

Office of Workforce Development
William F. Demidovich Jr., Deputy Director
Quarterly Newsletter
(April-June 2005)



STATE NEWS

**BASE REALIGNMENT & CLOSURE (BRAC)
NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT**

The U.S. Department of Labor recently awarded the state a \$1,000,000 planning grant. The purpose of the grant is to begin early planning activities to assist 3,380 Ohioans who will be impacted by the Secretary of Defense's recommendations to close military bases and installations throughout the state under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act. The following is a list of BRAC recommendations:

Cleveland/Cuyahoga	(1,013 jobs) Finance and Accounting
Cleveland/Cuyahoga	(50 jobs) Glenn Research Center
Columbus	(960 jobs) Defense Supply Center
Columbus	*Finance and Accounting
Dayton	(729 jobs) Wright Patterson AFB
Dayton	*Air Force Institute of Technology
Dayton	(230 jobs) Finance and Accounting
Mansfield	(171 jobs) Air Guard Station
Springfield	(225 jobs) Air Guard Station

*Denotes additional locations placed on the list on July 20.

Note: The three sites with two or less dislocations are not listed above.

Veterans' and Rapid Response staff will play a vital role in assisting civilians and military personnel transition as a result of BRAC.

VETERANS INITIATIVE

Staff has developed and implemented another veteran's initiative - Serving Warriors at Transition (SWAT) Team. The team consists of 14 Veterans Representatives that attend deployment meetings with troops in order to make them aware of employment and transition assistance. To date staff has participated in over 40 briefings, most recently at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Over 2,000 military personnel have been briefed on ODJFS services.

A significant breakthrough as a direct result of this initiative was the development of a Specialized Training Program (STP) that is designed to enhance veterans' job search skills. More importantly, the Ohio National Guard has agreed to allow military personnel to participate in STP during military training drills. This best practice has the potential of being adopted nationally.

**WORK OPPORTUNITY/WELFARE-TO-WORK
TAX CREDIT PROGRAM**

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit Program (WtWTC) website was recently updated. The federal tax credits provide Ohio employers with a credit against their federal tax liability for hiring individuals from nine target groups of disadvantaged job seekers: TANF Recipients, Veterans, Ex-felons, High Risk Youth, Vocational Rehabilitation Referrals, Summer Youth, Food Stamp Recipients, SSI Recipients and Long-Term Assistance Recipients.

Tax credits range from \$1,200 to \$2,400 for WOTC target groups, and \$8,500 for Welfare-to-Work target groups. The updated website provides information on how to participate in the program, eligible target groups, and rules/regulations governing the program. It can be viewed at www.jfs.ohio.gov/wotc/

OHIO TRAINING TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

In 2004, staff received approximately 712 applications for the limited amount of \$20 million. ODJFS will be issuing tax credits to 299 employers for 2004. In 2005,

under a new lottery system approach, staff received approximately 900 applications and anticipates funding 67 more companies than last year with the \$20 million allocation.

Thanks goes out to OTTC, MIS, and Office of Legal Services staff for making the program change to a lottery system. More information about OTTC is available via <https://ottc.odjfs.state.oh.us/info/>

OHIO WORKFORCE QUARTERLY REPORT

LMI staff recently published a comprehensive quarterly report concerning Ohio's workforce. Each quarter, staff prepares the report that is distributed to the president and minority leader of the Senate, the speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, the State Workforce Policy Board, the Governor's Office of Appalachian Ohio, and the Commission on African-American Males. A copy of the report is available at <http://lmi.state.oh.us/ohio%20workforce%20quarterly.pdf>

OHIO'S STRATEGIC WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PLAN

Ohio's Five-Year Strategic State Plan for WIA and Wagner-Peyser expired on June 30, 2005. A new Two-Year Plan was drafted in May and made available for public comment prior to submitting it to the U.S. Department of Labor.

On July 1, OWD received a copy of the letter sent to Governor Taft approving the new State Plan. The new plan includes the WIA performance standards that OWD negotiated with DOL Region V for the next two program years and a summary of Ohio's request for seven waivers.

It also addresses new national priorities to do the following:

- implement a demand-driven workforce system
- eliminate duplicative administrative costs and increase training expenditures
- enhance integration of One-Stop services
- refocus youth services on out-of-school populations and youth most-in-need
- enhance the role for faith-based and community organizations
- enhance use of waivers and Workflex provisions
- start reporting on common performance measures

DOL is anticipating the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act within the next two years. The State Plan is available via the Public Comment Section at <http://www.ohioworkforce.org>.

FEDERAL NEWS

WIA PERFORMANCE MEASURES TRAINING

In Program Year 2003, Ohio met all and exceeded 9 of the WIA performance measures. Additionally, the state improved its performance results in 11 of 17 measures, further demonstrating the state's effort to continuously improve the quality of services being provided to customers.

Under a federal common measures initiative, DOL is implementing a set of common measures that will apply to about thirty one federal job training and employment programs including those administered by the Departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs, and the Interior.

The purpose of this initiative is to develop common performance measures for adult programs that address the goals of getting a job, keeping a job and improving earnings for participants in all affected programs as well as the related costs.

DOL will be conducting training on Common Measures associated with WIA Performance. In August, staff assigned to the Office of Workforce Development will conduct statewide training on WIA and Labor Exchange Common Measures to ensure information sharing and understanding of the DOL Common Measures at the local level. The training dates and locations are listed under the Upcoming Events Section.

WIA WAIVERS

Last quarter, OWD submitted seven WIA waiver requests to DOL. The intent of the waivers is to provide local workforce investment boards the greatest flexibility possible to design and deliver services that meet the needs of employers and job seekers. On July 25, DOL sent an official letter to Governor Taft regarding the status of Ohio's Waivers. The status is listed below under each waiver.

The list of seven waivers was identified and developed by State Youth Council members and collaboratively through comments from local workforce investment areas:

- Allow incumbent workers to receive training with local adult and dislocated worker formula funds. (approved)
- Allow local transfer authority up to 50% transfer of funds between adult and dislocated worker programs. (approved)
- Allow the use of individual training accounts for older youth and out-of-school youth, ages 16-21. (approved)
- Allow youth eligibility for National School Lunch Program for free or reduced school lunch as proof of low income for WIA eligibility for in-school youth program. (not waived)
- Raise the exception to make eligible no more than 10% of participants who do not meet the minimum income criteria. (not waived)
- Allow the option for local grant recipient/fiscal agent to conduct youth elements or to competitively select service providers. *(Note: Only 3 out of 10 youth elements: paid and unpaid work experience, supportive services, and 12-month follow-up services were approved).* The state is submitting additional information to support a waiver of the other 7 youth elements.
- Extend waiver time limit on period of initial eligibility for collecting and reporting performance information on eligible training providers. (approved)

As a result of these waivers, OWD staff is currently preparing guidance letters to assist local areas with the implementation of the waiver provisions.

Thanks to OWD staff for improving services to Ohioans and making this happen.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

ODJFS' Health and Wellness Program was designed to promote health and well-being of mind, body and spirit to improve the quality of life of ODJFS employees at work and at home. For more information go to: <http://innerweb.odjfs.state.oh.us/healthWellness>

According to an [issue brief](#) recently released by the National Governors Association, governors have recently been making considerable efforts to cut multiplying health care costs and improve the overall health of state employees through a variety of wellness and prevention initiatives. Since state government is the largest single employer and health coverage purchaser in several states, governors have launched their wellness program initiatives as examples of best practices, and it is hoped the private sector will follow.

LOCAL NEWS



Ohio Leading Indicators is a monthly publication that provides a composite leading indicator, similar to the national leading indicator index, for Ohio and the eight large metropolitan statistical areas. It also presents employment, unemployment claims, average weekly manufacturing hours and housing permit data.

New methodology and presentation was introduced beginning with the January 2005 publication that makes it easier for the general public to interpret. April is the most current publication that can be viewed at: <http://lmi.state.oh.us/PROJ/Indicators/LL.pdf>

SPECIAL GRANT FUNDING

Several counties throughout the state had significant damage as a result of the winter ice storm and flooding. OWD submitted a National Emergency Grant (NEG) application and DOL awarded the state \$8.5 million. These funds will be used to expedite the removal of debris from public lakes and streams to eliminate public health hazards.

Additionally, OWD recently applied for more NEG funds through a second grant process and was awarded \$11 million. These funds will be used in the same capacity as the previous NEG but was made available to more counties.

In other grant news, ODJFS worked collaboratively with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections and the Governor's Office of Faith-Based Initiatives to provide technical assistance and training to local stakeholders which prepared them to apply for a \$660,000 DOL Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative Grant.

If all grant applications are approved, it will represent up to \$23 million of additional federal funds to support Ohioans.

SHARING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND TRAINING INFORMATION (SCOTI) SYSTEM

Last quarter, OWD implemented six software releases that enhance functionality and simultaneously resolve some technical details as a result of customer feedback. Other major enhancements included the deployment of the online automated help feature, RoboHelp, and upgrades to the Web-Based Test

modules in order to align them with the six new software releases.

Another ongoing continuous improvement initiative that was implemented last quarter includes SCOTI employer and job seeker follow-up surveys. Fifty employers and fifty job seekers are contacted by phone call on a bi-weekly basis in order to get feedback about their experience using SCOTI and ODJFS' services in order to improve the system's performance and our business relationships. To date, approximately 39% (98 out of 250 employers and job seekers) have voluntarily participated in the telephone surveys. A response rate of 20-25% is a generally accepted rate for telephone surveys.

Employers surveyed indicated that they use SCOTI and other self-service systems and would continue to use them as a recruitment tool. In general, most employers and job seekers are pleased with the services provided through the One-Stop System.

Other noteworthy comments included suggestions to increase marketing of ODJFS services and accolades to staff who have provided outstanding customer service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 2 One-Stop News Update Videoconference
- Aug 3-14 Ohio State Fair
- Aug 17 Take Your Daughters and Sons To Work Day

ODJFS WIA COMMON MEASURES REGIONAL TRAINING DATES AND LOCATIONS

- August 9 Employment Connection
11699 Brookpark Rd
Cleveland, OH 44130
- August 16 Sandusky Dept. of Job & Family Services
2511 Countryside Drive
Fremont, OH 43420
- August 18 The Employment Center
1575 North High Street
Hillsboro, OH 45133
- August 29 The Employment Source
822 30th Street NW
Canton, OH 44709

August 30 Delaware County Hayes Service Building
140 North Sandusky Street
Delaware, OH 43015

ODJFS TRAINING COMMON PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR LABOR EXCHANGE DATES:

- August 17 Sandusky Dept. of Job & Family Services
2511 Countryside Drive
Conference Rooms 2 and 3
Fremont, OH 43420
- August 23 Canton Employment Source
822 30th Street NW
Conference Rooms A & B
Canton, OH 44709
- August 24 Delaware County Hayes Service Building
140 North Sandusky Street
Conference Room G-35
Delaware, OH 43015
- August 31 Highland Employment Center
1575 North High Street
Hillsboro, OH 45133

September is Workforce Services Month – over 140 events (Job Fairs, Open Houses, Workshops etc.) are scheduled statewide. Check the website for upcoming details:

<http://www.ohioworkforce.org/index.stm>

ODJFS TRAINING COMMON PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR LABOR EXCHANGE DATES:

- September 1 Warren County One-Stop Business & Employment Center
300 East Silver Street
Lebanon, OH 45036
- September 6 Brookpark Employment Connection
11699 Brookpark Road
Cleveland, OH 44130
- September 7 Opportunity Knox
Employment Center
17604 Coshocton Road
Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

September 14 WORKPLUS Center
1345 Lagonda Avenue
Springfield OH 45503

September 16 Franklin County
1980 W. Broad Street
Department of Transportation
Auditorium
Columbus OH 43215

CONTACT US Please contact us if you have
questions or would like additional information.

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