



RETAIN

Retaining Employment
and Talent After
Injury/Illness Network

Ohio RETAIN Demonstration Project

Lead Agency: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)

Lead Agency Location: Columbus, Ohio

Primary Partnership Entities:

Leadership Team:

- Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation (OBWC)
- Governor's Executive Workforce Board (GEWB) (represented by the Office of Workforce Transformation)
- Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)
- Mercy Health (Health Services Provider)
- Ohio Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) #17 and #18

Additional Key Partners:

- Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition (MVMC)
- Ohio Manufacturers Association (OMA)
- Ohio Office of Medicaid (OOM)
- Ohio Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS),

Areas to be served by Grant:

- **Counties:** Northeast OH: Columbiana, Mahoning, Trumbull (expansion in Phase Two to be determined through a Request for Proposal process)

Total Funding - U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy:

- Phase One Planning Grant \$3.5M (30-month period)
- Potential Phase Two Demonstration Pilot Grant up to \$19.7M (42-month period)
- Pilot Participants served = 500 sample size proposed for Phase 1
(3,000 sample size proposed for Phase 2)

Program Goal: To improve healthcare results by implementing a patient-centered Return to Work/Stay at Work (RTW/SAW) model that utilizes early intervention by a Health Services Coordinator (HSC) to facilitate treatment, coordinate multi-partner assistance, and shorten duration of work separation by workers with musculoskeletal injuries.

Population to be Served: This multi-agency demonstration project will focus on serving individuals (18-65 years old) who are employed or in the labor force who have a non-occupational injury or illness that affects their ability to work.

Summary of Program – Research has shown that this group is at great risk of becoming unemployed and/or in need of public assistance because of the lack of a coordinated RTW/SAW effort between the health care provider, employer, insurers and workforce system that is normally provided for those with occupational injuries. Through the coordination of immediate identification of these individuals at the point of seeking care through a health services provider, the individual will be assisted by a HSC throughout the entire RTW process that includes communication with their employer, health care provider and insurer, and when needed, referral to OhioMeansJobs center partners for additional assistance. This grant provides an opportunity to develop and pilot a model that can be replicated throughout Ohio.

Additional Program Components:

- Initiation of an Ohio RETAIN Roundtable comprised of stakeholders in the medical sector, business industry sectors and government agencies to identify and share RTW/SAW best practices
- Communications and Outreach Strategies for different stakeholders
- Development of Health Services Coordinator & Health Service Provider Training Plans
- Establishment of a nurse hotline for the Phase One pilot for the manufacturing sector
- Data Sharing Agreement among partners to facilitate evidence-based research
- Third Party Evaluation using rigorous methodology to determine program outcomes
- Exploration of strategies for sustaining RTW efforts in Ohio beyond the grant period

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