



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio is Prepared to help those who have been Laid off through Rapid Response

COLUMBUS — Central Ohio is seeing a significant number of companies initiating layoffs within the past 90 days. Close to 1,000+ residents since November 2018 have been dislocated, and we are seeing the number continue to rise. Many of the companies are decreasing their operations, relocating or closing their doors entirely. The layoffs can potentially have an impact on family sustainability and the community. While many workers are eligible for a severance package, those dollars will eventually run out and dislocated workers may be without resources.

As the Workforce Development Board for Franklin County, we are prepared to aid those impacted by the layoffs through the OhioMeansJobs Columbus-Franklin County Job Center. We have staff prepared to assist with unemployment questions, career transition and training opportunities.

The Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio (WDBCO) works closely with Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Rapid Response team to understand the situation of the layoffs and address how we can help those affected, getting individuals onto a career path that allows them to transition their skills.

“The OhioMeansJobs Center has worked with many companies to ensure their employees are transitioned into new positions in a timely fashion,” says Lisa Patt-McDaniel, Chief Executive Officer of WDBCO. “We have a committed staff ready to respond to people when they are at a difficult point in their lives.”

Rapid Response (RR) is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Dislocated Worker Program of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). RR is dedicated to averting layoffs and reemployment after layoffs. The program serves two customers: employers and their workforce. The goal with Rapid Response is to offer layoff aversion and early intervention services to employers who are facing downsizing or layoff, as well as reemployment solutions to employers and their workforce who have been impacted by permanent layoff or closure.

In addition to the resources mentioned, the Job Center is also equipped with a computer lab for job seekers to search the ohiojobs.com database of available positions and provides workshops ranging from Resume Development, Interviewing, and the Digital Skills Accelerator. A Job Networking group provides Job Seekers an opportunity to learn about a featured company through a representative directly and learn tips on how to market job skills. All workshops are free to residents living in Franklin County.

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About Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio

The Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio is a nonprofit organization serving as the Strategy and Policy Board for Ohio Workforce Area 11, Columbus and Franklin County. The Board assists in-demand sector employers with developing a talent pipeline and jobseekers with acquiring the skills and credentials for in-demand careers. To learn more visit www.wdbco.org.