



OHIO WORKFORCE COALITION

Growing Ohio's Economy with a Skilled Adult Workforce

www.ohioworkforcecoalition.org

OWC Policy Priorities for an Inclusive Economic Recovery

February 25, 2021

Welcome!

- Housekeeping
- Introductions
 - Leadership
 - Participants
- Meeting overview

Poll One

- Which parts of Ohio are joining us today?
- Urban, sub-urban, rural
- Organization type

About Ohio Workforce Coalition

- Non-partisan, cross stakeholder coalition working to promote public policies that *build the skills of workers, meet employer needs, and strengthen workforce systems.*
- OWC advances our works by:
 - Building networks, expanding access to them, and activating them across the state to share information; promote best practices and innovation in workforce; leverage relationships across stakeholder groups; and increase Ohio's influence in national conversations.
 - Sharing expert guidance and technical assistance with public officials; developing recommendations for new policies or changes to existing policies; and educating public officials about these recommendation.

Policy Framework

- Lead when can OWC have a unique role and impact.
- Partner when OWC can expand reach and enhance work of other advocates in a priority area.
- Support when OWC can weigh in on issues impacting individuals, employers, or relevant systems.

Poll Two

- What is your involvement in public policy?
- What do you want it to be?
- What focus is your priority?

Priority One: Build Skills

- 70% of Ohioans under 200% of federal poverty level are already working
- Ohio needs to invest in the training and employment related supports necessary for Ohioans to succeed in education and training.

Priority One: Build Skills

- OWC recommends Ohio create a flexible training, employment, and job-retention fund for Ohioans under 300% of poverty for supports they are not eligible for or that are not available through other funding.
- OWC recommends this fund be created by reserving 10% of the general revenue funds proposed for sector partnerships.

Priority Two: Support Employers

- Ohio is home to a wide range of both public and private sector employers that invest in their workforce and offer career growth.
- Pre-Covid, Ohio employers often reported difficulty finding workers with the right skills and this challenge will grow as we recover.

Priority Two: Support Employers

- OWC recommends creation of an Ohio Premier Employers designation that employers can opt-in to earn.
- OWC recommends that upon earning this designation, employers receive additional points for state procurement and early access to state workforce investments.

Priority Three: Strengthen Systems

- Ten years ago, under the Kasich administration, there were significant changes to Ohio's workforce and economic development landscape.
- These changes were motivated by a desire for increased alignment between workforce programs, streamlining of services, and privatization of economic development.

Priority Three: Strengthen Systems

- OWC recommends recognizing ten years of Ohio's new approach to workforce and economic development by:
 - Outlining the initiatives of the Office of Workforce Transformation and JobsOhio;
 - Documenting impact on employers, workers, and systems; and
 - Identifying opportunities for further data transparency and stakeholder engagement.

When OWC Plans to Partner

- Digital inclusion including access to broadband for all Ohioans, affordable internet services, and digital literacy.
- Expansion of work-based learning opportunities like apprenticeship, internships, on-the-job training etc.
- Cross advocate focus on Ohio's benefit cliff, its impact on work, and ways to mitigate it.

Opportunities to Engage with OWC

- Join a listening session
- Endorse the priorities
- Join a committee

Poll 3: Immediate Reactions

- What do you think of these priorities?
- Will you engage?

Other Updates

- Federal visits
 - Tuesday and Wednesday of this week OWC members participated in meetings with ten members of Ohio's delegation.
 - A lot of interest in career pathways, apprenticeship, and continued engagement in district.

Other Updates

- State Budget
 - Ongoing funding for Sector Partnerships at \$5 million/biennium
 - Ongoing funding for TechCred and IMAP
 - Investments in making sure high school students can earn industry recognized credentials

Q&A

- What questions do you have?
- What input would you like to share?



**OHIO WORKFORCE
COALITION**

Rebecca Kusner
614-404-3882

rkusner@r4workforce.com
Ohio Workforce Coalition