

# Employment First Partnership Impact

The [Employment First Partnership](#) between Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities has expanded community employment services for adults with developmental disabilities. Since implementation in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014, the partnership has improved competitive integrated employment outcomes for adults with developmental disabilities who want to work in their community.

As a result of the success, resources dedicated to helping adults with developmental disabilities find jobs have doubled since 2013. OOD staff with dedicated caseloads grew from 15 to 30 to serve more people with developmental disabilities across the state.

In addition, the partnership has five certified work incentive consultants who are dedicated to provide work incentives planning and counseling services to people served through the Employment First Partnership receiving federal, state, and local benefits.

## **What Working Participants are Saying:**

“It’s fun to be able to say that I work at Children’s Hospital, and I love working with everyone! My job is so important to me because I work to help keep kids healthy. I like to earn money and buy things I need and want. I love my job!”

-26-year-old from Franklin County

“I feel like I’m productive and important. If people don’t feel worthy and productive, they give up and don’t try. Having a job means you are somebody because you are doing something for society and your community.”

-55-year-old from Van Wert County

## **FFY 2018 Employment First Partnership Performance At-A-Glance**

In FFY 2018, through the Employment First partnership alone, 1,739 people applied for services; 1,337 plans for employment were created; and the average wage was \$9.04. Participants worked 18 hours per week, on average.

## **What the County Boards are Saying about the Employment First Partnership:**

“The county and Employment First Counselor collaborate with the team to help coordinate and link individuals to the appropriate employment services they need to be successful and move forward on their path to employment. There is ongoing communication between the counselor, employment

navigators, and the service and support administrator to ensure the individuals' needs are being met so they can be successful in their employment goals.”

- Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities

“Clermont County has an outstanding partnership with Employment First due to our like-minded vision for the people we serve. We are able to meet often and face-to-face so that good team communication supports desired employment outcomes.”

- Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities

“We are pleased with the partnership and have worked hard over the last couple of years to develop processes that have resulted in the positive outcomes for the people we serve. We discuss any issues and keep each other informed on what is happening. These relationships are part of why the partnership is working.”

- Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities

### **Successful Placements Increased by 206%**

Data shows OOD is helping more people with developmental disabilities apply for services and get jobs now than before the Employment First partnership began. Prior to Employment First, in FFY 2013, there were 2,364 applicants and 465 successful placements. In FFY 2018, there were 3,879 applicants and 1,425 successful placements for individuals with developmental disabilities. Comparing 2013 to 2018, successful placements increased by 206%.