



Department of
Developmental Disabilities

Division of Legislative Affairs & Communications

John R. Kasich, Governor
John L. Martin, Director

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Agencies Partner to Provide Job Placement Support for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities *Job Counselors to Serve 1500 People in All 88 Counties*

Columbus – Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) is partnering with Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) to provide practical job support for 1500 working-age adults with developmental disabilities throughout Ohio. The partnership—made possible through funding in the 2014/2015 state budget— supports Ohio’s Employment First initiative in assisting individuals in obtaining employment in their communities outside of sheltered workshops or segregated programs.

Employment First was launched by Governor Kasich in 2012 to increase job opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and require state agencies to align policies and programs to support community employment. With this partnership, DODD and RSC have teamed up to create a job counseling/job placement support network for individuals with developmental disabilities in all Ohio counties. DODD will provide funding for counselors employed by RSC—and each of those counselors will serve only individuals with developmental disabilities.

“We’re able to maximize this program through federal matching dollars that more than triple our investment,” said DODD Director John Martin. “And we’re excited about this opportunity to assist many individuals who want a job in the community as an alternative to segregated services. They deserve the opportunity to be successfully employed and this program provides significant and practical support in that direction.”

Under this program, the RSC counselors will each manage a caseload of 60 individuals and serve as an active participant in each individual’s service planning team. The counselors will coordinate personalized career planning, performance-based job development, job matching and job coaching. Once the individual is successfully stabilized in a job, the counselor will close the case and the County Board of Developmental Disabilities will provide the individual’s long-term supports to maintain employment.

“This complements our effort at RSC of assisting people with all types of disabilities to obtain and retain employment, and builds on that with a specific focus and expertise in providing supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities,” said RSC Director Kevin Miller. “In addition, our counselors will be direct liaisons who can connect county boards of developmental disabilities with businesses in their communities.”

DODD and RSC have identified numbers of people to be served by the program in each county and are finalizing details now on training and hiring for counselors. The agencies anticipate having some counselors in place and services to begin this fall. Details on the program’s timeline and how many people will be served in each county are in the attached fact sheet.

DODD is responsible for overseeing a statewide system of supports and services for people with developmental disabilities. The department's mission is the continuous improvement of the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

RSC is the state agency responsible for assisting individuals with disabilities to live independently, gain meaningful employment or receive disability benefits through the Social Security Administration.

More information on Ohio's Employment First Initiative, launched by Governor Kasich in 2012, is available at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org.

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