

Good Morning TAY Providers & Partners,

I'm reaching out today to share a couple of announcements:

- [Percentage of Income Payment Plan \(PIPP\)](#) eligibility expansion
  - The **income threshold will change from the current 150% of the federal poverty level to 175%**. More info including a detailed summary of household income eligibility below.
- [Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention](#) offers [Multidisciplinary Team Response to Child Sex Trafficking training](#)
  - This virtual training will focus on improving multidisciplinary team responses in child sex trafficking cases. Topics will include differentiating between traditional cases of child abuse and child sex trafficking cases, and recognizing and locating youth at risk for victimization.
- [Relink.org](#) announces latest webinar, Human Trafficking: Moving Beyond Survival and Conquering Trauma
  - With [Dr. Celia Williamson of the University of Toledo](#) and [Tracie Chandler, author and human trafficking survivor](#), who will discuss human trafficking trauma.

More information including how to register is listed below.

Thanks!

Lisa

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Lisa Brooks (she/her/hers)

Youth Housing Initiative Director

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## Governor DeWine Announces Expanded Eligibility for Utility Assistance Program

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today announced that more Ohioans are now eligible for electric and natural gas assistance from the Ohio Department of Development and Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO).

This afternoon, Governor DeWine signed [Executive Order 2022-12D](#), which authorizes the Ohio Department of Development to work in partnership with PUCO to implement emergency rules that increase the income threshold for Ohio's [Percentage of Income Payment Plan \(PIPP\)](#). The threshold will change from the current 150 percent of the federal poverty level to 175 percent. The Ohio Department of Development has jurisdiction over PIPP for electric service, and PUCO has jurisdiction over PIPP rules for natural gas service.

“With the rising costs of commodities, Ohioans are finding it harder to pay their utility bills,” said Governor DeWine. “By expanding eligibility for utility assistance programs, more Ohioans will get the help they need to pay their bills and keep their homes cool in the summer and warm in the winter.”

PIPP helps eligible Ohioans manage their energy bills year-round. Utility payments are based on a percentage of the monthly household income and are consistent year-round. Customers that make their payments on-time and in-full may have the balance of their bills eliminated.

The new income levels are:

# Expanded Eligibility for Utility Assistance Program

## New Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) income levels

Size of Household	Total Household Income 12 months
1	up to \$23,782.50
2	up to \$32,042.50
3	up to \$40,302.50
4	up to \$48,562.50
5	up to \$56,822.50
6	up to \$65,082.50
7	up to \$73,342.50
8	up to \$81,602.50

*For households with more than eight (8) members, add \$8,260 for each additional member.*



There are approximately 4.5 million regulated electricity customers and 3 million regulated natural gas customers in Ohio.

An overview of available energy assistance programs, can be found below and [on the Governor's website](#). PIPP eligibility, enrollment, and other assistance program information is available on the [Development's website](#) or by visiting [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov).



The State of Ohio offers several programs to help income-eligible individuals and families access energy payment assistance and improve their energy efficiency. Eligibility varies by program.



### HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps eligible Ohioans pay home energy bills. Based on income levels, this is a one-time benefit applied directly to a utility bill or bulk fuel bill. Additional programs are offered in the summer and winter months to help address seasonal-specific problems, such as air conditioners, heating, etc. Learn more: [development.ohio.gov/HEAP](http://development.ohio.gov/HEAP)

### HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Household Water Assistance Program helps with water and sewer utility bill payments. This is a one-time benefit that runs seasonally. Learn more: [development.ohio.gov/waterhelp](http://development.ohio.gov/waterhelp)

### PERCENTAGE OF INCOME PAYMENT PLAN PLUS (PIPP)

The Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP) helps eligible Ohioans manage their energy bills year-round. Payments are based on a small percentage of income and are consistent year-round. Ohioans who make 24 on-time and in-full payments are eligible to have the outstanding balance with their utility company eliminated. Learn more: [development.ohio.gov/PIPP](http://development.ohio.gov/PIPP)

### HOME RELIEF GRANT

The Department of Development's Home Relief Grant helps pay rent, mortgage, or utilities, including gas, electric, bulk fuel, water/sewer, and trash through a local Community Action Agency (CAA). Learn more: [oacaa.org/find-an-agency](http://oacaa.org/find-an-agency)

### HOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HWAP)

The Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) helps Ohioans improve the energy efficiency of their home and reduce energy costs. You will receive a home inspection to identify the necessary services. Services are provided through local agencies in each county. Learn more: [development.ohio.gov/hwap](http://development.ohio.gov/hwap)

### SAVE THE DREAM OHIO

Save the Dream Ohio, administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, helps eligible Ohio homeowners who are facing foreclosure or cannot afford to pay their mortgage, utility bills or other housing-related costs as a result of economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more: [savethedream.ohiohome.org](http://savethedream.ohiohome.org)



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# Upcoming Trainings

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## OJJDP Training

### Multidisciplinary Team Response to Child Sex Trafficking

**Event Dates:** August 1, 2022 – August 4, 2022

**Location:** Online

[Register Here](#)

This virtual training will focus on improving multidisciplinary team responses in child sex trafficking cases. Topics will include differentiating between traditional cases of child abuse and child sex trafficking cases, and recognizing and locating youth at risk for victimization. Attendees must be part of a multidisciplinary team and all team members must attend together.

Upon completion of this training, you will be able:

- Differentiate between responses to traditional child abuse and child sex trafficking cases
- Utilize the components of an effective MDT for child sex trafficking
- Recognize and locate youth at risk victimization
- Create a plan that encompasses strengths, challenges and a direction for your MDT response to child sex trafficking

Improve multidisciplinary team (MDT) responses to child sex trafficking cases. Gather information about improving or establishing a formal MDT in your community. Identify gaps and develop short and long- term response plans with the help of subject matter experts. To attend this training, you must be part of a multidisciplinary team and your team members must attend with you, from a minimum of 5 to a maximum of 10. Each team member should register individually. To make your team easily identifiable, all team members should use the same name for their team leader during the registration process. If you need assistance in building your team, please contact our office at the number/email below.

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# Upcoming Webinar Human Trafficking: Moving Beyond Survival and Conquering Trauma

**Event Dates:** August 9 at 2:00

**Location:** Online

[Register Here](#)



## Upcoming Webinar

# Human Trafficking: Moving Beyond Survival and Conquering Trauma

**Tuesday, Aug 9th**

**at 2:00PM EST**

Dr. Celia Williamson, author and Executive Director of the Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute at the University of Toledo and Tracie Chandler, author and human trafficking survivor will be joining us to speak on how human trafficking survivors can overcome trauma.



[Register for the Webinar Here](#)

Relink.org is excited to announce our latest webinar, "Human Trafficking: Moving Beyond Survival and Conquering Trauma." Dr. Celia Williamson of the University of Toledo and Tracie Chandler, author and human trafficking survivor, will discuss human trafficking trauma.

Dr. Williamson will explain the differences between trauma-informed care, trauma treatment, and trauma-focused care, and Tracie Chandler will give a personal testimonial.

The relink.org team will also demo our website so human trafficking victims and anti-human trafficking organizations can utilize our database to combat human trafficking.

The webinar will be on August 9 at 2:00 and will last about one hour. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please email [info@relink.org](mailto:info@relink.org).

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