

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Expanded Program to Help Unemployment Claimants Enter Workforce Again**

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Unemployment claimants close to exhausting their eligibility will benefit from an expansion of a federal program that offers them intensive re-employment services, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Interim Director Matt Damschroder announced today. The U.S. Department of Labor is [providing more than \\$146 million](#) to fund state workforce agencies' Re-employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) programs, with Ohio receiving \$5.6 million.

In Ohio, RESEA services are provided at local OhioMeansJobs centers. The program is designed to improve the job prospects of unemployment claimants and reduce the number of weeks they spend receiving unemployment benefits. It connects claimants to training dollars, helps them upgrade their skills through additional certifications, provides direct referrals to in-demand job openings with local employers, and offers job search and readiness services.

“We are committed to using every tool at our disposal, including the RESEA program, to help unemployed Ohioans return to work and further the state’s economic recovery,” said ODJFS Interim Director Damschroder. “Now is the time for Ohioans to acquire new skills before the federal expansion of unemployment benefits ends.”

Shortly after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio issued a stay-at-home order and temporarily waived work search requirements for all unemployment recipients. Because of this, the RESEA program also was temporarily suspended. During that time, ODJFS transitioned the administration of the program to Ohio’s workforce development boards. Training of local staff was completed on March 1.

“The Ohio Workforce Association, representing Ohio’s 20 local workforce development boards, and our OhioMeansJobs centers are pleased to partner with ODJFS to deliver the RESEA program,” said OWA President Jennifer Meek Eells. “Ohio employers are in need of strong talent in all sectors, especially as businesses continue to navigate the challenges tied to COVID-19. Job seekers in the RESEA program have recently been in the workforce, so connecting their skills to local employers in need of talent will be incredibly beneficial to everyone involved.”

OhioMeansJobs centers offer many valuable resources for individuals seeking employment, including help building or improving their resume, career guidance, and information about how to access training services. In addition, the fully redesigned, more accessible [OhioMeansJobs.com](https://ohioMeansJobs.com) offers more than 180,000 job opportunities for job seekers and free access to post jobs for employers.





**Department of  
Job and Family Services**

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

# News Release

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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.*

