



EMPLOYMENT FIRST



Every Person. Every Talent. Every Opportunity.

Septemeber 2015

Dear Employment First Partners,

Keep up to date on Employment First news in Ohio. Don't forget to [contact us](#) if you need a speaker or visit the [Community Employment Resource Map](#) for local Employment First news.

If you have a story you would like for us to share, would like to give us feedback, or you need Employment First support, please contact us at EmploymentFirst@dodd.ohio.gov.

Work Ethic & Drive



The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Ohio's Path to Employment First

A summary of Ohio's Employment First Initiative and Future Plans

See Ohio's current plan to support the ongoing implementation of Employment First.

Access the [online archive](#) for previous issues of the *Employment First Update*.

Quick Links

[Employment First Website](#)

[DODD Website](#)

Upcoming Trainings & Events



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Josh Foster started at ViaQuest Day Services in Grove City in June 2015. While he wasn't sure exactly what kind of job he wanted, he knew he wanted to find meaningful employment. Josh was partnered with a Job Coach and worked on his personal goals and employment skills.

Within a month, an opportunity opened up at a local company, MCR Medical Supply. Josh is working several hours with his Job Coach at MCR, and attending the day program the remainder of his time.

After working in the program for less than two weeks, Josh's work ethic and drive impressed the owners and staff, and MCR is prepared to offer Josh a permanent position. Congratulations, Josh!

Required EF Partnership Training



In-person sessions for "Marketing and Employer Engagement" and "Job Support and Training" will be offered across the state throughout FY2016.

All Employment First Partnership providers' team members who have passed the Supported Employment online course are required to complete both trainings within 12 months of passing the online course. The in-person sessions don't have to be completed in a two-day sequence.

The Employment First Team

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Space is limited, so register early to reserve your preferred date and location. More information about dates, locations, and registration is [available online](#).

If you have questions, email the Employment First team at EmploymentFirst@dodd.ohio.gov.

Disability Benefits 101 Is Live



[Disability Benefits 101](#) (DB 101), an integrated suite of online tools, information, and training where people with disabilities can access plain-language information about work, benefits, and health coverage programs, now is live in Ohio.

Families, job seekers, and professionals can use DB 101 to help analyze the impact of employment on an individual's benefits. While DB 101 doesn't replace a comprehensive benefits analysis, it can provide a general understanding about employment and benefits. Current calculators include Work and Benefits, School To Work, and Medicaid Buy-In.

Request For Proposals: Integrated Community Supports Start-Up Pilots



DODD- certified providers can apply for funding to support transformation from facility-based to community-based services, with a focus on community-based employment and adult day services for individuals with complex needs. \$475,000 in grant dollars is available for pilot programs that demonstrate how people with complex needs can be served in integrated community-based settings.

Submissions are due by October 21. More information, including required documents, is available on the [Employment First home page](#).

Adult Day Services Funding Realignment Update



The work to realign funding for adult day array services continues.

The Funding Realignment work group gave feedback on draft service definitions and DODD staff are finalizing those drafts and the waiver application. This report outlines the [progress completed by the work group](#).

The next step is to draft rate methodologies based on the service definitions, previous data collection, and other inputs including stakeholder feedback. This will be reviewed by the Funding Realignment work group.

All materials will be filed and open for public review and comment. Watch for more information about that process.

If you have questions, please email Stacy Collins at stacy.collins@dodd.ohio.gov.

Institute for Community Inclusion-Call For Nominations!



The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) with the University of Massachusetts invites you to nominate a community employment service provider to act as a case study for agencies that have prioritized integrated employment outcomes for individuals they serve. Participating service providers will have the opportunity to share their successes, be a leader in the transformation movement, and facilitate communication about how to improve employment outcomes on an organizational level. Nominees should only provide community-based supports and have a majority of the individuals supported working in integrated and competitive employment, have had a successful transformation to integrated employment in the past 10 years, and are able to accommodate a 1-2 day site visit for key informants to be interviewed.

For more information, please contact Jaimie Timmons at Jaimie.timmons@umb.edu or (914) 928-8450.

Fact or Fiction?

Will Sheltered Workshops still be an option with the potential changes to Adult Day Funding?

The waiver service that typically supports someone in a sheltered workshop is called Vocational Habilitation. Vocational Habilitation still will be available through the Independent Options (IO), Level 1, and SELF waivers. The service definition will be revised to ensure that the outcome and expected activities of this service are identified. The target of Vocational Habilitation is to help an individual work toward competitive, integrated employment in the community.

Service providers operating sheltered workshops will still be able to provide Vocational Habilitation, but may need to make changes to be in compliance with the [HCBS settings rule](#).

Things To Try...



Want to better understand money? Try out some of these [interactive games](#) designed to enhance your financial literacy. The games were compiled by the National Disability Institute.

Sincerely,



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