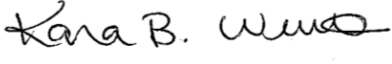**Family Assistance Letter #165**

**OFFICE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE**

**September 18, 2017**

TO:          Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM:     Kara B. Wente, Deputy Director
              Office of Family Assistance

SUBJECT:  **Federal Fiscal Year 2018: Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents**

## Background

Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) are required to participate in a work program for 20 hours a week, or 80 hours a month; ABAWDs that do not participate are prohibited from receiving more than three months of benefits in a three-year period. Based upon approval by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), the time limit is waived in the following 16 counties until 9/30/2017: Adams, Clinton, Coshocton, Gallia, Highland, Huron, Jackson, Jefferson, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Ottawa, Perry, Pike and Scioto counties.

## Change in Policy

Using the same criteria established by FNS at 7 CFR 273.24(f), the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has been approved to waive the time limit in the following 26 counties beginning on 10/1/2017: Adams, Athens, Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Huron, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Ottawa, Perry, Pike, Scioto, Trumbull, and Washington counties. Based on unemployment data obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the 24-month average unemployment rate in each of the counties was greater than 120 percent of the national unemployment rate during the same 24-month period. ABAWDs that do not meet an exemption and that are not residing in one of these 26 counties are subject to the time limit described in OAC rule 5101:4-3-20.

Questions can be sent to Program Policy Services either by email at TANF-FSTA@jfs.ohio.govor by calling 1-866-886-3537 (option 6).