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ODJFS/LinkedIn Partnership to Help Unemployment Claimants Find Jobs

COLUMBUS, OHIO – An Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) pilot program with LinkedIn will make it more convenient for unemployment claimants to apply for jobs and keep track of them.

“LinkedIn has many tools for people seeking new job opportunities, and this partnership will give even easier access to Ohioans who are looking for work,” said Lt. Governor Jon Husted, who also serves as the Director for both the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation and InnovateOhio. “This is an innovative program that will make a big impact, because any time we can remove barriers for Ohioans looking for employment, we are helping our workforce and strengthening the economy.”

By visiting linkedin.com/unemployment, Ohio claimants with a LinkedIn account will be able to:

- Receive reminder emails about the need to apply for two jobs a week.
- Save their job application history in one place.
- Download a copy of the state’s work search activity form.
- Access resources like coursework, experts, and job listings.

“In order for Ohioans to continue to receive unemployment benefits, they must apply for at least two jobs per week,” said ODJFS Director Kimberly Hall. “Ultimately, we want every Ohioan who can work to find a job. Until that time, we strive to remove roadblocks to temporary assistance for Ohioans in need and this new partnership is one more way to help.”

The six-month pilot will examine how these new tools help reduce the paperwork burden on the job seeker. More than 200,000 Ohioans apply for unemployment benefits annually. To receive unemployment compensation, Ohioans must be able to work, available for work, and actively seeking work.

“LinkedIn’s vision is to create economic opportunity for every member of the workforce,” said Lakshman Somasundaram, a product manager at LinkedIn. “Through this partnership, we’ve created tools and made available resources to help unemployed Ohioans track their work search activities and maintain unemployment benefits while they look for the right job on LinkedIn.”

While this partnership is an additional resource for those who are unemployed, claimants – as part of their required reemployment activities – must still register, post an active resume, and create a career profile assessment on OhioMeansJobs.com.

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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.

