





Employment First Partnership FFY 2014 Summary of Accomplishments

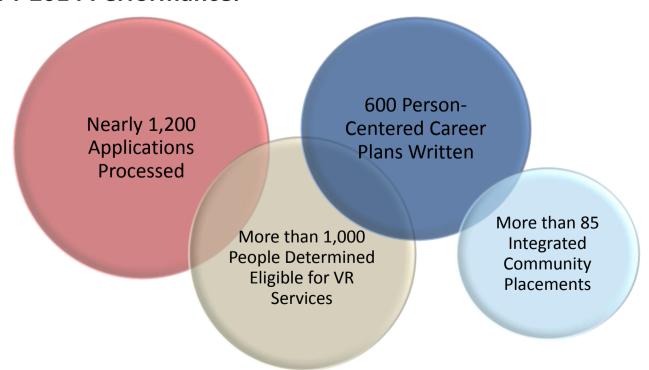
The Employment First Partnership between Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) is designed to expand community employment services for people with developmental disabilities (DD). Seventeen Employment First Counselors and four regional benefits planners work with local county boards of developmental disabilities to support individuals who are interested in moving from segregated settings to community employment; where they can earn a competitive wage and work alongside their typical peers.

Dual Certification and Provider Training:

OOD and DODD established a dual certification process for DODD-certified providers and existing OOD providers. This dual certification ensures continuity of service provision from career planning through job retention services, increases the qualified provider pool, allows for more consumer choice, and reduces the frustration associated with changing providers. To date, there are more than 125 agencies providing services within the Partnership.

A free online course was made available to all Partnership provider staff. In-person training on employer engagement and on-the-job supports was also provided at no cost. In total, more than 1,200 staff successfully completed the online course and post-test.

FFY 2014 Performance:







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Performance Measure	Employment First	Agency Wide
Average Days to Determine Eligibility	25	42.9
Average Months to Closure	7.2	25.1
Average Cost per Employment Closure	\$5,440	\$9,724
Rehabilitation Rate	41.8%	41.2%

Real Jobs for Real Wages:

At the close of the Partnership's first year, there were a total of 89 individuals competitively employed in the community. The wage and hour information for these individuals is displayed below.



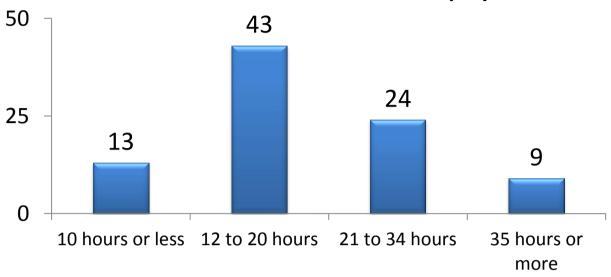
\$7.95 is the current minimum wage for the State of Ohio







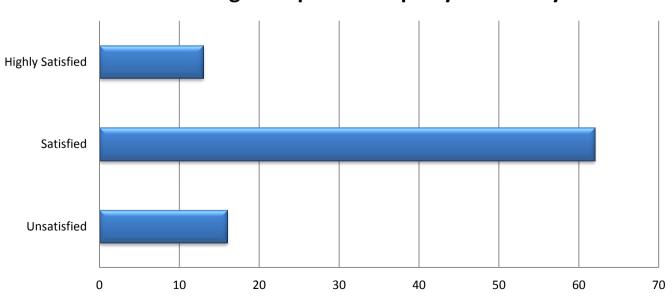
Hours Worked for Individuals Employed



County Board Feedback:

As a part of the EF Partnership Capacity Survey sent to County Board Superintendents in September, a few qualitative questions about the Partnership were asked. The Boards' response has been positive, 69 of 84 counties (82%) indicate they are satisfied or highly satisfied with the progress of this unique project in their county. The Employment First Partnership management team is reaching out to those counties who expressed less than satisfaction to identify strategies to improve collaboration.

How satisfied are you with the progress of individuals served through the partnership in your county?









Year two of the Partnership:

As momentum and excitement builds in the disability community, the number of interested individuals has grown tremendously. The following considerations are among those being made to meet the demand of this growing project.

County Board allocations have been reset based on requested number of referrals in the Capacity Survey. Please see attached map for the specific allocation for your county.

Increase the number of Employment First Counselors from 17 to 25 in order to reduce the size of counselor coverage areas.

Check out the new Partnership map with smaller coverage areas on the next page

Provide further vendor training focused on job development and employer engagement.

Provide further training on career exploration as a VR service to enhance the discovery and person-centered planning process facilitated by Employment First Counselors





