

ANNUAL REPORT

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES



Rhodes State Office Tower, Columbus Ohio



**Department of
Job & Family
Services**

FISCAL YEAR
2025



Department of Job & Family Services

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is a cabinet-level agency under the direction of Governor Mike DeWine. ODJFS is responsible for managing a number of vital programs that directly impact the lives of Ohioans. These include job training and employment services, child support, cash and food assistance, adult protective services, and unemployment insurance.

Our mission is to support the well-being of Ohioans by strengthening families and promoting economic stability. A large portion of our funding comes from the federal government. We're responsible for distributing this funding to more than 130 partner agencies throughout the state, including:

- Local Workforce Development Boards
- Child Support Enforcement Agencies
- County Departments of Job and Family Services

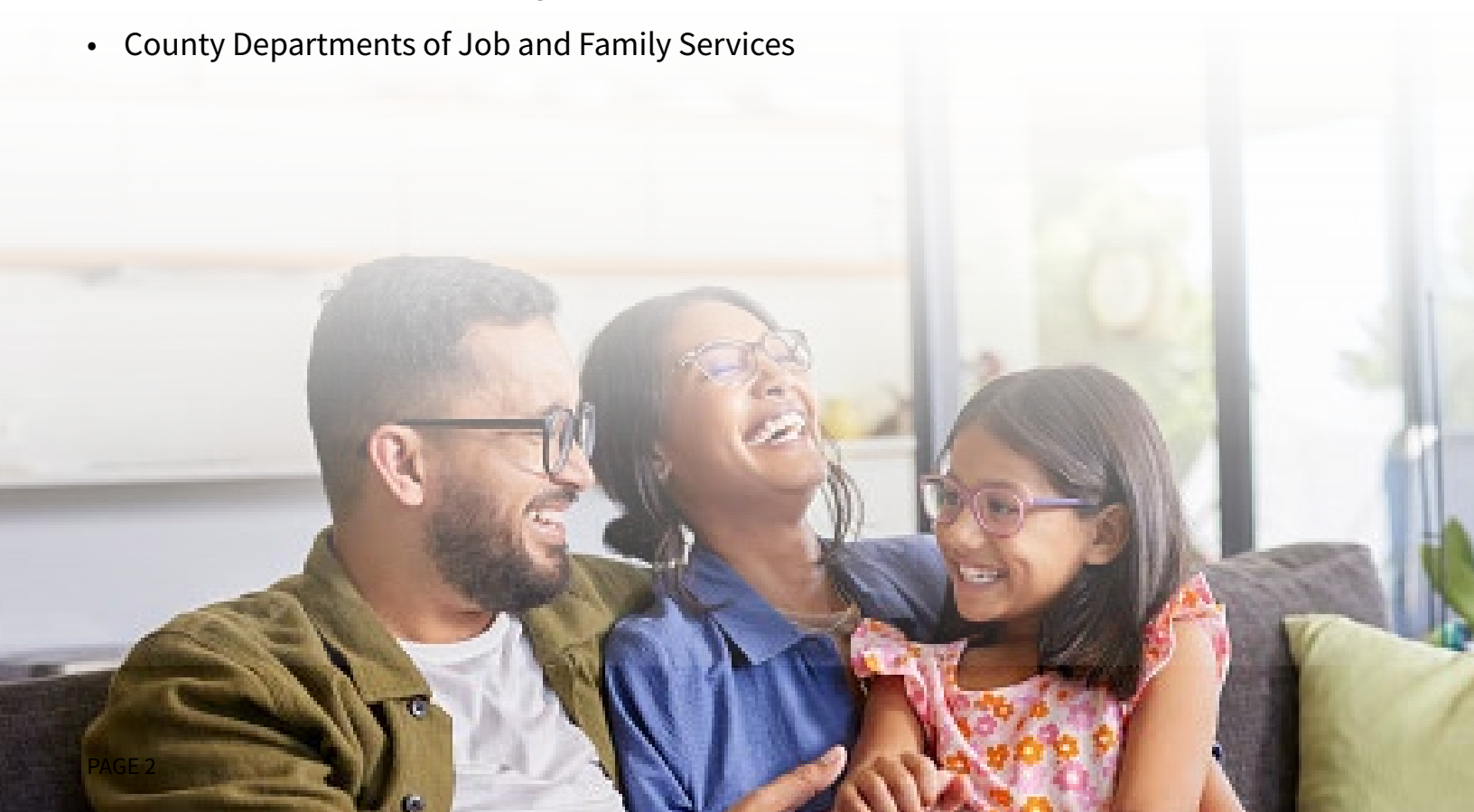


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A Letter from Director Damschroder

For the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), state fiscal year (SFY) 2025 marked the start of a very special year. Exactly 25 years ago – on July 1, 2000 – our agency was formed. This historic event was made possible by the merger of the Ohio Department of Human Services with the Bureau of Employment Services. The goal was to streamline services and reduce duplication, helping more Ohioans move from public assistance to self-sufficiency and long-term, satisfying careers.

The formation of our agency came on the heels of national welfare reform, the creation of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, and the passage of the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA). WIA created

the nation's "One-Stop" employment system, which includes our present-day OhioMeansJobs Centers. ODJFS successfully implemented all these sweeping changes, and many more.

Fast forward 25 years, and we're just as committed as ever to helping Ohioans overcome barriers, provide for their families, and achieve their God-given potential. Under the leadership of Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jim Tressel, we've implemented numerous customer service improvements, leveraged technology, and continued to streamline services for Ohioans.

This annual report is full of examples of how we worked to better serve customers throughout the year. The accomplishments represent the work of 1,800 employees dedicated to improving the lives of Ohioans. Our collective goal is to get better at what we do every day, and we even have an Office of Transformation to assist in these efforts. It partners with programs, offices, and employees throughout the agency to enhance internal and external customers' experiences. It drives innovation and has played a key role in bringing plain language, human-centered design, and customer-centric training to projects such as the unemployment insurance benefits transformation.

Remember that you can visit our website, jfs.ohio.gov, to learn more about our programs. And if you'd like to stay up-to-date on our work, you can follow us on social media or [subscribe](#) to our news releases or biweekly newsletter, ODJFS E-News.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Damschroder".

Matt Damschroder, Director



Employment Services

ODJFS oversees a variety of programs and services to help employers build their workforces and to help Ohioans find jobs and launch, build, or change careers. Services are available at both [OhioMeansJobs.com](https://ohioMeansJobs.com) and the state's 88 OhioMeansJobs Centers.



Ohio's Workforce Playbook

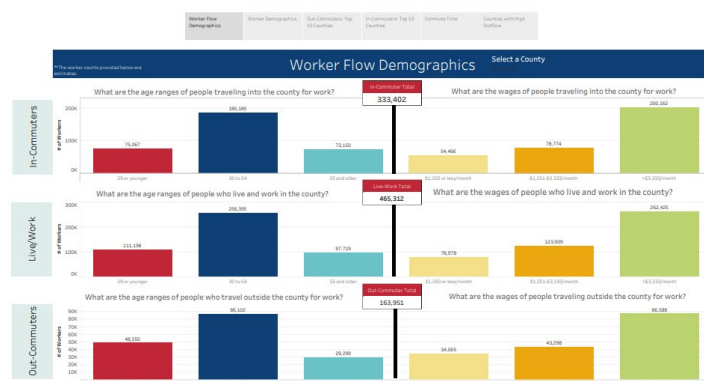


In SFY 2025, Lt. Governor Jim Tressel began leading an innovative effort to create "Ohio's Workforce Playbook." The lieutenant governor is working closely with local business leaders, Ohio's four-year colleges and universities, career tech schools, and state agencies to develop regional workforce strategies. The goals are to retain homegrown talent, recruit new talent, rally our workforce, and ensure that employers have enough skilled workers to meet their needs.

Labor Market Information

The ODJFS Bureau of Labor Market Information (LMI) delivers essential labor market data and resources to Ohioans. In partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, LMI provides statistics about employment levels, unemployment rates, employment projections, wages and earnings, and more. All of this is searchable at [OhioLMI.com](https://ohioLMI.com). LMI also conducts research and publishes reports on topics related to Ohio's economy.

In SFY 2025, LMI began partnering with the Ohio Workforce Association and local workforce development boards to create a user-friendly [County Data Hub](#). This allows users to easily explore vital local data such as unemployment rates, wages, job ads, and projections. The office also responded to more than 115 data requests, published three editions of their Labor Market Matters newsletter, presented to more than a dozen groups in the workforce community, and began hosting monthly [Learning Labs](#) webinars to dive deeper into labor market topics.



The LMI team continues to update their Data Dashboards, such as the "Inflow-Outflow Dashboard," shown above. This shows where people live and commute for work.

Services for Individuals

ODJFS works in partnership with local workforce development boards and local staff to provide employment and training services at 88 OhioMeansJobs Centers throughout the state. Individuals can visit [OhioMeansJobs.com](https://ohioMeansJobs.com) or contact their local OhioMeansJobs Center for help with any of the following:

- Exploring careers
- Finding and applying for jobs
- Creating and improving a resume
- Calculating a budget
- Taking skill and interest assessments
- Practicing interviewing

Services for Employers

Employers can contact their local OhioMeansJobs Center or OhioMeansJobs.com for free help with a variety of employment needs, including:

- Posting job openings
- Finding skilled candidates
- Establishing an apprenticeship or internship program
- Connecting with educators and job-training programs
- Applying for training programs, hiring incentives, and tax credits
- Organizing job fairs or mass recruitment events
- Researching wage trends and economic indicators
- Learning about accommodating employees with disabilities

By the Numbers

From July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, more than 66,700 Ohioans received one-on-one help with their job searches at the state's OhioMeansJobs Centers. In addition, [OhioMeansJobs.com](https://ohioMeansJobs.com) remained popular:

- Average number of active resumes each month: nearly 1.5 million
- Average number of active veterans' resumes each month: more than 48,000
- Number of job searches: more than 128 million
- Number of resume searches by employers: more than 30,000
- Number of K-12 schools registered: more than 3,100
- Number of K-12 registered users: more than 266,000



OhioMeansJobs.com

Law Enforcement

Job postings and employment resources for jobs with Law Enforcement.

[Find a Law Enforcement Job](#)



ODJFS partnered with InnovateOhio and the Ohio Department of Public Safety to create a special section of OhioMeansJobs.com to promote law enforcement job opportunities, LawEnforcementJobs.Ohio.gov.

Video: Kickstart Your Career With an Apprenticeship



A new three-minute [“Kickstart Your Career”](#) Apprenticeship video explains the benefits of apprenticeships, the types of apprenticeships available, how they work, and how to research programs at [Apprentice.Ohio.gov](#).

Construction Career Days a Success

The Apprenticeship team helped spread the word about apprenticeships during Allied Construction Industries’ Construction Career Days, April 30-May, at the Warren County Fairgrounds in Lebanon. This is the largest construction-based career exploration and hiring event in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana – and one of the biggest in the nation.

More than 200 middle and high school students from 60-plus schools attended, to learn more about careers in commercial construction. Students engaged with more than 100 exhibitors, including representatives from top employers, educators, trade schools, and apprenticeship programs.

ApprenticeOhio

Ohio ranks third in the nation and first in the Midwest in the number apprentices, with more than 24,000 enrolled. Each Apprenticeship program is run by a sponsor: usually an employer, a group of employers, or a labor/management committee. Apprentices earn wages while learning skills for a job in the sponsor’s industry. They complete at least 2,000 hours of structured on-the-job training and 144 hours of classroom training, typically at a local college or university.

Ohio has more than 200 occupations that offer apprenticeships, in fields as diverse as construction, energy, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, computer programming, teaching, and more. The state also has more than 240 pre-apprenticeship programs, including more than 100 for youth ages 16 to 20. High school students in pre-apprenticeships gain real-world experience while working part-time in their communities and fulfilling their graduation requirements. For more information, visit [Apprentice.Ohio.gov](#).



Members of the Apprenticeship team and the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council attended this year’s Construction Career Days. Front row (left to right): Vince Irvin, Teresa Garey, Latoya Snead, Holly Endicott, Jen Hutton. Middle row: Steve Wagner, Traci Carter, Anastasia Campbell, Tracy Hull, Lisa Button, Jeanette Andrews, Chris Gamble, Matt Hittinger. Back Row: Tom Conrad, Jeremy Dennis, Krystal Sanders, Jay Mendoza, Matt Longfellow, Barton Hacker



Video: Hear One Vet's Story



Former U.S. Marine Darius Jones [talks](#) about the apprenticeship that led to full-time, fulfilling work with a fence construction company.



OhioMeansJobs.com

Military Service Career Center

Transitioning to civilian life can be challenging. Veterans in Ohio have an edge in finding their next career. Find tools to help you succeed in your job search.



Live Chat



Site Search

Log In/Sign Up



Transitioning military service members, veterans, and their spouses can get help translating their military skills into a civilian resume, connecting with military-friendly employers, and more at [OhioMeansVeteranJobs.com](#).

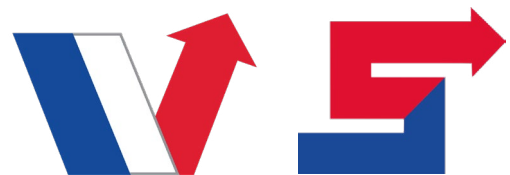
Veterans' Services

Helping veterans find jobs is a priority for ODJFS. At either [OhioMeansVeteranJobs.com](#) or their [local OhioMeansJobs Center](#), transitioning military service members, veterans, and their spouses can get help:

- Translating their military skills into a civilian resume
- Creating a transition plan
- Connecting with military-friendly employers
- Applying for jobs
- Enrolling in workshops and trainings
- Learning about federal and state benefits
- Exploring new careers

They can use as many or as few of these services as they would like, on their own or with help from an employment specialist.

Ohio has more than 8,300 employers listed in its "Military-Friendly Employer Registry" at [OhioMeansVeteranJobs.com](#). In addition, the resumes of veterans are designated with a red and blue "V," and the resumes of military spouses are designated with a red and blue "S," to make them stand out to military-friendly employers.



During the most recent complete program year, more than 3,000 veterans received services at the state's OhioMeansJobs Centers. Veteran Services staff also reached out to more than 5,600 transitioning military service members, their spouses, and military veteran job seekers to see if they would like one-on-one assistance. Outreach staff participated in more than 2,500 activities, such as job and resource fairs and meetings with community service providers.

Video: Employer Hires Workers in Recovery



Mary Beth, a human resources recruiting supervisor at Bellisio Foods in Jackson, Ohio, [shared](#) how employees in recovery are dedicated to their jobs and motivated to succeed. Bellisio works with the local OhioMeansJobs Center to attract, hire, and retain top talent.



Career Help for Young Ohioans

To help break the cycle of poverty for young Ohioans, ODJFS offers the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program ([CCMEP](#)). CCMEP provides career coaching and wrap-around supportive services to help eligible 14- to 24-year-olds learn skills, find employment, and build career paths that will sustain them for a lifetime. Participants are given a wide range of services to support goals in their employment/career plans. This could include support to obtain a high school diploma, internships, tuition assistance, mentoring, financial assistance, transportation help, and many other resources. More than 18,000 young people are served annually by this program.

In April, the CCMEP team hosted its third annual OhioMeansJobs.com “Gen Z” Virtual Career Fair. It was a great success, with 375 individuals and 140 employers attending. Employers represented a wide range of industries, from locations across the state. All were hiring for full-time, part-time, summer jobs, or internships.

Help for Workers in Recovery

ODJFS has applied for and received multiple federal grants to help employers impacted by the opioid epidemic rebuild their workforces and to help individuals rebuild their lives. The most recent grant – an \$8.5 million “Fresh Start” National Health Emergency Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) – allowed the state’s OhioMeansJobs Centers to serve more than 1,200 individuals, more than three times the number initially planned. [DOL highlighted Ohio’s success](#) in a recent article for workforce professionals.

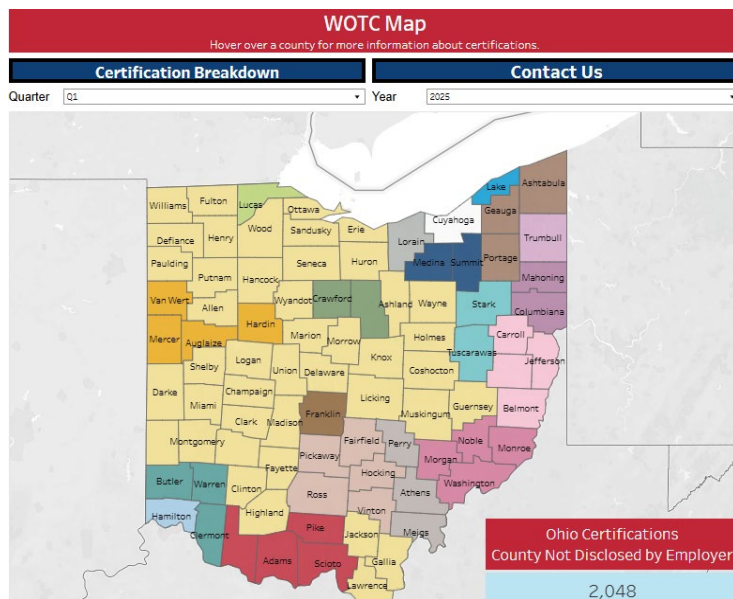
In addition, a \$5 million DOL “Holistic Care” grant for Workforce Development Area 1 – which serves Adams, Brown, Pike, and Scioto counties – helped another 600 individuals in recovery find and keep jobs. The majority of those served were still employed a year after receiving services.

Throughout SFY 2025, local workforce areas shared information with employers about the new [Ohio Recovery Friendly Workplace](#) initiative. Recovery friendly workplaces promote worksite wellness programs, increase access to support for employees struggling with substance misuse, provide employment opportunities for people in recovery, and reduce the stigma of addiction.

Job Services for Restored Citizens

ODJFS believes in giving restored citizens second chances. Twenty-one state correctional facilities now have certified in-house OhioMeansJobs Centers, including three at youth facilities. The centers offer access to a special secure version of [OhioMeansJobs.com](https://ohiojobs.com), where individuals can post resumes when they're within 90 days of release. They can also take an assessment to receive pre- and post-release services from the OhioMeansJobs Center in their returning county.

Many individuals receive job training while they're incarcerated, including registered apprenticeships, certificate programs, and even college degrees. In addition, as a result of a federal Pathway Home grant, more than 600 Ohioans have received one-on-one assistance from reentry navigators. The reentry navigators assess their skills and barriers, help them develop individual employment plans, and improve their job readiness.



The WOTC team launched an [interactive map](#) showcasing certifications by type and county.

Pathway Home Success Stories

- A restored citizen from Hamilton County got one-on-one help from a Pathway Home reentry navigator and is now working in construction earning \$18 an hour. He's also taking college classes to earn a business management degree. He has his own apartment and truck and reports that life is going well.
- A restored citizen from Franklin County got help from a reentry navigator and is now working as a senior high lift operator earning \$19.75 an hour plus overtime. She said the Pathway Home program helped her stay positive and commit to a better life.

Employer Tax Credits

Employers who hire workers from certain designated groups, including those with criminal histories, may qualify for federal tax credits through the [Work Opportunity Tax Credit \(WOTC\)](#) program. ODJFS administers WOTC, which provides credits ranging from \$1,200 to \$9,600. Designated groups include restored citizens, public assistance recipients, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and others who face barriers to employment.

From July 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025, ODJFS certified 65,588 tax credits worth more than \$187 million for Ohio employers.

The agency also reviews and approves [Federal Bonding Program](#) applications in Ohio. The Federal Bonding Program can provide \$5,000 worth of free fidelity bond coverage to employers for new hires with specific barriers to employment.

Broadband Initiatives

ODJFS is a committed partner in state efforts to meet workforce needs for new and emerging industries. One industry with a great need for workers is broadband. ODJFS leads the Apprenticeship and Entry Level Employment Working Group within the state's Broadband & 5G Sector Partnership. To date, the partnership has awarded 680 certifications to Ohioans who completed training programs to become fiber-optic technicians, tower technicians, or who completed a 5G readiness program.

ODJFS also received a "QUEST 1" federal grant to enroll more Ohioans in broadband and 5G-related training in their communities. Through June 30, 2025, many partners worked to implement regional strategies. These include community action agencies, local workforce boards, colleges and universities, and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. The grant made it possible for more than 300 Ohioans to enroll in broadband and 5G-related training.

Auto and Advanced Mobility

More than 25,000 new jobs are expected to be created in the electric vehicle industry by 2030, nearly a 30% increase over the current auto manufacturing workforce. To help build the workforce for this industry, ODJFS remains a committed partner in the state's Auto and Advanced Mobility Workforce Sector Partnership Steering Committee. In SFY 2025, the agency managed two substantial federal grants related to this:

- Charged Up, which will provide production training and credentialing opportunities for 700 individuals in 18 counties in northeast Ohio
- WAVE, which will provide training and credentialing opportunities for 550 unemployed and underemployed Ohioans in western and central Ohio

ODJFS also provided \$1.3 million to a local workforce area for the development of a recruitment center to help Honda and LG Energy Solution hire 2,200 employees for a new lithium-ion battery plant under construction in Jeffersonville.



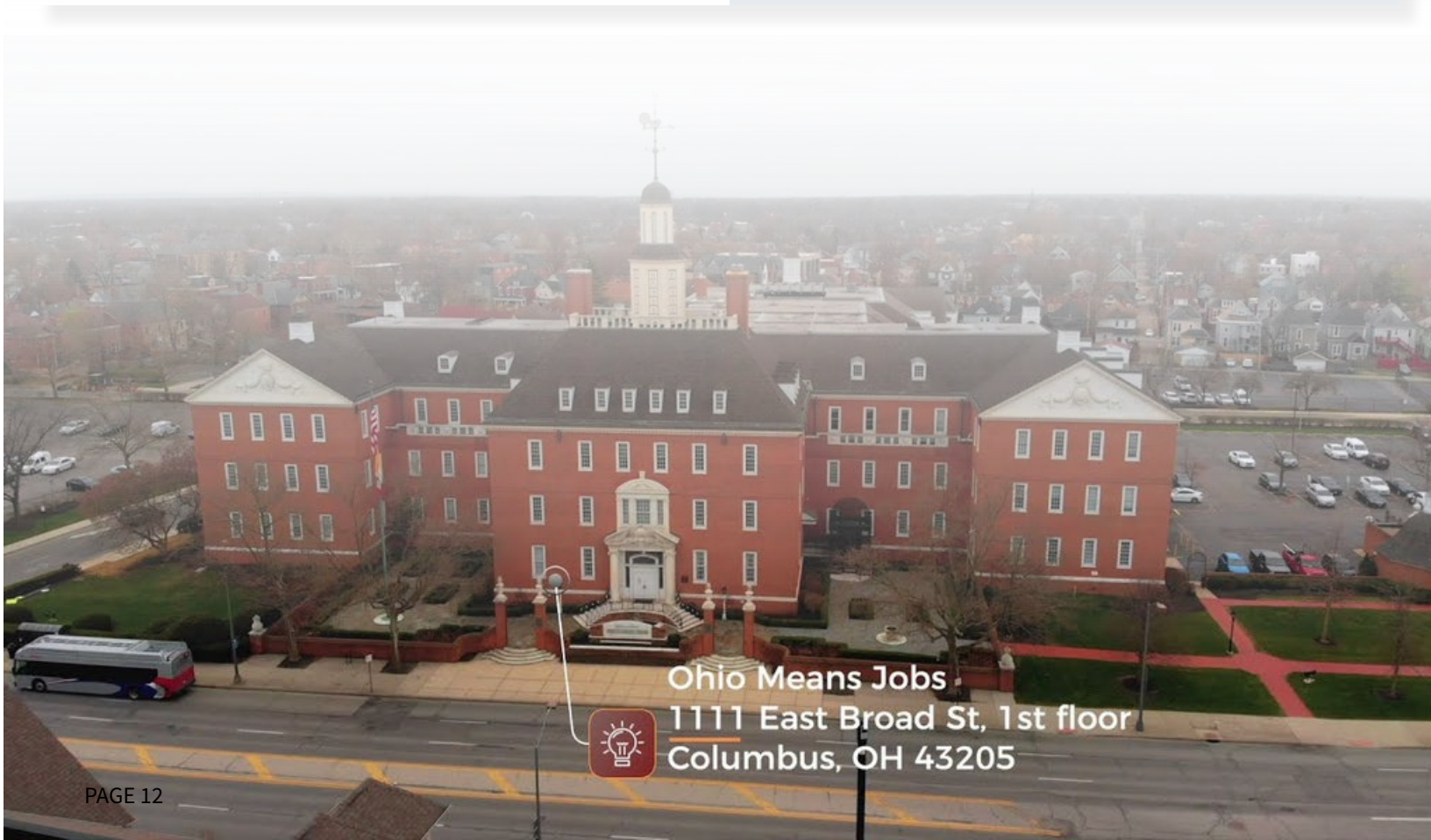
Intensive Services for Unemployed Ohioans

ODJFS administers the federal Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program for Ohio. This provides intensive job-search help to unemployment claimants who are determined likely to exhaust their benefits before finding a job. Those chosen to participate are given information about available services. They also take an assessment to identify their barriers to employment. An employment professional then works with them on a plan to overcome those barriers.

In 2024, more than 22,000 Ohioans participated in RESEA. In addition, ODJFS partnered with The Ohio State University to conduct an evidence-based evaluation of the program's effectiveness. Data will be collected through December 2025.

RESEA Success Stories

- *"Thank you for the assistance with my employment search. In addition to the helpful information and guidance the RESEA program provided, I found it very reassuring to know that there was help available to those like me that find themselves in the very awkward position of becoming suddenly unemployed. In my case, it had been 21 years since I had not had a job each day, and it was a terrifying situation."*
- *"When I was notified that I had been selected for the RESEA program, I'll be honest, I thought it was going to be another logistical challenge to my situation. But I kept an open mind and I'm glad I did! Your knowledge and insights were not only helpful, but they put my mind at ease and gave me a little more confidence in my own abilities to find my next employment opportunity... Please know that the work you are doing is making a huge difference to people like me. I have just found an employment opportunity and will be starting soon, so the program is working!"*



Ohio Means Jobs
1111 East Broad St, 1st floor
Columbus, OH 43205



Help for Ill and Injured Workers

Ohio has exceeded enrollment goals in a study to see whether providing intensive care coordination for workers with non-occupational illnesses or injuries hastens their recovery. Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN) is a national project being paid for in Ohio through an \$18 million federal grant. More than 5,200 Ohioans representing nearly 900 Ohio employers have enrolled.

In collaboration with Mercy Health, Ohio was the first state in the nation to exceed enrollment goals and has more employers enrolled than any other state. In addition, the study results have been very positive: nearly 80% of ill or injured workers who received services have been able to keep working or return to work after their recovery, decreasing their chances of experiencing a long-term disability. Participants do not include individuals injured on the job or with workplace-related illnesses.

RETAIN Success Stories

- *“It was a great surprise to know this program even existed. Being off work was very challenging and scary. I had exhausted my PTO time from a death in the family and then finding out I had to have surgery and take off work again was horrific. It was scary, very stressful, but the Retain program helped me pay bills that were very important, and I will be forever and ever grateful and will remember when I needed help, God sent the RETAIN program to answer my prayers. Thank you again and again. P. S. I’m ready to do a commercial for you guys!”*
- *“Just amazing people, so helpful! Happy I joined and got to know them. You don’t feel so alone in your injury and how to handle work plus returning to work! Wish this program had started years ago! I would recommend this program to everyone! Thank you!”*

Migrant and Seasonal Agriculture Jobs

ODJFS administers the federal Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program in Ohio. This program is designed to support agricultural workers who move from place to place (migrant workers) or work seasonally in agriculture (seasonal workers). Migrant workers travel for work and are unable to return to their permanent residence within the same day. It’s estimated that more than 16,000 migrant and seasonal workers are employed in Ohio’s agriculture industry each year. ODJFS outreach staff served more than 3,700 of them in SFY 2025. More than half of those served were U.S. citizens.

In SFY 2025, five bilingual ODJFS employees provided in-person field outreach to seasonal agricultural employers and workers across the state. These efforts ensured awareness of farmworkers’ rights and protection under labor laws, such as protections for wages, housing, transportation, disclosures, and safe and fair working and living conditions.

The team improved access to services and strengthened engagement with stakeholders, ensuring that all 88 counties’ OhioMeansJobs Centers provide farmworkers with access to available services. To make the information on our website easier to understand and use, we made plain language and ease-of-use upgrades. We also began communicating with workers on WhatsApp. Leveraging modern technology, we developed tools such as QR code-based surveys and digital materials to enhance migrant services and foster collaboration with key partners. We also contributed to national workforce improvement by sharing Ohio’s best practices with other states.

Foreign Labor Certification Program

ODJFS also administers the federal Foreign Labor Certification program in Ohio. This program allows U.S. employers to request permission to hire qualified guest (foreign) workers to perform temporary services (less than one year) when U.S. workers aren't willing, qualified, or available to fill the positions without negatively affecting the wages and working conditions of U.S. workers. ODJFS helps with recruitment and job postings for temporary agricultural jobs in Ohio.

Ohio's team became the first state in the nation to fully automate the H-2B (seasonal, nonagricultural) employer self-service process without relying on vendor support or costs. This achievement dramatically improved one of the most complex workforce processes. It also empowers employers and their agents to independently create, submit, manage, and track their H-2B job orders with greater efficiency, speed, and compliance.

Rapid Response

Ohio's Rapid Response system helps employers and workers in times of transition, both before and during layoffs and plant closures. The Rapid Response program is administered by the state, with services delivered locally by Rapid Response teams. These teams include representatives from both state and local partners.

Services for employers are designed to help prevent layoffs, shorten the duration of unemployment, increase economic productivity, and minimize the negative impacts of temporary business downturns. Services for laid-off workers are designed to help them apply for unemployment benefits and find new jobs quickly.

In SFY 2025, Ohio's Rapid Response team:

- Received 106 Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) notices about impending layoffs.
- Led 232 reemployment sessions attended by 3,448 workers.
- Provided 7,405 information packets to laid-off workers.

Need Help Finding a Job?

Contact an OhioMeansJobs Center near you. Find locations by visiting [OhioMeansJobs.com](https://ohiojobs.com) and selecting "FIND A JOB CENTER" at the bottom of the page.



Child Support

The child support program ensures that children receive the financial and medical support they are legally entitled to so that their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter can be met. ODJFS supervises the program, and county agencies administer it.



By the Numbers

Ohio consistently ranks in the top five among the nation's largest states for child support collections and other important federal performance measures. During the last federal fiscal year (FFY), Ohio's child support program ranked:

- 1st among the largest states for support establishment (7th among all states)
- 2nd among the largest states for collections on current support orders (10th among all states)
- 3rd among the largest states for paternity establishment (9th among all states)
- 4th nationally in caseload (721,175)
- 4th among the largest states for cases with arrearage payment (17th among all states)

During the most recent FFY, Ohio served:

- 567,402 custodial parent mothers
- 46,301 custodial parent fathers
- 102,467 caretakers
- 32,120 caretaker agencies

Ohio collected \$1.5 billion in child support, including:

- Close to \$1.2 billion from income withholding
- Over \$67 million from tax offsets
- Over \$5 million from lottery winnings

Program Enhancements

During SFY 2025, Ohio's child support program achieved many significant improvements. These included:

- Completing a five-year modernization of the Support Enforcement Tracking System (SETS)
- Streamlining child support access for children living with caretakers and for those over 18 with disabilities.
- Helping parents who pay child support avoid driver's license suspension or regain their licenses more easily.
- Working with the Ohio Department of Health to make it easier for parents to establish paternity.
- Expanding training and resources for staff working with interstate child support cases and engaging with program partners in other states to facilitate communication and problem-solving in interstate child support cases.



Child Support Mobile App



The Ohio Child Support Customer Service Web Portal and mobile app give customers 24-hour, secure access to their information. Users can send and receive messages from caseworkers, review payment histories, and make child support payments online. Parents also can opt in to receive text notifications when their child support payments are due, and they can reply by text to authorize payments by credit or debit card. For more information, visit jfs.ohio.gov/child-support.

Peer Educators Teach Responsible Parenting

Ohio continued to work with community partners, public schools, and local child support agencies to teach youth about responsible parenting and child support and motivate them to postpone parenthood until after they complete their education, start a career, and have a committed relationship.

The program is made possible through a federal “Charting a Course for Economic Mobility and Responsible Parenting” grant. It involves peer educators using a curriculum called “No Kidding Ohio: Straight Talk from Teen Parents.” The peer educators share their personal experiences and highlight the legal, financial, and emotional realities of teen parenting.

Since the program’s start in 2020, more than 1,750 youth in five counties (Ashtabula, Franklin, Gallia, Lucas and Perry) have participated. Pre- and post-assessments showed that 90% of them improved their knowledge of the subject matter.

The program has also been beneficial for the peer educators. They report gaining professional skills, leadership skills, and mentoring support and improving their problem-solving, coping, and parenting confidence. Many have secured full-time jobs, certifications, or continued their education after working in the program. Some have gone on to join local child support agencies or pursue careers in teaching, healthcare, or social services.



Franklin County child support staff and No Kidding Ohio Peer Educator Chardae celebrate Child support Awareness Month in August.

Need Help with Child Support?

Contact your county CSEA. To find the CSEA in your county, visit jfs.ohio.gov and click on “Local Agencies Directory” at the bottom of the page.

Food Programs

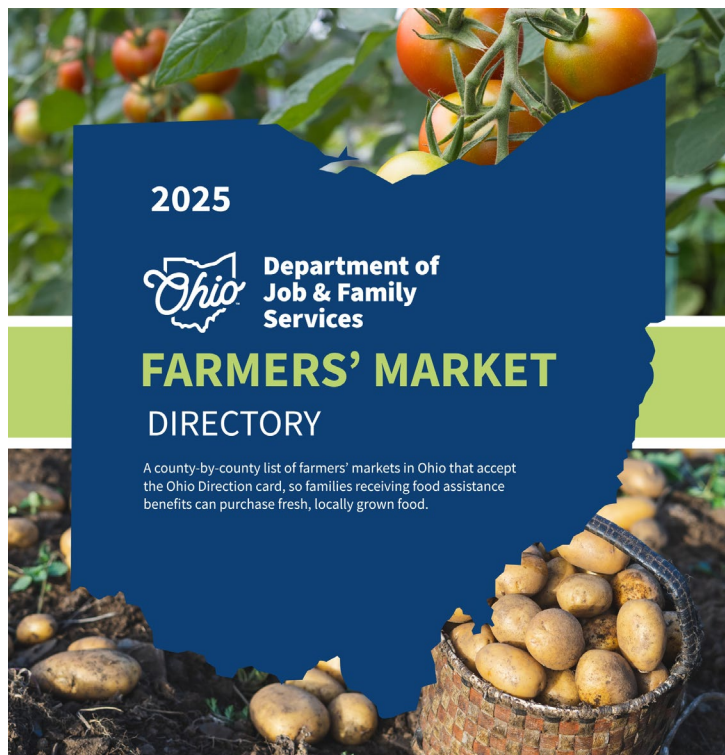
ODJFS supervises several programs to fight hunger in Ohio, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. All are designed to help low-income Ohioans manage their food budgets and buy healthy food.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps more than 1.3 million Ohioans purchase food for themselves and their families. To qualify, a household's gross monthly income must be under 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). They may remain in the program until their income exceeds 200% of the FPL.

Those who qualify receive an Ohio Direction Card, which is like a special debit card. The card can be used at approved stores and farmers' markets.

In SFY 2025, SNAP had work requirements for able-bodied adults ages 18 to 53 without dependents. They were required to have jobs, participate in employment and training programs, or engage in other work activities for at least 20 hours a week. Approximately three-quarters of households receiving SNAP benefits include at least one person who is working, and about a third include two or more workers.



By the Numbers

In June 2025:

- Number of Ohio adults receiving SNAP benefits: 806,501
- Number of Ohio children receiving SNAP benefits: 581,732
- Average monthly SNAP benefit per person: \$188
- Number of older Ohioans in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 29,863
- Number of Ohioans helped by the TEFAP program: 1,313,679

Each year, ODJFS publishes a [list of farmers' markets that accept SNAP benefits](#) so families receiving food assistance can purchase fresh, locally grown food. This year's list had 15 more markets than the previous year.

Program Enhancements

ODJFS implemented several SNAP improvements and supports in SFY 2025. These included:

- **A new sliding scale to ease the transition off food assistance benefits.** Instead of immediately cutting benefits when someone reaches 130% of the FPL, the new approach creates a sliding scale up to 200% FPL. This encourages recipients to earn more by slowly reducing their benefits as their income grows. This provides an incentive to accept promotions and pay raises knowing they won't immediately lose benefits.
- **Public Benefits Toolkits.** ODJFS worked with the Ohio Department of Children and Youth to develop toolkits to educate employers about public benefits their employees may be receiving. The agency also developed guidance for benefit recipients to help them discuss their benefits with their employers. The toolkits were a recommendation of the Governor's Executive Workforce Board's Public Benefits Review Committee.
- **A new mobile recertification tool.** SNAP recipients who opt in to receive text messages can now receive a link to complete a questionnaire prior to their scheduled SNAP recertification interviews. This can save them time during their interviews.



ODJFS encourages SNAP recipients to download the ConnectEBT App.

Fighting Fraud

ODJFS issued several warnings throughout the year to SNAP recipients to encourage them to protect their benefits and beware of skimming devices. Criminals use a process called “skimming” to steal SNAP debit card numbers. This is when a fraudulent device is placed over a point-of-sale card reader to steal payment card information.

ODJFS urges SNAP recipients to take these steps to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim:

- Download the secure ConnectEBT app on your mobile phone. Use the app's “lock” feature to lock your card when it's not in use.
- Create a unique PIN that's difficult to guess.
- Change your PIN monthly, before each scheduled deposit.
- Never share your card number or PIN. ODJFS will never ask for these numbers.
- Carefully examine point-of-sale card readers before using them to check for skimming devices. Pull at the edges of the keypad to ensure nothing is over the reader. Notify store staff if you notice anything suspicious.
- When using your card, cover the keypad with your body or hand to stop others from seeing your PIN.

ODJFS uses a variety of methods to detect potential fraud, including data analytics. The agency shares all suspicious information with the Ohio Investigative Unit, local law enforcement, and the federal government.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) provides free emergency food to people who don't have enough money to buy food. It's designed to help those in need, including older adults, by giving them access to food during tough times. TEFAP provides food through food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters for families with incomes below 200% of the FPL. Ohioans can contact their local food bank to see if they're eligible.

Commodity Supplemental Food Assistance Program

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program provides low-income Ohioans ages 60 and older with a monthly box of food, such as cheese, milk, juice, oats, cereal, rice, pasta, peanut butter, beans, meat, fish, and canned fruits and vegetables. Recipients must have incomes at or below 150% of the FPL. The food is distributed in partnership with regional food banks. Ohioans can contact their local food bank to see if they're eligible.

Need Help with Food?

Visit Benefits.Ohio.gov or contact your county JFS agency. To find the JFS in your county, visit jfs.ohio.gov and click on "Local Agencies Directory" at the bottom of the page.

If you need food immediately, call 211 or visit FeedingAmerica.org to find local food pantries, hot meal programs, meal delivery options, and more.



TANF Programs

The federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides funding to help qualifying low-income families with children. Federal law requires TANF programs to fulfill at least one of the following four purposes:

- Provide assistance to needy families so children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
- End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
- Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.



What are TANF funds used for?

Ohio uses TANF funds for a variety of services and supports, including the following:

- Cash assistance through the Ohio Works First program.
- Work supports (such as help with transportation) through the Prevention, Retention, and Contingency program.
- Publicly funded child care.
- Aid to children at risk of abuse and neglect.
- A variety of other services.

By the Numbers

In June 2025:

- Number of adults receiving Ohio Works First benefits: 5,950
- Number of children receiving Ohio Works First benefits: 56,989
- Average monthly benefit per person: \$267

Ohio Works First

Ohio Works First is the financial assistance portion of Ohio's TANF program. It provides cash benefits to very low-income eligible families for up to 36 months. Those eligible receive benefits through either the Ohio Pathway card, which is a pre-paid debit MasterCard, or via direct deposit into a checking or savings account.

Federal law requires that adults who receive Ohio Works First and are able to work must participate in work activities. Allowable work activities include on-the-job-training, community service, education directly related to employment, a work experience program, and unsubsidized employment.

Who is eligible for Ohio Works First?

Families with children must meet a gross monthly income test to be eligible. Other potentially eligible individuals include women who are at least six months pregnant, some unmarried minor parents, and certain pregnant minors.

Gross monthly income includes both earned and unearned income, including Social Security benefits, pre-tax wages, and child support. During SFY 2025, the gross monthly income limit for a family of three was \$1,036. If a parent works and pays for child care, the child care cost may be deducted. Resources such as a car or home ownership are not considered when determining eligibility.

Need Help with Immediate Needs?

Visit Benefits.Ohio.gov or contact your county JFS agency. To find the JFS in your county, visit jfs.ohio.gov and click on "Local Agencies Directory" at the bottom of the page.

Refugee Services

The Refugee Services Program oversees programs that help refugees achieve economic self-sufficiency and social adjustment after their arrival in the U.S. Nine resettlement agencies and other nonprofit agencies provide services throughout Ohio.



Who is a refugee?

A refugee is someone outside their country of origin who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or fear of persecution due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

Refugees are designated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. They apply to resettle in the United States through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The U.S. Department of State manages their resettlement.

People who receive refugee status are allowed to live in the U.S. legally. The following groups also are eligible for refugee services: those granted asylum, individuals from Iraq and Afghanistan with special immigrant visas, certain individuals from Cuba and Haiti, certain Amerasians, certain Afghan humanitarian parolees, certain Ukrainian humanitarian parolees, and certified victims of human trafficking.

What services are provided?

Refugees may be eligible for the Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance programs for the first four months after they arrive. Depending on who is in the family group, refugees also may be eligible for other federal programs.

Refugees may be eligible for a comprehensive health screening within the first 30 days of their arrival to the U.S. Refugees also are eligible for social services programs for up to five years, to help them become self-supporting as quickly as possible. Examples of refugee social services include job and language training, employment counseling, job placement, citizenship training, naturalization services, and child care and transportation related to employment.



Adult Protective Services

ODJFS oversees the state's adult protective services program, which helps vulnerable adults ages 60 and older who are in danger of harm, are unable to protect themselves, and may have no one to assist them.



What is elder abuse?

Typically, elder abuse refers to the intentional abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult. The most common types of elder abuse reported in Ohio are neglect, self-neglect, financial exploitation, and emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.

What services can be provided?

Victims of elder abuse may need help with an assortment of medical, social, and/or legal problems. Services can include help with food, clothing, and/or medical care; housing services; counseling or casework services; mental health services; home health care; homemaker services; legal services; and/or guardianship.

What happens after a report is received?

County JFS agencies receive and investigate reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults and evaluate the need for protective services.

Once they receive a report, adult protective services caseworkers review it to see if enough information exists to open an investigation. Reports are categorized as either “emergency” or “nonemergency.” Emergency cases require an investigation to begin within 24 hours.

For nonemergency cases, investigations begin within three working days. Caseworkers have 30 to 45 days to complete each investigation. Afterward, they determine whether the older person is at risk of harm and in need of protective services.

Program Enhancements

In SFY 2025, ODJFS partnered with the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association (OJFSDA) to offer adult protective services training at the annual training OJFSDA conference. ODJFS also made scholarships available to county staff to help cover the cost of registration. Topics included hoarding, housing, and the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program.

In addition, county JFS agencies used federal funding to implement service enhancements throughout the year. These included:

- A senior technology program to help seniors connect to their communities and combat isolation
- Funding an Elder College to help individuals with legal needs
- Contracting with local professionals to conduct emergency competency evaluations
- Integrated mobile healthcare services
- Purchase of a vehicle for face-to-face visits with adults needing help

By the Numbers

During SFY 2025, Ohio's county agencies received 45,597 reports of abuse and neglect for individuals 60 and older. For approximately 10% of those reports, the individuals were determined to need protective services.



Need to Report Elder Abuse?

Anyone who suspects that elder abuse may be occurring can call one statewide toll-free number 24 hours a day, 365 days a year: 1-855-OHIO-APS (1-855-644-6277). Elder abuse also can be reported at aps.jfs.ohio.gov or to a county JFS agency. To find the JFS in your county, visit jfs.ohio.gov and click on “Local Agencies Directory” at the bottom of the page.



The ODJFS Adult Protective Services team participated in the “Well Beyond 60” expo at the Ohio State Fair to remind Ohioans how to recognize and report elder abuse and neglect.



ODJFS Adult Protective Services staff greeted visitors to the “Well Beyond 60” expo at the Ohio State Fair.



Ohioans learned how to recognize and report elder abuse and neglect at the State Fair’s “Well Beyond 60” expo.



Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance provides short-term income to unemployed workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. The program is financed by premiums paid by employers to both the federal and state governments.



Work Requirements

To receive benefits, unemployment claimants must be able to work, available to work, and actively seeking work. Most also are required to:

- Complete at least two acceptable work-search activities each week
- Keep a detailed record of those activities
- Register an account on [OhioMeansJobs.com](https://ohioMeansJobs.com)
- Post an active resume on [OhioMeansJobs.com](https://ohioMeansJobs.com)
- Complete the Career Profile survey on [OhioMeansJobs.com](https://ohioMeansJobs.com)

Fighting Fraud

Fraud is a serious crime with serious penalties. ODJFS takes many actions to prevent and stop fraud. For example, we:

- Compare earnings reported by workers and their employers
- Audit claims
- Check state and national databases of recently hired individuals to make sure people aren't receiving benefits after they start working again
- Verify job-search contacts
- Review the union-attached status of claimants who get work through union hiring halls

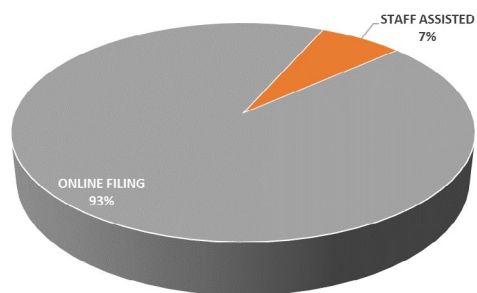
If you suspect someone is receiving unemployment benefits who shouldn't be, or if you believe you are a victim of unemployment fraud, report it as soon as possible by visiting unemployment.ohio.gov and clicking "Report ID Theft/Fraud."

Program Enhancements

ODJFS took many significant steps during the year to improve the experience of customers interacting with the unemployment program. For example:

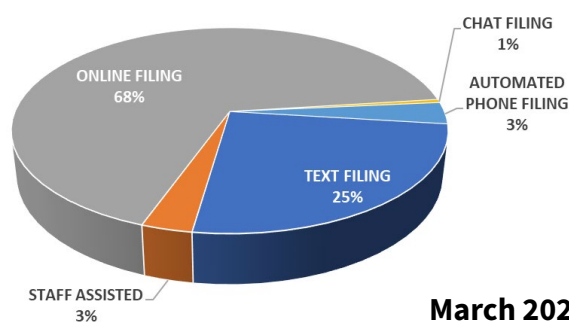
- **The option to file weekly claims by text** – Many claimants now have the option to file their weekly unemployment claims by text.
- **A partnership with the Post Office for ID verification** – When some claimants are asked to provide documents, they can now do so at their local Post Office for faster verification.
- **Enhanced chat features** – Claimants can now use the online chat at unemployment.ohio.gov to file claims, check their claims status, and check the status of their last payments.
- **Expanded language options** – The online chat is now available in 16 languages.
- **Expanded automated phone options** – Callers can now use the automated phone line to check the status of their applications, check the status of their last payments, and file weekly claims.
- **Online question form** – Customers can use online forms, under "Contact Us" at unemployment.ohio.gov, to ask claim-specific questions.
- **Streamlined reporting** – After internal reorganizations between commonly controlled, managed, or owned companies, Ohio employers may now apply for a single account to report the wages they pay to all employees.
- **System modernization** – Work began on the development of a new system to replace a 20-year-old legacy system that is difficult to use and costly to maintain. The new system will offer enhanced features and efficiencies that will benefit Ohioans.

HOW CLAIMANTS FILE WEEKLY CLAIMS



March 2024

HOW CLAIMANTS FILE WEEKLY CLAIMS



March 2025

Since it became an option in December 2024, about a quarter of all claimants began filing their weekly claims by text.

By the Numbers

As of June 30, 2025:

- Average duration of benefits for unemployment claimants in Ohio: 14.1 weeks
- Average weekly benefit: \$493.77
- Employers paying into Ohio's unemployment system: 248,738
- Government and nonprofit employers paying dollar-for-dollar for benefits paid to their former employees: 4,864

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Avoiding Layoffs with SharedWork Ohio

SharedWork Ohio is the state's voluntary layoff aversion program. It allows workers to remain employed and employers to retain trained staff during times of reduced business activity. Under a SharedWork Ohio plan, participating employers reduce affected employees' hours by a uniform percentage. Participating employees work the reduced hours each week and receive a proportionally smaller unemployment insurance benefit.

In SFY 2025: Ohio employers had 62 approved SharedWork Ohio plans. This allowed 4,675 individuals to receive partial unemployment benefits and retain their jobs.

SharedWork Ohio Success Story

- *The operations manager of an RV company contacted an OhioMeansJobs Center with concerns about a possible layoff during their slow season. Staff let them know about the SharedWork Ohio program, and they applied. As a result, the company was able to avoid a layoff. They emailed to express their gratitude: "Thank you so much for your help this past winter! We've weathered the storm and truly appreciate all your support! You guys are amazing!"*

Want to learn more?

To learn more about unemployment benefits or the SharedWork Ohio program, visit unemployment.ohio.gov. Those needing special assistance may call (877) 644-6562, toll-free, or TTY (888) 642-8203.

Financial Summary

ODJFS State Fiscal Year 2025 Expenditures*



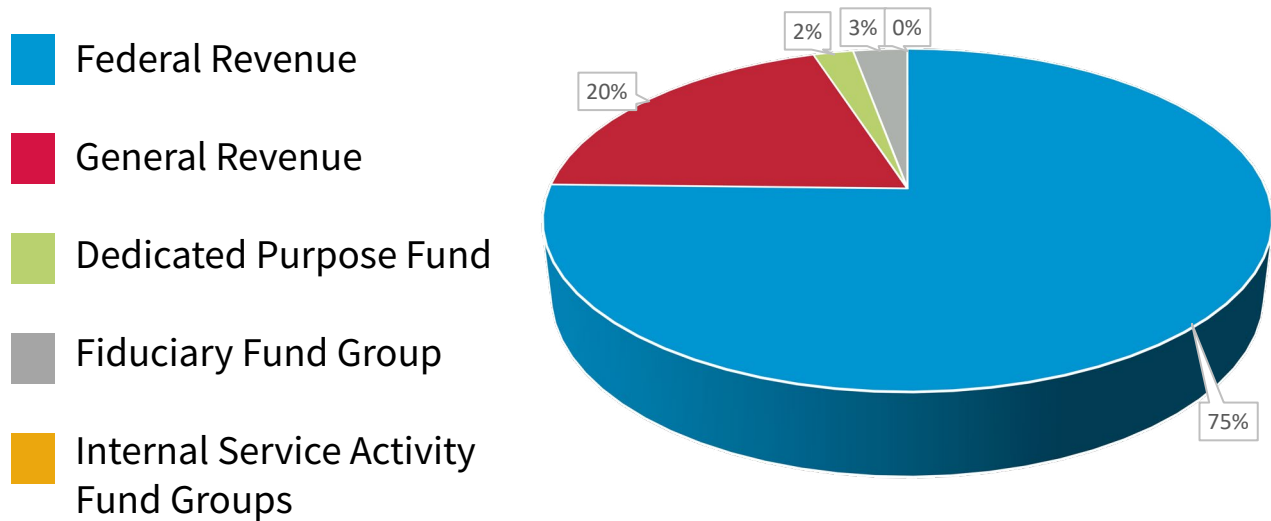
ODJFS State Fiscal Year 2025 Expenditures*

SFY 2025 Expenditure by Program Code Groupings		Federal	General Revenue	Dedicated Purpose	Fiduciary Funds	Internal Service Activity	Total
Workforce Development							
7600B	Workforce Investment Act	\$ 144,645,376	\$ -	\$ 1,856,141	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 146,501,517
7601B	Employment Services	\$ 26,237,385	\$ 15,444	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,252,830
7602B	Veteran Services	\$ 6,587,854	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,587,854
7603B	Trade Programs	\$ 134,804	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 134,804
7604B	Labor Market Information	\$ 2,447,080	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,447,080
Workforce Development Subtotal		\$ 180,052,500	\$ 15,444	\$ 1,856,141	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 181,924,085
Family Assistance							
7625B	Ohio Works First Cash Asst.	\$ 102,391,382	\$ 109,252,774	\$ 426,395	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 212,070,551
7626B	Non-Cash Family Support	\$ 353,892,837	\$ 27,700,759	\$ 1,121,558	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 382,715,155
7628B	Food Assistance Services	\$ 498,348,481	\$ 95,119,326	\$ 13,729,412	\$ 2,692,077	\$ -	\$ 609,889,295
7630B	Refugee Programs	\$ 26,065,620	\$ 770,519	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,836,139
7676B	Social Services - Title XX	\$ 97,323,460	\$ 15,469,177	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 112,792,637
Family Assistance Subtotal		\$ 1,078,021,780	\$ 248,312,555	\$ 15,277,365	\$ 2,692,077	\$ -	\$ 1,344,303,776
Child Support							
7650B	Child Support	\$ 219,299,163	\$ 54,138,045	\$ 35,167	\$ 74,255,217	\$ -	\$ 347,727,592
Child Support Subtotal		\$ 219,299,163	\$ 54,138,045	\$ 35,167	\$ 74,255,217	\$ -	\$ 347,727,592
Medicaid							
7705B	Health Care Prg. Mgmt.	\$ 187,860,909	\$ 116,682,795	\$ 3,883,114	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 308,426,819
Medicaid Subtotal		\$ 187,860,909	\$ 116,682,795	\$ 3,883,114	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 308,426,819
Unemployment Insurance							
7725B	Unemployment Compensation	\$ 95,751,706	\$ 27,712,657	\$ 18,184,716	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 141,649,079
Unemployment Insurance Subtotal		\$ 95,751,706	\$ 27,712,657	\$ 18,184,716	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 141,649,079
Program Support Services							
7775B	Program Management	\$ -	\$ 6,245,057	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,245,057
7776B	Info Svcs. Program Management	\$ -	\$ 813,910	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 233,896	\$ 1,047,806
Program Support Services Subtotal		\$ -	\$ 7,058,966	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 233,896	\$ 7,292,862
Shared Services Support							
7629B	Child Care Programs	\$ 132,042,332	\$ 5,180,631	\$ 3,193,327	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140,416,290
7675B	Child Prev. & Protective Svcs	\$ 9,203,500	\$ 44,749,500	\$ 5,474,552	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,427,552
7677B	Adoption Services	\$ 67,272,644	\$ 1,175,797	\$ 1,035,798	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69,484,239
7678B	Foster Care	\$ 53,611,948	\$ 21,688,421	\$ 7,818,123	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 83,118,492
7680B	Family and Children Info. Tech.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,615)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,615)
Shared Services Support Subtotal		\$ 262,130,424	\$ 72,794,349	\$ 17,520,184	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 352,444,957
Grand Total		\$ 2,023,116,481	\$ 526,714,812	\$ 56,756,687	\$ 76,947,293	\$ 233,896	\$ 2,683,769,170

Notes:

*Expenditures reflect General Ledger expenses coded under agency JFS as of 07/09/2025

ODJFS State Fiscal Year 2025 Expenditures*



**Department of
Job & Family
Services**

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jim Tressel, Lt. Governor
Matt Damschroder, Director

JFS 08017 (Rev. 8/2025)

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