

# Annual Report 2020

**Ohio**

## Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation

**Mike DeWine**, Governor

**Jon Husted**, Lt. Governor and Director



*\*\*\* All photos used in the 2020 Annual Report were either taken prior to March 2020, when the Coronavirus impacted Ohio, or took place in settings in which all health and safety guidelines were followed.*

# Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation

The Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT) sets the strategy for workforce development in Ohio and coordinates with Ohio's state agencies and partners that impact the workforce. Led by Lt. Governor Jon Husted, OWT works closely with the Governor's Executive Workforce Board, state partners, and local communities to meet the needs of job seekers and businesses.

## MISSION:

To connect Ohio's business, training, and education communities to build a dynamically skilled, productive, and purposeful workforce



## The State of Ohio's Workforce Investment

The Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation serves as the lead convening entity for all state agencies with workforce programs to ensure strategic alignment. Ohio has 17 state partners offering nearly 200 workforce-related programs that invested approximately \$900 million in 2019.

These state agencies include:

- Governor's Office of Appalachia
- Governor's Children's Initiative
- JobsOhio
- Ohio Department of Aging
- Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- Ohio Department of Education
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Higher Education
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections
- Ohio Department of Veterans Services
- Ohio Department of Youth Services
- Ohio Development Services Agency
- Ohio National Guard
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
- Recovery Ohio

# Governor's Executive Workforce Board

The Governor's Executive Workforce Board engages communities, state agencies, and stakeholders in Ohio to identify ways to prepare Ohioans with skills needed for in-demand jobs.

## MISSION:

Focus on in-demand, quality wage jobs that empower Ohioans and give our state a strategic economic advantage.



Lt. Governor Husted hosted three virtual meetings this year in place of in-person meetings, in order to follow all health and safety guidelines. These meetings featured JobsOhio, BroadbandOhio, and apprenticeship in Ohio.

## Digital Access

Digital literacy and digital access are significant challenges when it comes to workforce development, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Office of Workforce Transformation continues to work with BroadbandOhio and InnovateOhio to support digital access and literacy as part of Ohio's Broadband Strategy.

In December of 2020, Lt. Governor Husted, along with Matt Damschroder, Director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, and Lydia Mihalik, Director of the Ohio Development Services Agency, announced that the State of Ohio was donating a surplus of 148 computers to PCs for People to help more Ohioans afford and obtain an internet-enabled device that is suitable for working and learning.



# Coronavirus.Ohio.gov/JobSearch

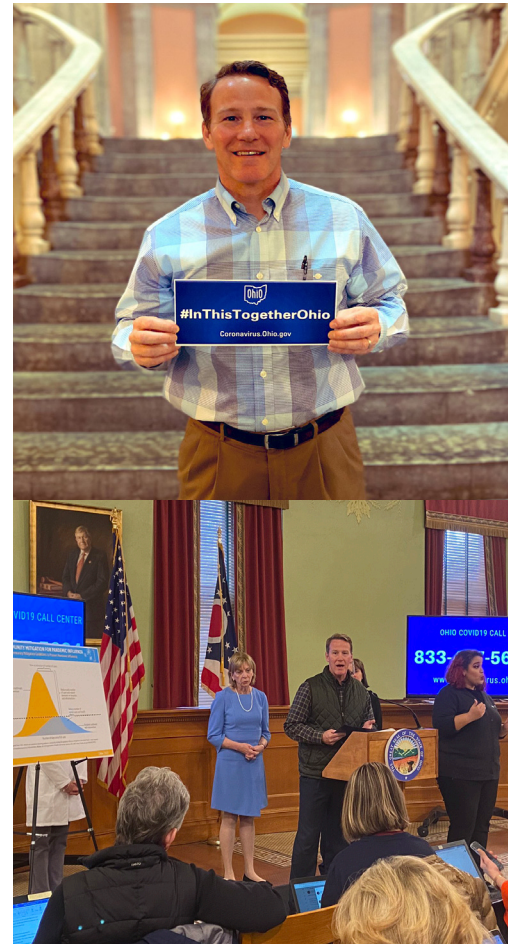
On April 3rd, the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation rapidly deployed a website to match essential businesses with Ohioans who were able and willing to work as an essential employee during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The site featured a highly-streamlined interface with two main functions: one for essential businesses and one for job seekers. Job seekers used the site to search for jobs in their area or statewide.

Coronavirus.Ohio.gov/JobSearch was developed for businesses, such as grocery stores, healthcare facilities, pharmacies, delivery companies, and many other types of businesses that were deemed essential. These companies faced a high demand for workers throughout the pandemic.

The Development Services Agency and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services both partnered in the site's creation. Like the entire Coronavirus webpage, the site was built on the InnovateOhio Platform.

As Ohio's economy began to reopen, Coronavirus.Ohio.gov/JobSearch transitioned to OhioMeansJobs.com for all job posting and employment needs.



## COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Job Search

Has COVID-19 affected your job?

Find opportunities in your area.

Find Jobs Near Me

Are you an employer with staffing needs as a result of COVID-19?

Post your opportunities to connect with talent.

Post Job Openings

# INVESTING IN OHIO'S WORKFORCE

## TechCred

TechCred gives businesses the chance to upskill current and future employees in today's technology-infused economy. Credentials that are eligible under TechCred must be short-term, industry-recognized, and technology-focused. The state will reimburse up to \$2,000 of training upon completion of a credential, up to \$30,000 per employer during each application period.

In August of 2020, the Office of Workforce Transformation surpassed its goal of funding 10,000 tech-focused credentials in the first year of the program. After five application periods and 13 months, over 15,000 credentials have been funded – fulfilling a promise kept by the administration.

Credentials on the TechCred pre-approved list are determined by Ohio employers, making it an employer-driven program. Employers are encouraged to submit a credential through their application that is not on the pre-approved list if it is needed by their business. As of December 2020, 1,220 credentials were on the pre-approved list.

Learn more about TechCred at [TechCred.Ohio.gov](http://TechCred.Ohio.gov).

**\$15,970,110.25**

**Awarded to Ohio Businesses**

**966** **966** **Businesses Awarded**

**326** **Businesses Awarded Multiple Times**

**326** **15,105** **Credentials Awarded**



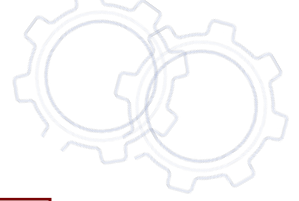
Despite the obstacles created by COVID-19, we continue to see great results coming out of the TechCred program. It is helping employers and employees adapt and prevail during very difficult economic conditions.

**LT. GOVERNOR  
JON HUSTED**



**Ohio | TechCred**

# TechCred Timeline



**September 25, 2019:** Lt. Governor Husted announced the first open application period for TechCred during the first stop on his statewide TechCred tour, which highlighted the types of businesses and schools that can benefit from the program.

*\*\*\*Between the January and March application periods, demand for TechCred was impacted by business response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**March 2020:**  
150 employers awarded,  
1,045 credentials allocated,  
over \$1.2 million allocated

**June Application Period:** The June round of TechCred was record setting, doubling the number of credentials funded compared to the January round, which was previously the most successful application period since its launch.

**August Application Period:** The August round was record setting, approving 1,227 more credentials than were approved in June 2020.

**MILESTONE:** Lt. Governor Husted announced that OWT reached another milestone of funding over 15,000 credentials.

**January 2021:**  
The January round opened  
on January 4th.

**October 2019:**  
234 employers awarded,  
1,576 credentials allocated,  
over \$2.2 million allocated

**January 2020:**  
255 employers awarded,  
1,611 credentials allocated,  
over \$2 million allocated

**March Application Period:** In order to support the changing needs of Ohio businesses and workers during the economic recovery, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, Lt. Governor Husted announced a series of updates to the TechCred program.

**June 2020:**  
302 employers awarded,  
3,241 credentials allocated,  
over \$3.4 million allocated

**August 2020:**  
288 employers awarded,  
4,468 credentials allocated,  
over \$3.4 million allocated

**MILESTONE:** Lt. Governor Husted announced that OWT reached the goal of funding over 10,000 credentials.

**October 2020:**  
246 employers awarded,  
3,164 credentials allocated,  
over \$3.5 million allocated



# Individual Microcredential Assistance Program

In July of 2020, the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, in partnership with the Development Services Agency, launched the Individual Microcredential Assistance Program, or IMAP, which reimburses training providers when an Ohioan who is low income, partially unemployed, or totally unemployed earns a technology-focused credential.



The grant application, open to training providers such as universities, colleges, Ohio Technical Centers, or private sector training businesses, resulted in 11 training providers who received awards. These training providers will be reimbursed up to \$3,000 for each completed credential issued and up to \$250,000 per provider.

In September, Lt. Governor Husted announced the opportunity for Ohioans to access training at no cost through these awarded training providers. Eligible Ohioans work directly with the awarded training provider of their choice to enroll in the training program that works best for them.

Learn more or enroll in a training program today at [IMAP.Development.Ohio.gov](http://IMAP.Development.Ohio.gov).

**IMAP will help  
up to 1,592  
Ohioans**

More than   
**\$2.2 MILLION**  
invested through IMAP



**11 Training Providers**

**54 Training Programs**

**37 of these programs  
can be completed**

**100% virtually**



**“** We want to see results and see Ohioans with those credentials in their hands. Each of these credentials are in-demand, and we know employers are hiring for these skills today. Though it's no cost to the individual or the provider, the results have great value for Ohio.

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**LT. GOVERNOR JON HUSTED**

# Industry Sector Partnership Grant

In January, Lt. Governor Husted announced the launch of the Industry Sector Partnership grant program. Industry Sector Partnerships develop regional or industry-specific workforce strategies, with the goal of driving collaboration between local businesses, education and training providers, and community stakeholders to meet a workforce need.

The program aims to ensure that Ohioans can participate in the workforce pipeline while meeting the needs of job creators and the local economy. Grant funding will help support the operations of these partnerships including new tools, programs, and other expenses associated with launching new partnerships.

Applications closed on March 13th, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and were reopened in October to those who submitted an application to allow applicants to adjust their plans based on changes driven by COVID-19.

**12 partnerships were awarded a total of \$2.5 MILLION.** 

“ Industry Sector Partnerships reinforce the importance of collaboration within workforce development. This program will connect regional employers with the education community, creating workforce strategies that directly impact local communities and their specific needs.

**LT. GOVERNOR JON HUSTED**





# Choose Ohio First

On September 24, 2020, Lt. Governor Husted announced a new Request for Proposal (RFP) in partnership with the Ohio Department of Higher Education that will provide funding through Ohio's Choose Ohio First program to support scholarship programs in the science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine (STEMM) fields.

The funding will boost Ohio's efforts to strengthen the state's workforce in the STEMM fields while supporting an estimated 1,400 Ohio college students of all ages. More than \$20 million will be awarded over the next five years.

The RFP implemented a number of changes to strengthen the Choose Ohio First scholarship program. These changes will focus on meeting the needs of Ohio businesses and offering work-based learning opportunities for students. They will also help more students complete programs and certificates and in turn, increase Ohio's STEMM talent pipeline.

The Choose Ohio First scholarship program began as a way to increase the number of Ohio students enrolling in, and successfully completing, STEMM programs at Ohio's public and independent colleges and universities. This latest round of funding is part of a focused strategy to increase enrollment and completion across Ohio in the STEMM fields.

Learn more about Choose Ohio First at: [OhioHigherEd.org/COF](https://OhioHigherEd.org/COF)

**\$13.7 MILLION**

was awarded and disbursed to **3,375** COF scholars in 2019-2020.



**41,969**

STEMM degrees awarded at Ohio's public colleges and universities in 2019-2020



**1,275**

New COF students

**464**

COF graduates



As Speaker, I initiated the Choose Ohio First program because the growing need for STEMM skills was evident among Ohio employers. These skills are in even greater demand today as employers view them as essential to innovate and compete.

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**LT. GOVERNOR JON HUSTED**

# Streamlining Credential Processes for the Benefit of Businesses and Students

Industry-recognized credentials are an important tool to ensure Ohio's workforce needs are being met and Ohioans are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow.

In 2020, the Ohio Department of Education, in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, developed a new application and review process for the list of high school industry-recognized credentials.

The new application allows community stakeholders, including schools, parents, students, and businesses, to request modifications to credentials on the approved list. These modifications include a point value increase, adding the credential to other career-fields, and more. The application process also now cycles four times yearly, but will always remain open to capture evolving business needs.

To learn more about how to add a credential to the list, visit [Education.Ohio.gov](https://www.education.ohio.gov).



## Business Input

Ohio's businesses are best suited to advise about the skills needed in the workforce right now and in the future. In April, the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation opened an inquiry process so employers can weigh-in more frequently on what credentials students are earning, to ensure students are learning skills that are in-demand and valuable to the field.

Through the inquiry process, OWT acts as a liaison to the business community to address inquiries about specific credentials with the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Higher Education. Businesses can fill out [this survey](#) to submit their inquiries.

# Ohio to Work

On September 15th, Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Husted, JobsOhio, and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services announced the launch of a pilot initiative in Cleveland – Cuyahoga County to help employers find the workers they need and to ensure workers have the skills employers are hiring for.

The [Ohio to Work](#) initiative, led by JobsOhio, was created in partnership with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation,



GREATER CLEVELAND

Ohio Development Services Agency, OhioMeansJobs, Urban League of Greater Cleveland, and Goodwill of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio.

The Ohio to Work program focuses on three vital stakeholders: employers, existing service providers, and displaced workers. It aims to broker a fast lane directly with employers who can bring immediate opportunity, or to connect workers with training that can provide sustainable, long-term employment opportunities. Ohio to Work focuses on the healthcare, tech, and advanced manufacturing industries.

The pilot initiative enhances existing resources, linking workers to jobs through talent evaluation tools and coaching, providing displaced workers with a mix of accelerated training and job exploration supported by innovative financing in collaboration with leading employers, training providers, and nonprofits.



**3,054** Ohioans have received career coaching



**340** Ohioans have been employed because of Ohio to Work



**2** Fall career fairs with a total of **50+** employers and nearly **2,000** open positions

“Ohio’s economy continues to improve, but many people attempting to re-enter the workforce need help navigating their way to a good job. Ohio to Work helps people find a career and provides employers a competitive workforce – everyone wins.

**LT. GOVERNOR JON HUSTED**

# Critical Jobs on TopJobs.Ohio.gov

On August 3, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine announced the addition of Critical Jobs to the Top Jobs List. This addition combines Ohio's In-Demand Jobs and newly created Critical Jobs into one list of prioritized job sectors.

Critical Jobs ensure that the state's workforce supports the health and well-being of Ohioans, their families, and their communities. Governor DeWine made developing the workforce in critical job areas a priority because of their impact on the lives of Ohioans at every stage of life.

Critical Jobs are identified through the help of experts and stakeholders in eight career clusters. The eight career clusters include:

- Children & Community Health
- Early Childhood Education
- First Responders
- Lead Abatement
- Mental & Behavioral Health
- Nursing
- Physicians
- Wellness Research & Technology

To support the critical career clusters, a new career pathways feature was added to [TopJobs.Ohio.gov](https://www.topjobs.ohio.gov). Career pathways illustrate the progress Ohioans can make within the career clusters in which Critical Jobs are organized. The Top Jobs List showcases common career trajectories, such as growth from a starting wage to a median wage, as well as information on the skills and education needed for Ohioans to advance to the next level of their chosen career pathway.

Ohio's Top Jobs List plays an important function as it directs 85 percent of federal job training funds offered through OhioMeansJobs Centers.

In 2019, Lt. Gov. Husted announced the launch of the [TopJobs.Ohio.gov](https://www.topjobs.ohio.gov) website, an interactive tool to help guide the educational choices of students, educators, and workers.



“

Ohio's Top Jobs are critical to the long-term health and well-being of our state, our communities, and our families. These are also positions that are available now. We're looking for Ohioans who want to serve their communities as early childhood educators, first responders, and health care providers.

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**GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE**

# DataOhio Portal

In early December, InnovateOhio launched Data.Ohio.gov – also known as the DataOhio Portal. The DataOhio Portal is a public-facing portal that provides more than 200 unique datasets and more than 100 interactive visualizations to inform data-driven decisions for state agencies and their partners.

**DataOhio** View All Data About DataOhio DataOhio Projects Get Help CONTACT SEARCH LOGIN

OHIO DATA, READY TO EXPLORE. Search

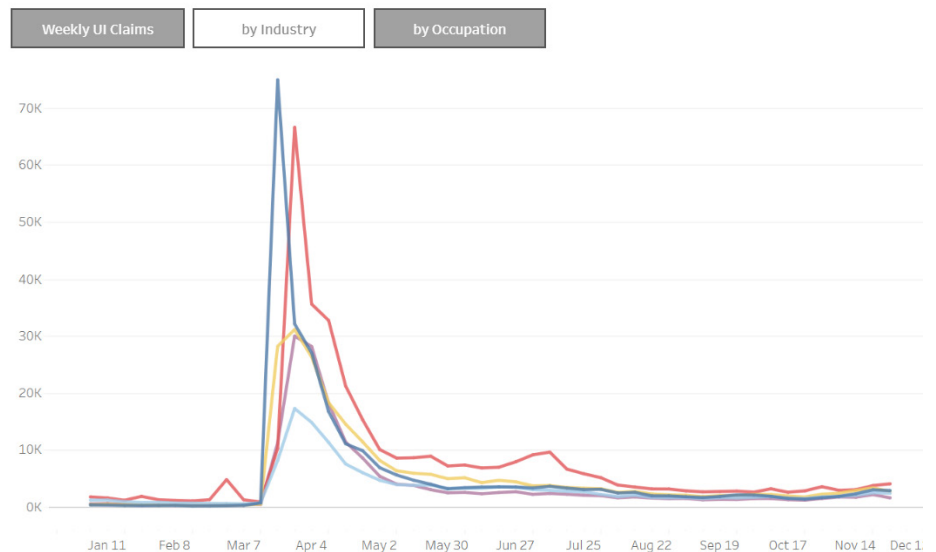
**213** Datasets currently available

**71** Programs contributing data

**10,108** Total dataset views

The Office of Workforce Transformation worked in partnership with InnovateOhio on this project to onboard a number of resources, including the Ohio Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims Dashboard, which was built by The Ohio State University in partnership with OWT, the Department of Job and Family Services, and InnovateOhio.

The purpose of the UI Dashboard is to show how various industries, communities, and groups of workers throughout the state have been impacted by the pandemic. This information can be used to help inform the focus of recovery efforts.



# Data.Ohio.gov

# Looking Forward

The Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation will continue to focus on creating opportunities for more Ohioans to earn the skills and credentials needed to succeed in a technology-infused economy. From kindergarten to adult learners, there is no better time to earn a new tech-skill than now.



## Contact Us

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