



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2012-05K

The Establishment of the Employment First Policy and Taskforce
to Expand Community Employment Opportunities
for Working-Age Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities

WHEREAS, all Ohioans, including those with developmental disabilities, should be encouraged to take part in the workforce and to bring their individual strengths and talents to participate in Ohio business and industry.

WHEREAS, Ohioans with developmental disabilities experience some of the highest rates of unemployment, underemployment and poverty, and have little exposure to community employment options.

WHEREAS, Ohio's developmental disability system currently spends less than 6% of available adult service funding on placing and supporting individuals with developmental disabilities in the general workforce.

WHEREAS, current state and federal efforts strive to redirect Medicaid spending to promote community-based services.

WHEREAS, my Administration has established community employment and school-to-work transition as priorities.

WHEREAS, individuals with developmental disabilities have the right to make informed decisions about where they work, and to have opportunities to obtain community jobs that may result in greater earnings, better benefits, improved health and increased quality of life.

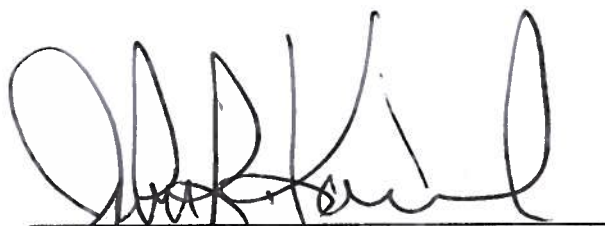
WHEREAS, Ohio seeks to benefit from the State Employment Leadership Network's (SELN's) review of Ohio's current system of supporting employment for persons with developmental disabilities.

WHEREAS, Ohio seeks to improve and coordinate efforts to increase community employment outcomes for working-age Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, do hereby order and direct that:

1. Community employment shall be the priority and the preferred outcome for working-age Ohioans with disabilities.
2. The Governor's Employment First Taskforce ("EFT") is created to collaborate, coordinate and improve employment outcomes for working-age adults with developmental disabilities. In the first six months following the effective date of this Executive Order, the EFT shall do the following:
 - a. Review and consider the recommendations of the State Employment Leadership Network report to increase opportunities for community employment for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.
 - b. Review and align policies, procedures, eligibility, and enrollment and planning for services for individuals, with the objective of increasing opportunities for community employment for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.
 - c. Develop cross-agency tools to document eligibility, order of selection, assessment and planning for services for individuals.
 - d. Identify best practices, effective partnerships, sources of available federal funds, opportunities for shared services among existing providers and county boards of developmental disabilities, and the means to expand model programs, to increase community employment opportunities for those with developmental disabilities.
 - e. Identify and address areas where sufficient support is not currently available or where additional options are needed to assist those with developmental disabilities to work in community jobs.
 - f. Establish interagency agreements to improve coordination of services and allow for data sharing as appropriate.
 - g. Set benchmarks for improving community employment outcomes/services.
3. I appoint the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) to lead the EFT. DODD shall oversee and implement the activities described above. The EFT also shall include representatives from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH), and Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (ORSC) who have authority to act on behalf of their respective agencies.
4. The DODD shall also have the authority to establish an Advisory Committee made up of business stakeholders, self-advocates and other stakeholders in the developmental disabilities field to provide the EFT with needed information and recommendations.
5. All Cabinet Agencies, Boards and Commissions shall comply with requests issued by the EFT, subject to the supervision of their respective agency directors.

I signed this Executive Order on March 19th, 2012, in Dublin, Ohio and it will not expire unless it is rescinded.



John E. Kasich, Governor

ATTEST:

Jon Husted, Secretary of State