**Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council Meeting**

**Division of Employer and Innovation Services Update**

**August 18, 2021**

**Inclusive Employer Award**

To reinforce his commitment to Ohioans with disabilities, Governor Mike DeWine’s Executive Budget includes presenting an award during October’s National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) to employers who meet the criteria for having a workplace inclusive of individuals with disabilities. OOD determined the criteria for the award in alignment with the [Inclusive Employer Toolkit](https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/information-for-employers/inclusive-employer-toolkit), which includes: Inclusive Workplace; Recruiting, Hiring, and Support Employees; Workplace Accommodations; and Workplace Accessibility. The deadline for employers to apply to be considered for the award closes August 13, 2021. OOD will review applications and make recommendations to Governor DeWine for the selection of the award recipient(s). Winners will be announced in early October 2021.

**2021 Virtual Hiring Events**

In April, OOD hosted Virtual Hiring Events for 83 transition-age youth and 24 employers. In May, OOD held a statewide Virtual Hiring Event with Meijer for 44 OOD job seekers. Virtual Hiring Events were held for 21 Jobs for Recovery participants with 10 employers.

OOD is hosting a statewide Virtual Hiring Event with Walmart on August 18, 2021. Events are also planned in each of OOD’s service areas to celebrate October’s National Disability Employment Awareness Month. These events will include up to 10 employers per area to conduct virtual interviews with OOD job seekers.

**Webinars for Employers**

OOD hosted “The Employers’ ADA Handbook,” a five-part series, January - May 2021. OOD hosted “Supervisors and Title I of the ADA” on July 14 for 111 attendees and “Return to the Workplace and COVID-19” on August 11 for 142 attendees. All Webinars are archived on the Employers’ page of the [OOD website](https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/information-for-employers/employer-resources/on-demand-webinars) for on-demand viewing and include a Learner’s Guide. September’s Webinar will be held on September 22 and is titled “Digital Accessibility and Accommodations.”

**Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment**

OOD is on track to finalize the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment by the end of September 2021. It will be hosted on the OOD Website on the newly-created [OOD Statistics](https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/about-us/statistics2) page.