**Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council Meeting**

**Division of Employer and Innovation Services Update**

**April 21, 2021**

**Inclusive Employer Toolkit**

OOD recently launched the [Inclusive Employer Toolkit](https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/information-for-employers/inclusive-employer-toolkit) to help employers recruit, hire, and retain employees with disabilities and foster an inclusive workplace. The Toolkit includes four main topics: Building the Business Case, Inclusive Workplace, Recruiting, Hiring, and Supporting Employees, and Workplace Accommodations. The Toolkit curates the best practices, tips, resources, and webinars that have benefited OOD Employer Partners. Use of the Toolkit is free and open to all, and a demonstration video is available on the website.

**OOD Level Up Grant Proposal**

OOD recently submitted a proposal for the U.S. Department of Education’s Disability Innovation Fund – Career Advancement Initiative Model Demonstration Project. If selected for funding, OOD will implement OOD Level Up, a program designed to assist 1,000 Ohioans with disabilities to enroll in or successfully complete credential programs needed to secure or advance in careers that are in high demand and pay a sustainable wage. The proposal includes expanded relationships with Ohio’s employers, community colleges, technical centers, and other workforce partners to improve access to career pathways, and the development of an OOD Level Up curriculum with a strong focus on professional skills, financial literacy, and self-advocacy. If awarded, the grant would begin October 1, 2021 and last for five years.

**2021 Virtual Hiring Events**

OOD held a Work-from-Home Virtual Hiring Event on February 11, 2021. During this event, 40 OOD candidates participated in 46 interviews with six employers (Double A Solutions, Alorica, Huntington Bank, Key Bank, VXI Global Solutions, and Pearl Interactive Network. As a result, 11 job offers were extended with several candidates moving forward to second interviews.

OOD, in partnership with local school districts, is hosting transition-focused Virtual Hiring Events for students this month. Events for Southwest City School District were held on April 13 and 16. Other events are planned for students at: Parma City School District and Polaris Career Center on April 21; EHOVE Career Center on April 22; Springfield City School District, Cincinnati Public School District, Dayton Public School District, Lebanon City School District, and Mason City School District on April 27; and Pioneer Career and Technology Center, Knox County Career Center, and Mansfield City School District on April 29.

**The Employer’s ADA Handbook Webinar Series**

OOD is hosting The Employers’ ADA Handbook, a free five-part webinar series for employers. All webinars are recorded and archived on the OOD website for on-demand viewing. On January 13, OOD hosted the first session, “[Title I Overview”](https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/information-for-employers/employer-resources/Employers-ADA-Handbook-Title-I-Overview) for 229 attendees; Session Two, “[Reasonable Accommodations and Undue Hardship](https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/information-for-employers/employer-resources/The-Employers-ADA-Handbook-RAs-And-Undue-Hardship)” was hosted live on February 24 for 175 attendees; Session Three, “[Performance, Conduct, and Safety”](https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/information-for-employers/employer-resources/Employers-ADA-Handbook-Performance-Conduct-Safety) was hosted live on March 23 for 137 attendees. Upcoming webinars in this series are as follows:

**April 28 at 10 a.m.**: [Resources and Funding](https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/information-for-employers/employer-resources/Employers-ADA-Handbook-Resources-And-Funding)
**May 26 at 10 a.m.**: [Accessibility Hour with OOD](https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/information-for-employers/employer-resources/Employers-ADA-Handbook-Accessibility-Hour-With-OOD)

**Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Survey**

OOD received more than 1,200 responses to the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) Survey of Individuals with Disabilities. Many thanks to OOD Council members for their assistance in distributing the survey. We are currently conducting an analysis of the results for inclusion in the 2021 CSNA.