

## **Stark County Job & Family Services**

**221 3rd Street S.E., Canton, OH 44702**

**Deborah Forkas, M.Ed Executive Director**

**Human Services ·Children Services ·Child Support**

---



*Contact: Mary Ann Abel*

*(330) 451-8086*

*Mary.Abel@jfs.ohio.gov*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Stark County Job and Family Services(SCJFS) Executive Director Deborah Forkas has announced the Child Support Division is one of just six sites nationally to be awarded a \$2.29 million federal grant. The Procedural Justice Informed Alternatives to Contempt (PJAC) grant will disperse funds over a five-year period.

The SCJFS Child Support Division was awarded funding for its project, New Directions in Child Support. The project is designed to increase voluntary compliance with child support orders by increasing trust and confidence in the child support agency and its processes.

The goal is to increase payments, reduce arrears, minimize continued enforcement actions and sanctions, and reduce court contempt actions. New Directions in Child Support also encourages non-custodial parents to maintain a positive role in the daily life of their children and to recognize that financial and emotional support of children is equally important.

Under the grant, all services currently provided in Stark County's Right Path for Fathers Partnership program will continue. Right Path provides employment and parenting programs for unemployed, non-custodial parents. Services will expand to include assistance for substance abuse issues, and for obtaining parenting time orders.

--more--

Child Support Deputy Director Rob Pierson said, “This grant allows us to continue work with low income, non-custodial parents to overcome barriers to employment and self-sufficiency.” Pierson added, “Punitive measures, such as jail for low-income parents, are usually counterproductive and not in the best interest of the children involved. We are very pleased that this grant will enable us to encourage and assist non-custodial parents to succeed at parenting.”

Other PJAC recipients are Franklin County, Ohio; Maricopa County, Arizona; San Bernanadino and Riverside Counties, California (joint project); Muskegon County Michigan; Hampton and Richmond Virginia, (joint project).

####