

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2022

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Dasia.Clemente@jfs.ohio.gov*National Workforce Development Month***ODJFS Announces New Outreach Campaign to Help Unemployed Ohioans**

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder today kicked off National Workforce Development Month by announcing a new outreach effort to help unemployed Ohioans quickly find new jobs. Through the Helping Ohioans Pursue Employment (HOPE) initiative, the department now emails unemployment applicants extensive information about the free in-person employment services available at the state's 88 OhioMeansJobs Centers, in addition to the self-service features available at OhioMeansJobs.com. This is the first of several workforce development announcements that will occur throughout September.

"Many people don't realize that employment services at the OhioMeansJobs Centers are free," Damschroder said. "Any Ohioan can visit them for one-on-one assistance, and so can local employers. The workforce development professionals there specialize in helping employers acquire a skilled workforce and helping individual Ohioans achieve their career goals."

ODJFS oversees a variety of free employment-related services for Ohioans. Many of these are provided by a network of 88 OhioMeansJobs Centers. The centers offer career planning, job training, and other employment services to Ohioans looking for work and to employers seeking workers. Computers and phones are available for free to complete online training, prepare resumes, and search and apply for jobs. Career coaches also are on hand to help individuals explore new occupations, apply for employment and training opportunities, and get referrals to special programs. These can include such things as veterans' services, vocational rehabilitation, and food and other emergency assistance.

"Ohio's 20 local workforce development boards provide funding and oversight to the OhioMeansJobs Centers. "Our OhioMeansJobs Centers' staff and business services teams assist local employers connect with the talent they need to fill their job openings," shared Jennifer Meek Eells, executive director of the Ohio Workforce Association. "Funding is available to receive training and upskilling for eligible job seekers who may be unemployed or underemployed to quickly secure in-demand and critical jobs. The HOPE initiative will help acquaint job seekers with the array of services offered at the centers and engage newly unemployed individuals with those resources to return to the labor force."

ODJFS also operates OhioMeansJobs.com, which offers many of the same services as the centers. The department already requires unemployment claimants to have accounts and post resumes on OhioMeansJobs.com. Through the new HOPE outreach effort, the department now informs unemployment claimants not only about OhioMeansJobs.com, but also about the many free employment services available at the state's OhioMeansJobs Centers.





Department of Job and Family Services

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Matt Damschroder, Director

News Release

This is the latest customer experience improvement the agency has undertaken over the last two years for unemployed Ohioans. Other improvements include making changes to contact center and claims staffing to more easily adapt to changing claims volume, implementing call-back scheduling with text reminders, and instituting predictive routing to more quickly get callers to the right areas.

Unemployed workers can file claims online at unemployment.ohio.gov. To receive unemployment benefits, most individuals are required to conduct at least two work-search activities each week. They can search for jobs and access other free employment services at OhioMeansJobs.com or at their local OhioMeansJobs Center. To find contact information for local OhioMeansJobs Centers, visit OhioMeansJobs.com and select "FIND A JOB CENTER" at the bottom of the page.

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The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.

