

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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[Dasia.Clemente@ifs.ohio.gov](mailto:Dasia.Clemente@ifs.ohio.gov)***Youth Apprenticeship Week*****Pre-Apprenticeships and apprenticeships great pathways to in-demand careers**

(COLUMBUS) During the first national Youth Apprenticeship Week, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director Matt Damschroder reminds high school students, parents, educators, and young adults that apprenticeships can be an excellent pathway to a good-paying, in-demand career.

“ODJFS is excited to recognize the first Youth Apprenticeship Week,” Damschroder said. “We encourage young people to consider apprenticeships. They can earn a paycheck while they learn from skilled mentors, avoid the typical student loan debt, and enter the workforce with confidence.”

ODJFS oversees ApprenticeOhio, which registers apprenticeship programs that meet national criteria for quality and safety. Pre-apprenticeship programs typically operate as partnerships between employers and schools. Pre-apprentices learn both technical and job-readiness skills. When they complete their programs, they have multiple options: They can pursue higher education, a job, and/or a registered apprenticeship.

In some cases, apprentices can be as young as 16. In addition, Ohio has more than 100 pre-apprenticeship programs just for youth ages 16 to 20. Pre-apprenticeships allow high school students to gain real-world experience while working part-time in their communities and fulfilling their graduation requirements.

If pre-apprentices go on to become registered apprentices, they will be full-time employees from day one. They’ll earn a salary while they learn the skills they need for an in-demand occupation. Apprentices receive on-the-job training from an expert worker. They also participate in related instruction – in a classroom, online, in a shop or a lab – that applies directly to their career. When they complete their programs, they earn a nationally recognized certificate, without the burden of typical student loan debt.

Most of Ohio’s pre-apprenticeship programs are in manufacturing and architecture/construction. However, there also are opportunities in information technology, hospitality and tourism, health science, and education. Other industries with pre-apprenticeships include law enforcement, transportation, agriculture, STEM fields, business management and administration, and the arts, communication, and marketing.

To learn more about apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships for young workers, visit [Apprentice.Ohio.gov](http://Apprentice.Ohio.gov).





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*The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, adult protective services, and child support services.*

