

# EMPLOYMENT FIRST



Raising expectations: Employment is not a program. It's an outcome.

## Creating Opportunities

Employment First is a priority for the state of Ohio giving individuals with developmental disabilities access to services and supports to work in a competitive job in the community that offers the possibility of greater wealth, a greater quality of life and a sense of self worth. Individuals can enhance their careers by utilizing their strengths and talents while giving employers access to dependable and qualified employees, and creating diversity for their businesses.

## Raising Expectations

Governor John Kasich officially launched Ohio's Employment First Initiative when he signed Executive Order 2012-05K on March 19, 2012. The Executive Order established statewide collaboration and coordination by creating the Employment First Taskforce and Advisory Committee, and made community employment the preferred outcome for individuals with developmental disabilities.



## Changing State Policy

In order to make community employment the expected and preferred outcome for people with developmental disabilities, the Ohio DD system is required to align policies, procedures, eligibility, enrollment and planning for services across state agencies. Other requirements include development of universal tools for documentation, eligibility, selection, assessment and planning of services. Identification of best practices, partnerships, funding sources, opportunities for shared services among County Boards of DD and other providers is required along with expanding model programs. Expectations will be set for students with DD, ages 14 and up, transitioning from school settings to jobs in their communities to make sure they have access to community employment opportunities that utilize their skills and abilities.

## Employment First Taskforce

- ☐ Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD)
- ☐ Ohio Department of Education (ODE)
- ☐ Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS)
- ☐ Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH)
- ☐ Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC)

Please visit our website at [www.ohioemploymentfirst.org](http://www.ohioemploymentfirst.org).