

Improve Job Opportunities for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

- Ohio must increase meaningful community employment opportunities and continue to improve employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Today, nearly three times as many individuals are served in sheltered workshops compared to community settings.
- Nationally, 40 percent of developmentally disabled individuals live below the poverty line, compared to 14 percent of all working age adults.
- Ohio is implementing the Employment First Initiative to improve collaboration between the Departments of Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, Education and Job and Family Services and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission to increase meaningful employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.
- Changes in the Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) legislation will make community employment the preferred option and ensure that the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for developmentally disabled students, beginning at age 14, establishes post-secondary goals related to community employment.
- A new task force will oversee implementation of the changes in the MBR, coordinate employment outcomes among state departments and align state policies and procedures with the needs of individuals and businesses. The task force will include participation by all relevant state agencies and work closely with stakeholders.
- Employment First will provide individuals with developmental disabilities the skills and support they need to obtain meaningful careers, and it will increase the pool of talented workers for businesses.