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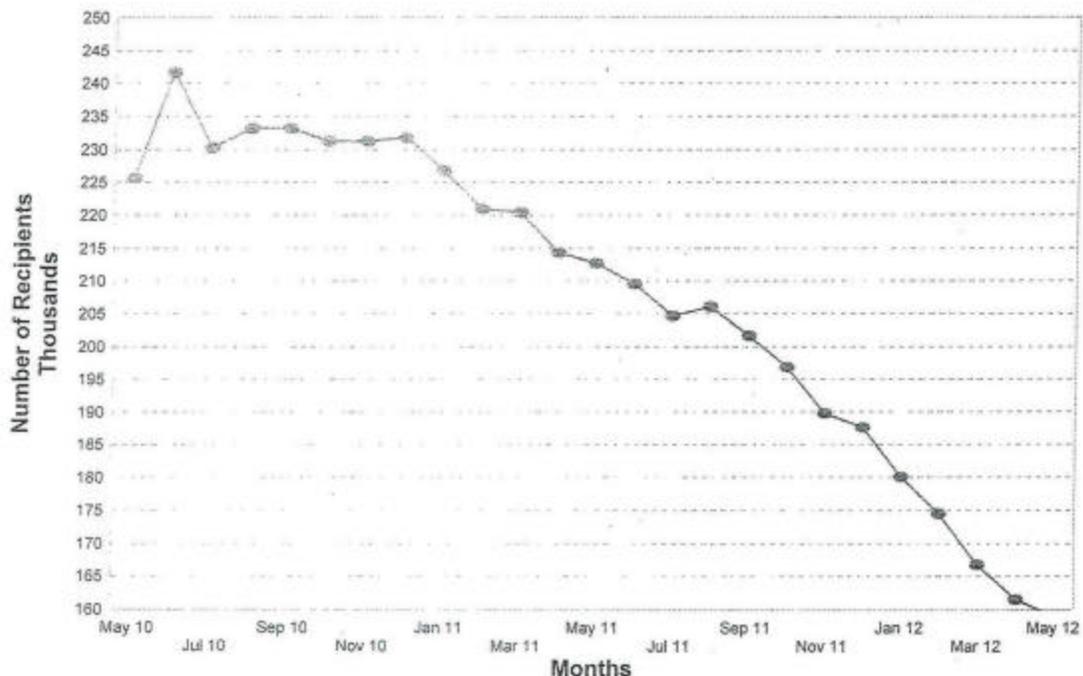
News Release

While national political leaders debate the issue of if America's welfare program has tough enough work requirements, the state of Ohio has thrown more than 75,000 people off of welfare since January of 2011 primarily due to the work requirements.

According to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Public Assistance Monthly Statistics (PAMS) report, in January 2011, Ohio had 226,778 people receiving Ohio Works First (OWF) cash assistance. Since that time, the state has been removing thousands of people from the welfare program primarily due to the implementation of strict work requirements. In May 2012, the number of recipients had dropped to 159,034. Shown below is a graph from the PAMS website (located at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/pams/index.stm>) that illustrates the drop.

While May is the latest month shown in the PAMS figures, other state reports show that the number of people being removed from OWF continued to increase in June and July.

**Number of OWF Combined Recipients
During The Last 25 Months**



Removing thousands of people from cash assistance leaves many of these families with no income or way to support themselves, and takes money out of already cash-strapped communities.

Compared to January 2011, Ohio is now spending \$8.6 million less each month in cash assistance. This is a cut of more than \$100 million a year from the poorest families and communities in the state.

And while the state saves money and is able to make its work participation rate look better by pushing these families with children off of assistance, many of these families are left with nothing.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that at least 18 percent of all food stamps benefits in Ohio go to households that have no cash income. That is equal to more than 320,000 people who can get some food with their food stamps, but have no money for anything else they need to survive. This information can be found in the annual report on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), found at http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/qc/pdfs/SNAP_QC_2010.pdf.

The problem in America is not that the welfare program is not tough enough or that it does not have strict enough work requirements, the problem is that the program does not meet the goals of welfare reform, does not provide enough assistance to help families meet their basic needs, and does not help enough families who are living in poverty.