

EMPLOYMENT FIRST



Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans
with Disabilities

Ohio | Department of
Developmental Disabilities

What is The Employment First Partnership?

The Employment First Partnership between Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) is designed to expand community employment services for people with developmental disabilities (DD). Employment First Counselors work with local county boards of developmental disabilities to identify and help individuals move from segregated settings into integrated community employment; where they can earn a competitive wage and work alongside their typical peers.

Who is Eligible to Participate?

DD-eligible adults who are currently in segregated settings (sheltered workshops, enclaves, adult day support programs or residential settings), who meet OOD eligibility requirements, but do not currently have an open OOD case, are given priority for referral to the Partnership.

What Types of Services Are Provided?

The Partnership utilizes Person-Centered Career Planning and provides a full range of individualized, vocational rehabilitation services designed to meet people where they are on their unique path to employment. These services include: performance based job development that leads to successful, long-term job matches; job coaching and follow along services, through DODD certified providers, leading to job success; and long-term follow-along supports once OOD successfully closes the case. During the person-centered career planning process someone will be available to help explain how working in the community might impact an individual's benefits.

What happens when someone works with an Employment First Counselor?

Counselor determines eligibility → Individual has a planning meeting with his or her team and Employment First Counselor → Individual and his or her team write a person-centered plan for employment and receives benefits counseling → Individual works with providers to find a good job match and receives help on the new job → After individual has been employed for a minimum of 3 months the case with OOD is closed → Long term supports are available if more help on the job is needed

Want to learn more?

More information can be found at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org or contact Employment First at: employmentfirst@dodd.ohio.gov

Employment First: www.ohioemploymentfirst.org
Opportunity for Ohioans with Disabilities: www.ood.ohio.gov