Public Work-Relief Employees’ Fund rebate

Recently the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation approved a refund/rebate of county contributions to the Public Work-Relief Employees’ Fund (PWRE) for the time period of January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2014. Because the amount that counties will receive equals more than what they originally paid in for PWRE coverage, this action has triggered some questions among our members.

The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) has issued guidance stating that federal law requires the entire amount associated with this refund/rebate be returned to the program from which the original costs came (i.e. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families or the Food Assistance Employment and Training program). Counties who have since merged and now have a shared JFS will also need to return the funds to the corresponding programs above.

CCAO staff has worked over the last few weeks with ODJFS staff and our partner associations to verify this guidance. If you have additional questions on the refund/rebate please contact CCAO Policy Analyst Kate Neithammer at 614-220-7996 or (888) 757-1904.