**Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council Meeting**

**Division of Employer and Innovation Services Update**

**August 12, 2020**

**Virtual Hiring Events**

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) is hosting Virtual Hiring Events in several areas throughout Ohio to facilitate interviews for Employer Partners and OOD candidates. During these events, interviews are held in 20-minute increments through individual Microsoft Teams Meetings. At least five employers are participating in each area. Events were held on July 29 for the Athens area and August 5 for the Dayton area. Hiring events are scheduled for Akron on August 12; Youngstown on August 19 and Lima on August 26. Candidate preparation materials, including a recorded training, a resource guide, and links to Employer Partner videos, can be found on our website, [here](https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/individuals-with-disabilities/resources/01-virtual-hiring-event-candidate-preparation).

 **Web-based Trainings for Employers**

On June 18, the Division of Employer and Innovation Services (EIS) hosted a web-based training for employers, “Supporting Employees with Disabilities During COVID-19”. A recording of the training, as well as accompanying resources, can be found on our website, [here](https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/information-for-employers/employer-resources/05-supporting-employees-with-disabilities). A total of 154 people attended this training.

On July 16, in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, OOD hosted “Disability Etiquette” training. A recording of the training, as well as accompanying resources, can be found on our website, [here](https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/information-for-employers/employer-resources/06-disability-etiquette-training). A total of 557 people attended this training.

Our next training, “Inclusive Hiring: Applicants with Disabilities”, will take place on August 20 at 10 a.m. This training will focus on best practices to foster a hiring process that is accessible and inclusive for candidates with disabilities. It will also include discussion on the recruitment phase, pre-employment interviewing and testing, and the onboarding process, including common reasonable accommodations. There are currently 155 people scheduled to attend.

OOD Council members are welcome to join. Please respond to this [brief survey](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xPz4UNiUB0-E6zbtV8fIog46lcI9IflBnucxJDlqjppUMldGVUlJSllIQTNMTzFSU1RNM0QyQlVQSyQlQCN0PWcu)to let us know you’ll be joining us. Please contact Chris Glover at Chris.Glover@ood.ohio.gov to request an accommodation by August 16.

**Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment**

To help inform recommendations to be included in the 2021 Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, OOD will be conducting a survey of potential VR participants and recent VR participants whose cases were closed without an employment outcome. OOD Council members are invited to review the attached outline to provide feedback and input on the process.