



Jackson Agencies to Assist Families Losing Cash Assistance

Posted: Sep 19, 2011 6:05 PM EDT

In less than two weeks thousands of Michigan families who are on welfare will lose their monthly cash benefits. This, after the state put a two-year limit on the hand-outs to encourage people to get back on their feet faster.

Since the announcement, organizations in Jackson have come together to help families that will be affected prepare for life without the assistance.

On October 1, 63 families in Jackson County will lose their \$500 a month cash benefit from the state.

"I don't think they've ever faced this before. So we're trying to help prepare them for that and help them understand what they are eligible for, and what they're not eligible for. And what they can do to hopefully, find some kind of employment to fill those needs," said Jackson County DHS director Jerome Colwell.

To give people the tools they need to do all that, the state's DHS office in Jackson County has partnered with area non-profits.

"It's really going to take a community approach to try and help these clients out. We all have to work together since no single agency can step up and do everything necessary for these clients," said Chris Kilmer with the Community Action Agency.

Rent and utility assistance are just a few things the Community Action Agency can offer.

"I think the largest thing is that there's going to be people every single month that are losing the cash assistance. So, working with our staff to make sure they're on the ball, and that they're ready for clients every single month to come in and looking for some extended help," said Kilmer.

Together, Jackson area agencies are ready on October 1. The various organizations in the area will also be together for a resource fair.

The fair will basically be a one-stop-shop where you can get help on how to navigate through life after losing cash assistance. It's Wednesday at St. Johns United Church of Christ on Mechanic Street in Jackson from 10am-2pm.