

EMPLOYMENT FIRST



Every Person. Every Talent. Every Opportunity.

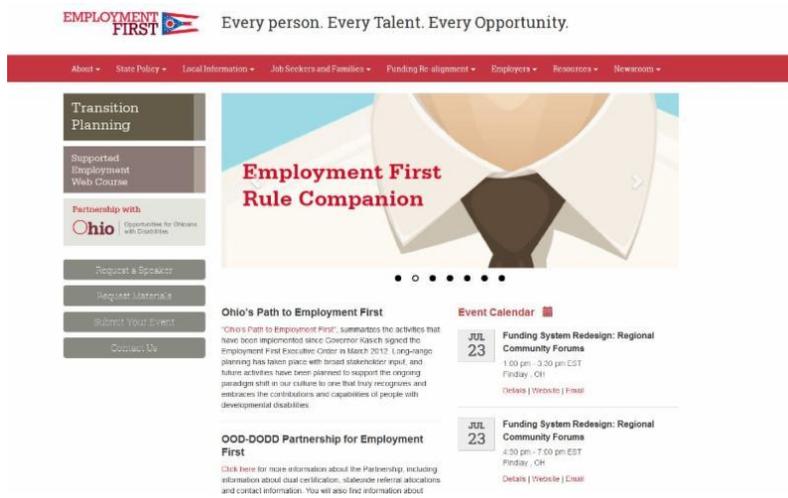
July 2014

Dear Employment First Partners,

Welcome to the ALL NEW Employment First Newsletter. It includes the same great content and initiative updates, plus an interactive format highlighting the most current Employment First news in Ohio. Be among the first to learn about trainings and opportunities happening around our state and in your own community!

If you have a story you would like us to share or would like to give us feedback, please contact the Employment First Team at employmentfirst@dodd.ohio.gov.

Expanded Employment First Website



Have you noticed the new and expanded Employment First website? The site was recently re-launched to include more resources and provide better access to information about Employment First. Check out information geared towards job seekers, families, providers and employers. Also, don't miss the new [Community Employment Resource Map](#), a place dedicated to the great efforts taking place throughout Ohio to improve employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities.



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



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Local Leaders Update

All six multi-agency Local Leaders community planning teams have successfully completed their needs assessments.

The information from each assessment was used to develop action plans tailored to their local communities, ensuring their planning translates into long-term sustainable change efforts. Teams have started to implement their action plans and will enter into grant agreements with DODD to continue their work, which compliments larger state projects.

Thanks to all the Local Leaders community planning teams for your commitment and hard work in developing local and statewide professional development training plans. Keep visiting the Employment First website, where the current Local Leaders action plans will be made available in the near future.

Funding System Re-design Community Forums



Ohio is committed to helping Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities live and work as integrated members of the community. To aid in accomplishing this

goal, DODD has contracted with HIGH IMPACT Mission-based Consulting (Allan I. Bergman and Lisa Mills, PhD.) to work with Ohio stakeholders to re-design Ohio's Medicaid HCBS Adult Day services. An evaluation of five states' funding systems has been completed and a summary can be found on the Employment First Website, [here](#). Community Forums will be held in six regions across the state, beginning later this month. To register for a forum at a time and location most convenient for you, please click [here](#). Following the community forums, a stakeholder work group will work with HIGH IMPACT to respond to feedback, evaluate models and design a system that incentivizes integrated employment and day services.

The Employment First Team

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Employment Leads to Confidence



(Above): Andrew at his work station.

Andrew Bullerjahn has worked for the Wood County Records Center for more than seven years. His keen attention to detail, reliability and dedication have made him a perfect fit for his job at the records center, where he scans documents to microfilm. Since he began employment, Andrew has proven himself in his role, advancing from part-time to full-time. A few years ago, Andrew was recognized by the national Association for Persons Supporting EmploymentFirst (APSE) for his accomplishments at their conference in Washington, D.C. Prior to his job, this trip would have been a difficult undertaking for Andrew, but bolstered by the confidence he has gained through the position, the trip was a success, and Andrew graciously accepted the award in front of a crowd of hundreds.

To learn more about other great community employment opportunities in Wood County and other Ohio counties, visit the Employment First Community Employment Resource page, [here](#).

Sincerely,



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