



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the *Working Partners*® Drug-Free Workforce Community Initiative?

- A public-private partnership
- Involves the State of Ohio, specifically the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), and *Working Partners*®
- Addresses the economic threat of substance abuse by employees and job seekers

What are the goal and objectives of the Initiative?

- Increase the employable, drug-free workforce in Ohio. There will be healthier, stronger, more productive workforces and workplaces based on local needs and, in turn, a healthier, stronger, more economically-sound Ohio
 - Accomplish four principal objectives within each community:
 1. Collect accurate about the drug abuse impact on the workplaces/workforce
 2. Establish an interdisciplinary stakeholder group with sustainability beyond this project
 3. Establish a nucleus of businesses that have been facilitated through intensive DFWP management consultation to implement or refine their drug-free operations including second-chance policies
 4. Identify local provider(s) that can service their community businesses in an employer-friendly manner
- Increase workforce readiness and employability.
- Create systems to educate employees – who are parents or have influence over young people – to prevent drug use among that population.

What activities will the Initiative be doing?

- Meeting with community leaders and organizations (aka stakeholders)
- Three community assessments
 1. Community leaders and organizations
 2. Businesses
 3. Substance abuse treatment and prevention providers in a position to support workplace and workforce
- Creating two online courses for job seekers and employees available statewide
- Delivering eight technical assistance courses, conducted throughout the state, to help area businesses understand their role in preventing and responding to workplace substance abuse in a productive, legally-sound and meaningful way
 - Course outcome will be a drug-free workplace program the businesses can implement
- Working with identified substance abuse provider(s) to address barriers to servicing business community
- Raising awareness within the community regarding the impact of substance abuse on the workplace and workforce

How will the Initiative's goal be accomplished?

- Bring together stakeholders and businesses to examine the issue on a local level
- Implement strategies to develop a job-ready workforce
- Equip employers with education, technical assistance and tools needed to prevent and respond to workplace substance abuse



How is the Initiative being funded?

- Funded in part by OhioMHAS.
- Funding was given to *Working Partners®* as the owner of the model this Initiative is based on
- The ADAMH board overseeing each community will also receive funding from OhioMHAS

Who is participating in the Initiative?

- 18 communities statewide
- The community behavioral health board (e.g., ADAMH) for each community had to apply and was accepted by OhioMHAS
- The participating boards/**communities** are
 - Butler County MH & Addiction Recovery Services Board / **Hamilton**
 - MH & Recovery Board of Clark, Greene & Madison Counties / **Springfield**
 - Clermont County MH & Recovery Board / **Clermont County**
 - Columbiana County MHRS Board / **Columbiana County**
 - Crawford-Marion Board of ADAMHS / **Marion County**
 - Fairfield County ADAMH Board / **Lancaster**
 - Geauga County Board of MH & Recovery Services / **Geauga County**
 - Hamilton County MH & Recovery Services Board / **Over-the-Rhine**
 - Hancock County Board of ADAMHS / **Hancock County**
 - MH & Recovery for Licking & Knox Counties / **Mount Vernon**
 - MH & DAS Board of Logan & Champaign Counties / **Bellefontaine**
 - Mahoning County MH & Recovery Board / **Austintown**
 - ADAMH Board for Montgomery County / **Dayton**
 - Mental Health & Recovery Services Board serving Coshocton, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble & Perry Counties / **Cambridge Area**
 - Paint Valley ADAMH Board / **Washington Courthouse**
 - MH & ADA Recovery Board of Putnam County / **Ottawa**
 - Trumbull County MH & Recovery Board / **Vienna Township**
 - Wood County ADAMHS Board / **Bowling Green**

What benefit can the Boards expect to receive from participating in the Initiative?

- Increased relationships with business community -- essential for economic stability of Board and provider organizations
- Increased participation of the business community in coalitions
- Increased awareness within the business community and community-at-large of Board-funded services and programs
- Increased access to adults for prevention messaging and programs
- Increased success rates and decreased costs of treatment due to earlier identification and admission into treatment
- Increased impact on the overall health of community (e.g., crime rates, healthcare, workplace productivity)
- Recognition at the local, state and national level for improving quality of workforce

Funded in part by:





Who is *Working Partners*®?

- An Ohio-based consulting and training firm working with end-user employers and systems
- Has over 27 years' experience
- Expert in workplace-based prevention and drug-free workplace (DFWP) issues.
 - Policy development
 - DFWP employee education and supervisor training
 - Technical assistance and troubleshooting
 - Consortium management (i.e., group-priced Employee Assistance Program and drug testing)
- Led by founder and CEO, Dee Mason, a nationally recognized expert in drug-free workplace issues

For more information about the *Working Partners*® Drug-Free Workforce Community Initiative, contact Karen Pierce or Dee Mason at *Working Partners*® -- 614.337.8200.

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