



Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN) Demonstration Project

Research has shown that individuals with non-occupational illnesses or injuries are at high risk of becoming unemployed. To see whether providing intensive return-to-work coordination hastens their recovery and improves their chances of remaining employed, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services applied for and received a RETAIN grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. This grant will allow Ohio to develop and pilot a model that, if successful, can be replicated across the state.

Who will receive services?

18- to 65-year-old workers in Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties who have non-occupational illnesses or injuries that impact their ability to work or perform their jobs.

What services will be provided?

When they seek treatment at a Mercy Health facility in the Youngstown/Warren area, eligible individuals will be given the opportunity to participate. If they agree, their treatment will be facilitated by a health services coordinator, who will communicate with the individual's employer, health care provider and insurer. When needed, the coordinator will refer the individual to OhioMeansJobs center partners for additional assistance. In addition, a nurse hotline will be available to all participants.

When will this demonstration project take place?

Planning will take place through March 30, 2021.* If the pilot is successful, additional funding and services will be provided for a 42-month period, beginning in April 2021.

How will the project be evaluated?

A third-party evaluator will use rigorous methodology to identify program outcomes. In addition, throughout the project, a RETAIN Roundtable comprised of medical, industry and government stakeholders will identify and share best practices.

The project's leadership team will include representatives from the Governor's Executive Workforce Board, Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Ohio Department of Health, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Bon Secours Mercy Health, and Workforce Development Boards 17 and 18. Additional key partners include the Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition, Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Ohio Department of Medicaid, and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Where can I get more information?

Please email RETAIN@jfs.ohio.gov.

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