



Portage County

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HOW WE CAN HELP

A Resource Guide for Portage County Employers

The mission of OhioMeansJobs Portage County is to develop and strengthen our workforce by empowering and connecting individuals and businesses to collectively grow the economic stability of our community.



OhioMeansJobs Portage County is the workforce division of Portage Co. Job & Family Services.

We serve, and seek to connect, two primary customers – *Employers* and *Job Seekers*. We are driven to provide workforce solutions that meet the needs of local employers to support a strong regional economy.

This guide highlights services available to local employers.

For personal assistance, please call our Business Services office at (330) 296-2841.

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Help finding the workers you need

OhioMeansJobs Portage County can help you find the workers you need with job posting assistance, career and hiring events, and sample job applications and want ads.

Employers can post their own job directly at [OhioMeansJobs.com](https://ohioMeansJobs.com). Account registration is required and you will need your FEIN (Federal Employer Identification Number) and State of Ohio Tax Withholding Account Number.

Besides posting jobs, you can also search resumes and access labor market information.

OMJ Portage County's Business Services staff can also post the job for you. Email the listing to PORTAGE_RECRUITER2@jfs.ohio.gov. We will share the posting via email blasts and other outreach at no cost. The posting also goes to a national job search aggregator where it's visible nationwide.

Help with training and talent development

OhioMeansJobs Portage County (OMJPC) offers on-site computer training labs and conference space. We offer referrals to local employee training providers, and we can connect employers with other training programs.

On-the-Job Training is a federally-funded program that pays up to half a trainee's wages for up to six months of training to encourage long-term employment. Find out more about it [here](#).

ApprenticeOhio can help you establish an apprenticeship program to grow your workforce, increase retention, improve productivity, and save money. Go [here](#) to learn more or contact [Erich Hetzel](#) at (330) 252-6642.

Help selecting candidates

OhioMeansJobs Portage County (OMJPC) can screen qualified applicants. Our business services team also tests aptitude for job readiness and assesses skills.

We host a job fair in November with on-site interviewing or virtual hiring with Premier Virtual software.

OMJPC collaborates with local schools to provide career-readiness programs for students where employers can share expertise.

We also participate in [OhioMeansSkills](#), an effort to help employers find and retain workers with the skills they need utilizing ACT WorkKeys. In addition, we support hiring special populations including migrant and seasonal workers, older workers, veterans, youth, and workers with disabilities.

Help accessing benefits

OMJPC can apprise you of opportunities to access funding and tax credit opportunities.

Apprenticeship programs may qualify for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds and/or the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC).

WOTC credits are available to employers who hire individuals from eligible target groups.

OhioMeansAccessibility encourages employers to consider hiring workers with disabilities. Not only does this enhance workplace diversity, it can also create opportunities to earn tax credits. Learn more [here](#). The [ODEI employer toolkit](#) offers more resources for recruiting, hiring, and retaining workers with disabilities.



Human Resources Management and Planning Support

OhioMeansJobs Portage County (OMJPC) offers resources for small businesses and entrepreneurs, including human resource workshops and services to help support and retain employees.

The state of Ohio can help companies receive foreign labor certification when there are not enough U.S. workers to fill positions. Information is available [here](#) or by calling the state Office of Workforce Development at (888) 296-7541.

Assistance is also available for local farms in need of migrant and seasonal employees. Information is available [here](#). Farmworkers who have questions or complaints can all the hotline at (855) 439-9413.

Rapid Response & Layoff Aversion

Rapid Response is a proactive, business-focused and flexible strategy designed primarily to respond to layoffs and plant closings by quickly coordinating services and providing immediate aid to companies and their affected workers. We meet with workers at your facility or the OhioMeansJobs Center in Ravenna to explain options and help get them re-employed.

Businesses that lay off 50 or more workers are subject to Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) rules. More information is available [here](#).

Labor Market and Workforce Data

Data collected by the [Bureau of Labor Market Information](#) can help you make good business decisions, develop job descriptions, and assess wage trends.

The Bureau collects and analyzes information about industries, occupations and employment.

It also provides an economic profile for every Ohio County, which indicates a county's top employing industries. In [Portage County](#), they are Manufacturing, Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance.

The [workforce supply tool](#) also tracks graduates from in-demand occupations and provides job opening information by occupation and wage.

OMJ Readiness Seal



OMJPC can provide you assurance that high school students are prepared to contribute to the workplace and their communities.

When a student demonstrates they have the personal strengths, strong work ethic, and professional experience businesses need, they receive the OhioMeansJobs *Readiness Seal*, a formal designation on their high school diplomas and transcripts.

Find more information online [here](#) about what's involved in earning the *Readiness Seal*.



Ohio Business Gateway

Ohio businesses can use the Ohio Business Gateway to access services and submit transactions and payments with many state agencies.

The gateway offers the ability to:

- File and pay sales tax and use tax
- Register for, file, and pay Commercial Activity Tax
- File unemployment compensation tax
- Register for a vendor's license

Grow your business by taking advantage of these efficiencies. You can connect with the Ohio Business Gateway [here](#).

Public Workforce Investment

As part of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration has created a website to build the capacity of America's public workforce investment system.

[WorkforceGPS](#) offers training resources, promising workforce development practices, and relevant evidence-based research to help workforce professionals, educators, and business leaders.

JobsOhio & Workforce Transformation

JobsOhio is a private, nonprofit economic development organization that, with state and local partners, invests in communities and helps businesses relocate, expand, and prosper in Ohio.

JobsOhio seeks to create opportunities for companies to thrive and individuals to enjoy a higher standard of living.

Find out more about JobsOhio [here](#).

Ohio business, training, and education communities are connected through the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, whose mission is to build a dynamically skilled, productive, and purposeful workforce. Learn more about its efforts [here](#).

Hiring Specific Populations

There are programs available to support business growth through the hiring of specific populations:

- HIRE Vets Medallion Program: The only federal-level veterans' employment award that recognizes a company or organization's commitment to veteran hiring, retention, and professional development. Learn more [here](#).
- Businesses can reduce their tax burden by hiring restored, or formerly incarcerated, citizens. The state offers a secure resume database for employers to consider candidates and a free, 6-month insurance program (Federal Bonding Program) administered by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Learn more about Reentry Resources [here](#).



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Job & Family Services

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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE
CONTACT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
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*DON'T FORGET TO CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!
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