

SUMMIT COUNTY

NEXT

YOUR PATH TO STABILITY

— *Ilene Shapiro, County Executive* —

Background

- Summer 2019- Summit DJFS started examining ways to address the “benefits cliff” and conducting research on other programs within the state and country
- Focus on how to explore the flexibility of the county PRC plan and how to rethink the delivery of services to work towards TANF purpose 2: to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage
- 2020 pandemic changed the landscape of employment and the needs of all in the community
- 2021 provided a renewed focus on how to better assist individuals and truly provide services that “wrap around” individuals to improve personal success



- Got a job, what's NEXT?
- Getting the job is usually just the first step. Keeping the job and figuring how to navigate the resulting life changes can be the challenge.
- NEXT provides retention and supportive services for recently employed individuals who have experienced a decline in public assistance caused by an increase in household earnings.
- Although the household earnings have increased, they have not increased enough to replace the lost benefits.
- NEXT is designed to help the employed individuals sustain, excel and succeed

Personal Success Planning

NEXT will provide outreach, engagement, job coaching and retention services. Additionally, NEXT will help remove obstacles.

Each NEXT participant will work with a provider and have an assigned success coach to develop goals, assess and address barriers and provide access to supportive services that will assist individuals to help keep their jobs and succeed.



Financial Wellness

Partners will provide household budgeting, financial planning, and debt removal to maintain and advance employment and self-sufficiency.

NEXT participants receive financial coaching and attend workshops to learn how to balance earnings with expenses and changes in public assistance levels.



Cash Incentives

NEXT participants build an incentive portfolio for up to 12 months.

Financial incentives are awarded to the portfolio for maintaining gainful employment and achieving benchmarks such as attending coaching appointments and workshops, receiving employment promotions or more substantial employment.

Participants can earn up to \$4000.



Cash Incentives

For each calendar month, up to 12 consecutive calendar months, the participant successfully maintains full-time, uninterrupted employment, a one-time predetermined financial incentive will be added to the participant's performance portfolio

Additional incentives can be added to the portfolio for the following:

- Financial Literacy -3 workshops within a 30-day period=\$500
- Case management- Attending 8 scheduled appointments without rescheduling =\$100
- Financial Coaching- 2 or more individual coaching sessions = \$100
- Wage Progression- Pay increase with promotion at current employment = \$350
- Employment Progression- Obtain more substantial employment =\$350
- Education-Completion course resulting in a degree, certification related to employment and advancement = \$100

Cash Incentives

- Eligibility for participant's cash earned incentive will be determined by the SCDJFS staff and approved by SCDJFS management the beginning of the subsequent month.
- Full time employment is defined as uninterrupted employment, participant working at least 30 hours per week each week, each calendar month.
- For participants employed in non-traditional work hours (ex: rotating shifts), total monthly hours must be at or above 120 hours.
- Lapse in employment for at-fault termination terminates your participation in the program. Good cause reasons for lapsed employment will be evaluated by SCDJFS management to determine continuation of program participation.
- Participants that change employment during their program participation must be able to verify their new employment is deemed as financially beneficial based on the progressive wage and/or total compensation package (wage, benefits, etc.) in order to continue in Summit Next program

Cash Incentives

- Participant will receive distribution of the Summit Next Progress CEI after 5 months of employment.
- Remaining financial portfolio balance at the end of participant's program participation will be distributed to the participant as a final incentive once that participant reaches the ultimate work performance goal of maintaining consecutive full-time employment for 12 months.
- If the participant loses employment or stops participating prior to the 12th month, the participant will receive their earned share of the performance incentives according to the schedule identified below minus all participant's monetary portfolio payout already completed.
- Participant can choose to have funds paid out from their portfolio throughout the 12 months to meet an emergent need if the need cannot be met utilizing Summit Next or PRC service.
 - Emergent Need is defined as "an episode of need that affects the participant's employment retention whereas the issued benefit will not be intended to meet recurrent/ongoing needs".
 - Need must be verified and documented
 - Only one payout is allowed for Summit Next program period
 - Payout amount cannot exceed participant's available balance

Cash Incentives

Month	Monthly Retention Amount	Potential Accumulated Amt	Month	Monthly Retention Amount	One Time CEI	Potential Accumulated Amt
1	\$100	\$100	10	\$250		\$1750
2	\$100	\$200	11	\$250		\$2000
3	\$100	\$300	12	\$500		\$2500
4	\$100	\$400	Financial Literacy		\$500	\$3000
5	\$100	\$500	Case Management		\$100	\$3100
6	\$250	\$750	Financial Coaching		\$100	\$3200
7	\$250	\$1000	Wage Progression		\$350	\$3550
8	\$250	\$1250	Employment Progression		\$350	\$3900
9	\$250	\$1500	Education		\$100	\$4000

Work Supportive Services

Participants may directly access car repairs, work supports, rental and utility assistance and other services to maintain employment.

NEXT participants will work with providers when supportive services are needed to maintain employment and keep the household stable when emergent needs come up.





Work Supportive Services

- Individualized supportive services which are identified and communicated with their success coach.
- Each work support will provided based on what is needed to “wrap around” the employed individual and their family to assist in them staying on track and work through hardships that may come up over the course of the program
- Work support services will be made available through a direct referral process with SCDJFS providers.
- Summit Next participants will have to adhere to the program guidelines defined by the provider for the PRC work supportive service requested.

Who's Eligible?

Employed 30 hours a week or equivalent of 120 hours a month

Income at or below 200% federal poverty level at the time of enrollment

Households with minor children, pregnant individuals or SNAP participants that experience reduced assistance due to increase of earned income

Participation is necessary to be eligible for NEXT benefits and incentives



Federal Poverty Guideline Measure (FPG)- Monthly

Assistance Group Size	100% FPG	200% FPG
1	1074	2147
2	1452	2904
3	1830	3660
4	2209	4417
5	2587	5174
6	2965	5930
7	3344	6687
8	3722	7444

Program Eligibility

Eligibility

- Eligibility Requirements as defined in the PRC Plan, unless otherwise amended or clarified below.
- TANF Purpose 2
- Assistance Groups: TANF PRC Assistance Groups #1 & 3 or non-TANF individuals currently enrolled in SNAP or determined no-longer eligible for SNAP due to earned income exceeding SNAP income guidelines.
 - SNAP termination will need to be within sixty (60) days prior to Summit Next application date
- Economic Need Standard: 200% FPL
- Employment of 30 hours a week (120 hours a month)

Summit Next participants will be approved for 12 months from the date of application. The applicant will NOT have economic need redetermined to receive Summit Next services during the twelve (12) month certification period. All other eligibility factors must be maintained during the duration of the program for the applicant to remain eligible.

- Eligibility can be redetermined with a reapplication at 12 months for any active participant for participation of additional months if SCDJFS determines a need for continued Summit Next services to finish earning the 12 months of incentives.



Enrollment

Interested individuals can reach out directly to the Summit County NEXT enrollment provider, Akron Urban League

Call 330.434.3101 or email SummitNEXT@AkronUrbanLeague.org

The provider will explain and assist in the enrollment process and start the individual towards success.



Employers

NEXT is a program designed to help employed individuals stay employed and be successful. We hope you share this information with your staff.

If your organization is interested in having a member of the NEXT team reach out to explain the program to any level of your staff including those that may benefit from the program, contact us at SUMMITNEXT@jfs.ohio.gov

Subject line: NEXT Employer Referral

Send us your contact information and a team member will arrange a phone call or site visit to explain the program!



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