



# The Ohio Benefit Bank

*Neighbors Helping  
Neighbors*



**T**he Ohio Benefit Bank is an internet-based computer program that, with the assistance of a counselor, simplifies the tax-filing preparation process. This program makes it easier and faster for low and moderate-income individuals to prepare and electronically file their federal and state income tax returns. At the same time, it helps needy individuals become aware of and gain access to government programs designed to benefit them.

## **WHAT CAN THE OHIO BENEFIT BANK HELP YOU WITH?**

Federal programs are available to help low-income families with the cost of groceries, cash assistance, medical benefits and tax credits. For example,

- Food Assistance
- Ohio Medical Benefits
- Child Care
- Tax Credits

Pickaway County Community Action Organization (PICCA), in Circleville, Ohio, is an approved Benefit Bank site. We provide free tax preparation for income eligible households and can assist you with completing applications for benefits for which you might be qualified.

***Appointments for The Ohio Benefit Bank can be made by calling (740)477-1655 ext. 316 between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.***

## Tax Preparation

Filing taxes can be a confusing, time-consuming and difficult process. Many people end up paying money for someone else to prepare their taxes which seems wasteful. The Benefit Bank is a free service that simplifies the tax-filing process, making it easier and faster for you to file. Applicants must meet income guidelines.

You must set up an appointment to meet with a counselor who will help you work through your tax preparation. Before you arrive there is required paperwork you need to bring with you to your appointment in order for The Benefit Bank to process your income tax return. The Benefit Bank uses Form 1040 to file your taxes. Form 1040 allows you to file for most available credits and deductions. To set up an appointment and understand what you should bring with you call our offices at 740-477-1655 ext. 316.



## The Benefit Bank Express

Find it hard to get into our offices? The Benefit Bank offers a mobile unit, The Benefit Bank Express, which is a RV equipped with satellite internet, eight laptops, and two work stations. This mobile unit can travel anywhere in Ohio and is especially helpful in delivering services to towns in rural areas.

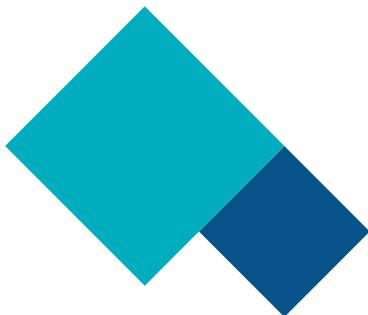
### ADDITIONAL PICKAWAY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS

- **The Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** may help households with heating utility costs if the household's income meets the federal eligibility guidelines. The Summer Cooling Crisis begins on June 1 and ends on August 31. The Winter Crisis program begins on November 1 and ends on March 31.
- **Emergency Clearinghouse Food Pantry** helps eligible customers by providing a once a month visit to the Food Pantry to receive a five-day supply of food for their household.
- **Representative Payee Program** Customers living on a fixed income who need assistance managing their money and monthly bills can receive assistance through this program.
- **Homeless Prevention Program** Provides rent, rental deposits and supportive services to homeless or nearly homeless people who have very low income.

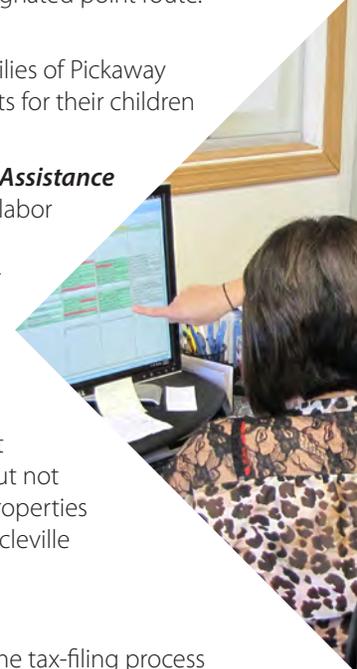


## Benefit Application

In addition to assisting you with filing your income tax returns, The Benefit Bank can do a Quick Check to see if you are eligible for government programs such as Food Assistance (formerly known as Food Stamps), Ohio Medical Benefits, Child Care Subsidies and Home Energy Assistance. The Benefit Bank can even help you or your children complete the FAFSA form for college bound students needing financial aid.



- **Pickaway Area Rural Transit** Provides transportation to the general public in Pickaway County. Routes to villages and communities daily, as well as shopping. This services includes immediate response shuttles to Columbus and a designated point route.
- **Toys for Tots** Assists low-income families of Pickaway County with holiday gifts for their children ages 1 to 14 years.
- **Home Weatherization Assistance Program** Materials and labor are provided to make energy-saving improvements to homes and other home-repair assistance.
- **Housing Department** The housing department manages low-income, but not income-based, rental properties with units located in Circleville and Ashville.



It all starts by simplifying the tax-filing process and ends up, possibly, making you more aware of additional programs and services to make your life even easier. Contact our offices to find out more about how The Ohio Benefit Bank can help you.



## Pickaway County Community Action Organization, Inc.

*The Pickaway County Community Action Organization's mission is to be an active agent and partner for change in Pickaway County by providing opportunities which empower people in poverty to become self-sufficient and improve their quality of life.*

Andrew Binegar  
*Executive Director*

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[www.picca.info](http://www.picca.info)

### Service Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. — 4:30 P.M.  
Closed Holidays

### TTD/Ohio Relay Service

1-800-750-0750



*The Ohio Benefit Bank is a program offered through a public-private partnership between the Ohio Governor's Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives and the Ohio Association of Second Harvest.*

