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**\$12 Million Grant Will Fund Online Career Counseling System**

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced today that it will use a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to expand and enhance the OhioMeansJobs website and create a new, online career counseling system. Ohio's \$12 million grant was tied for the largest Workforce Innovation Grant awarded. Only two entities nationwide received this maximum amount.

“This grant presents us with an opportunity to completely rethink how Ohioans access the job search and job training assistance available through the state’s network of One-Stop centers,” said ODJFS Director Michael Colbert. “It will allow us to create a user-friendly, streamlined workforce development system that is more responsive to the needs of businesses and individuals.”

The expanded and enhanced OhioMeansJobs website will give Ohioans a self-service, Internet-based gateway to access employment tools. Among other features, it will allow users to create employment portfolios with their specific needs, requests and interests. Individuals can use their portfolios to apply for training opportunities, scholarships, foundations, internships and other services available through Ohio’s network of One-Stop Centers.

The system’s flexibility will help ODJFS and local Workforce Investment Boards implement job-training programs tailored to meet the needs of Ohio’s businesses. The enhancements also will allow Ohioans to manage their career development from any computer with Internet access and will ease the burden on local administrators.

These new, online career counseling services will complement the already successful OhioMeansJobs website and mobile app and the OhioMeansInternships website. OhioMeansJobs and OhioMeansInternships aggregate job and internship openings posted on nearly any website in Ohio. They also allow individuals to post their resumes, learn about career fairs and take advantage of job search assistance. Ohio-based businesses can use the two websites, free of charge, to post job openings, search for candidates and use advanced filters to narrow down many resumes to a smaller group of the most promising candidates.

Ohio’s Workforce Investment Boards operate 90 local One-Stop offices designed to help individuals and employers with a wide range of workforce-related services. For more information and a complete list of One-Stop offices, go to <http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd>.

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