10 years. The BIG TEN is a federal, state and local effort in the Midwest Region of the Food and Nutrition Service to improve Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payment accuracy and customer service.

Food stamp accuracy is important because it ensures taxpayer money is spent appropriately, it ensures people who need help get the right amount and it helps determine an agency's funding to carry out public assistance programs. Federal officials will penalize or reward financially based on an agency's accuracy rate.

"We attribute this success to staff who work hard and take pride in performing their jobs to the best of their ability," said Moira Weir, director of the Department of Job and Family Services. "This is about paying attention to detail, conducting thorough interviews and checking and re-checking to make sure you have it right."

About Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services

The Department of Job and Family Services administers federal, state and local programs for those in need. The Department helps with local child protection, elderly protection, child care, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement. Servicing Hamilton County since 1947, the Department helps hundreds of thousands each year and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.