

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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*National Workforce Development Month*

**Ohio Programs Help Those Facing Barriers to Employment**

Help includes employer tax credits and resources for restored citizens and individuals with disabilities

COLUMBUS — As part of National Workforce Development Month, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder is highlighting various state of Ohio programs aimed at helping individuals who face barriers to employment.

“We are in a tight labor market, and employers across Ohio are looking for qualified workers to join their ranks,” said Damschroder. “At the same time, there are many Ohioans who want to work but face unique challenges entering the workforce. Our veterans, individuals with disabilities, and restored citizens all have much to offer if given the opportunity.”

Employers can earn federal tax credits for hiring individuals from certain targeted groups, including veterans, public assistance recipients, restored citizens, individuals with disabilities, and others who often face barriers to employment. The credits are made possible by the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program, which ODJFS manages for Ohio.

Employers can receive tax credits of \$2,400 to \$9,600 per eligible employee. Since January, ODJFS has approved nearly 80,000 WOTC applications. This translates to a total tax credit of approximately \$192 million. Certain tax-exempt organizations also can take advantage of the program, by receiving a credit against the employer’s share of Social Security taxes.

WOTC applications must be submitted online at [jfs.ohio.gov/wotc](http://jfs.ohio.gov/wotc) within 28 days of individuals’ start-to-work date. For more information, including a list of targeted groups, visit [jfs.ohio.gov/wotc](http://jfs.ohio.gov/wotc). Employers with questions should email [wotc\\_contact@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:wotc_contact@jfs.ohio.gov) or call (614) 595-4096.

[OhioMeansJobs.com](http://OhioMeansJobs.com) is a [good resource](#) for restored citizens, one group of individuals who face barriers to employment. In addition to basic job search information, restored citizens can find specific information about job searching with a criminal history, legal barriers, and planning for re-entry.

People with disabilities also have a dedicated [section](#) on [OhioMeansJobs.com](http://OhioMeansJobs.com). Information about financial independence and security, overcoming barriers to work, and information for employers about working with people with disabilities is readily available on the site. Employers can also link to a large pool of diverse workers through [Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities](#).

In addition, anyone looking for a job in Ohio can visit their local OhioMeansJobs Center for free one-on-one assistance. The centers offer free access to computers and phones. They also have career coaches on hand who can





**Department of  
Job and Family Services**

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

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help individuals prepare resumes, explore careers, apply for jobs, and refer them to special programs, such as veterans' services, vocational rehabilitation, and food and other emergency assistance.

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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.*

