



# Delaware County Commissioners

Jeff Benton  
Barb Lewis  
Gary Merrell

County Administrator  
Ferzan M. Ahmed

Clerk to the Commissioners  
Jennifer Walraven

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 5, 2016**

Contact: Jane Hawes, Communications Manager  
740/833-2109 (office) • 740/815-3390 (cell)

**Delaware County JFS Spotlights Fraud Awareness in May**

DELAWARE, Ohio — May is Public Assistance Fraud Awareness Month in Ohio and Delaware County's Department of Job and Family Services is spreading the word that "Fraud Costs All of Us."

"We have not had a dedicated fraud-investigation unit since December 2009, but we are reinstating it in May of 2016," said David Dombrosky, director of the Delaware County Department of Job and Family Services. "This should increase our collection rate."

In 2015, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services disbursed about \$2.5 billion in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-formerly Food Stamp) benefits, \$259 million in Ohio Works First cash assistance and \$573 million in child care subsidies. Individuals who mislead caseworkers or lie on an application for benefits account for a very small percentage of the funding disbursed, but the department takes even the smallest fraud cases very seriously.

In Delaware County, 2,821 households were provided with approximately \$8,629,167 in SNAP benefits in 2015. Also disbursed were \$739,777 in Ohio Works First assistance and approximately \$927,000 in child care subsidies. During that time, the department "found 89 instances of inappropriately overpaid SNAP benefits last year, which ranked us 41<sup>st</sup> out of the state's 88 counties," said Dombrosky, adding that "being ranked in the middle with no dedicated fraud unit is phenomenal."

As a result of investigations, the County earned back \$6,165.60. Most of these, Dombrosky said, could be attributed to a "lack of reporting" of changes in employment status or other household factors, while only about 5 percent were found to be the result of intentional deception.

The penalties for public-assistance fraud can be severe: Individuals found to be committing fraud are removed from the program, must repay any improperly obtained benefits, and may face criminal charges and jail time. Residents of Delaware County may report suspected public assistance fraud by calling the Delaware County Dept. of Job & Family Services at 740-833-2300 or going to [www.ifs.ohio.gov/fraud](http://www.ifs.ohio.gov/fraud).

###