



Ohio Civil Service  
Employees Association

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

For immediate release

Jan. 17, 2013

### **Union questions consolidation of JFS unemployment call/processing centers**

Columbus – The largest state employees’ union today responded to Governor John Kasich and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services’ announcement to consolidate 13 of the agency’s unemployment claims call and processing centers. These facilities are located throughout the state.

The Ohio Civil Service Employees Association questions the drastic measure and the agency’s rationale to close the facilities, saying that the move will have a major impact, not only on Ohio communities, but on families and workers, as well.

In some locations, employees will have a much longer commute, additional costs like parking, and, possibly less safe working conditions. Also, some affected employees are having their lives disrupted for the second time in four years, the last time ODJFS participated in a consolidation of call/processing centers.

For example, employees previously working out of the Sherwood facility in Northwest Ohio were transferred to a Maumee facility four years ago. Now the Maumee facility is being closed, and the same employees will have to move again to a new location in downtown Toledo.

Additionally, union leaders are concerned that they had no input in the decision that will affect over 500 ODJFS employees. “It’s our belief that this decision was made by out-of-touch government insiders, not the people in those communities, and not the employees it will affect,” said OCSEA President Christopher A. Mabe. “They don’t have an understanding of the huge impact it will have on these communities and on people’s lives.”

OCSEA represents 33,000 state employees, including 2,300 members in ODJFS. For more information contact Sally Meckling, 614-865-2602 or 614-404-3881 (cell).

###