

# EMPLOYMENT FIRST



Every Person. Every Talent. Every Opportunity.

January 2016

Dear Employment First Partners,

Keep up to date on Employment First news in Ohio. Don't forget to [contact us](#) if you need a speaker or visit the [Community Employment Resource Map](#) for local Employment First news.

If you have a story you would like for us to share, would like to give us feedback, or you need Employment First support, please contact us at [EmploymentFirst@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:EmploymentFirst@dodd.ohio.gov).

## Working Supports My Hobbies



Brian Murphy works at the YMCA in downtown



See Ohio's current plan to support the ongoing implementation of Employment First.

Access the [online archive](#) for previous issues of the *Employment First Update*.

### Quick Links

[Employment First Website](#)

[DODD Website](#)

### Upcoming Trainings & Events



[Click Here!](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

**The Employment First Team**

**Stacy Collins**

Youngstown. Brian enjoys his job because he has made new friends and is able to save for a new bike. Brian is an avid biker (he has even biked across the state with his father!), and his job supports his hobby. Navigating the Y and figuring out how his chair could fit was a challenge at first, but Brian now is able to complete all of his job duties. Brian has worked at the Y for more than six months. Congratulations, Brian!

## Save the Date!

**What:** Systems Transformation Conference 2016:  
Moving Forward Together

**When:** March 2, 2016, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Where:** Columbus, Ohio

Join local leaders and national subject matter experts to learn about innovative best practices and collaborative strategies for transforming services and supports that provide opportunities for people to fully engage in their communities.

**Look for information on how to register in mid-January!**

## Integrated Community Supports Grants Awarded



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Four proposals were selected for the Integrated Community Supports grant. This grant will help DODD-certified providers to transform from facility-based to community-based services, with a focus on community-based employment and adult day services for individuals with complex needs. Strategic plans and other resources developed by these grants will be used as models to help facilitate transformations across the state.

The selected proposals are: Abilities in Action, Ability Works, Easter Seals Tri-State, and Starfire Council of Greater Cincinnati.

Congratulations to the selected proposals!

### *Fact or Fiction?*

### ***Employment looks the same for everyone.***

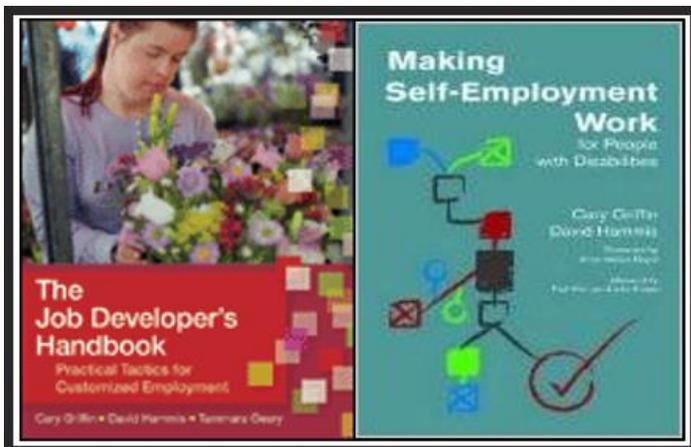
Employment looks different for every person. It is not limited to a full time or part time work schedule and can be customized to fit the strengths and interests of individuals, as well as the needs of employers. There is no specific or prescribed method for obtaining a job, but the best outcomes are produced when there is a strong fit between the employer and employee. Authentic work experiences help individuals learn about themselves and what kind of work they may want to do. Visit the Employment First website to learn more about the [Career Discovery Guide](#) and other resources that can assist with strong job matches.

### **Things To Try**



Ever thought about starting your own business? This can be a great option as it offers flexibility and can be customized to reflect an individual's strengths and interests. Here is a resource guide about [how to start a small business or micro-enterprise](#), including information about how to finance your business, build a website, and much more.

### Available Resources



Ohio Employment First currently has a limited supply of resources provided by Griffin-Hammis Associates

available on a first come, first served basis: [The Job Developer's Handbook: Practical Tactics for Customized Employment](#) and [Making Self-Employment Work for People with Disabilities First Edition](#).

If you would like to request these resources, contact [employmentfirst@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:employmentfirst@dodd.ohio.gov).

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