



184 N. Lancaster Street, Athens, Ohio 45701  
(740) 797-2523 1-800-762-3775  
<http://jfs.athenscountygovernment.com>

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COMMISSIONERS: Lenny Eliason, Larry Payne, Mark Sullivan  
DIRECTOR: Jack Frech

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**For Immediate Release**

March 23, 2009

Contact: Nick Claussen, Community Relations Coordinator  
(740) 797-2523

## **NEW OFFICE HOURS**

### **Budget cuts force Job & Family Services to reduce hours**

Athens County Job and Family Services will reduce the number of hours its offices are open to the public beginning on Monday, April 6, 2009.

Currently, the offices are open from 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Recent cuts in state and federal funding, though, are forcing Athens County Job and Family Services to scale back the hours. Beginning on April 6, all offices will be open to clients from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. In addition, The Work Station in The Plains will stay open until 6 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Athens County Job and Services provides a wide range of services to county residents with offices at 184 N. Lancaster St. in Athens, the County Home building on Ohio Rt. 13 near Chauncey and the Work Station at 70 N. Plains Road in The Plains.

Preliminary figures show that Athens County Job and Family Services will lose \$1.3 million in state and federal funding in the next fiscal year budget, which begins in July. The agency has already laid off 25 employees and has left nine additional positions vacant in order to reduce its budget. The reduced hours of operation will also provide an additional cost savings. Also, with the loss of a total of 34 positions, it would be very difficult to staff all of the offices adequately for the current hours of operation.

Agency employees are not having their work hours reduced, and area residents will still be able to receive all of the services provided by Athens County Job and Family Services offices during the new hours of operation.

For more information, contact Nick Claussen, community relations coordinator, by calling 797-2523 or sending an e-mail to [clausn@odjfs.state.oh.us](mailto:clausn@odjfs.state.oh.us).