

Stark County Job & Family Services

HUMAN SERVICES - CHILDREN SERVICES - CHILD SUPPORT

221 3rd Street S.E., Canton, Ohio 44702

Deborah Forkas, M.Ed - Executive Director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STARK JFS' BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM PROVIDES \$200 FOR SCHOOL CLOTHING

Canton, Ohio - Stark County Job and Family Services is pleased to announce that assistance is available to help meet the immediate needs of families impacted by the pandemic. The COVID-19 Back to School Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Program provides a one-time benefit of up to \$200 per eligible school-aged child to be used for the purchase of school clothing. Funds are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis to applicants who meet eligibility requirements.

"We understand that many of our families have experienced a tough year. This benefit can help them send their children back into the classroom, prepared for a successful school year," said Deborah Forkas, M.Ed., Executive Director of Stark County Job and Family Services. "Our agency received approximately \$850,000 in PRC funds, which will serve over 4,000 Stark County families and their children."

Households can apply for the benefit by completing and returning a COVID-19 Back to School PRC Program application to Stark County Job and Family Services by Friday, July 23, 2021. It is required that applicants be enrolled in and receiving food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps or EBT.

To be eligible for the benefit, applicants must reside in Stark County and be a custodial parent applying for a child enrolled in a Stark County school district for the 2021/2022 school year. Verification of school enrollment for each child is required with the application. Students receiving their education through home or online schooling are ineligible.

"There are over 14,000 households in Stark County eligible for the Back to School PRC Program," said Susan Lenigar, MBA, Deputy Director of the Division of Human Services. "I encourage residents to submit their application to us as soon as possible, before the funds are exhausted."

Information about the PRC Program, including a downloadable application, is available online at www.StarkJFS.org. Completed applications should be mailed or delivered to Stark County Job and Family Services, 221 3rd St. SE, Canton, Ohio 44702. Residents may also submit their completed application by email to STARK-JOBS-FAX@jfs.ohio.gov or fax to 330-451-8499.

Applications will be processed in the order received. Once the application is processed, a disposition notice will be issued to the applicant. Approved applicants will receive a notice with benefit pick-up information.

For more information or questions, please contact the Stark County Job and Family Services' Division of Human Services at 330-451-8400.

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