



OhioMeansJobs.

Workforce Development Area 14
Athens, Meigs & Perry Counties

A proud partner of the American Job Center network

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

AREA 14 WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT BOARD

PREPARED BY:

Morgan DeLay

340 W. STATE ST
ATHENS, OH 45701

740-566-4395
OHIOAREA14.ORG

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year has been an incredibly rewarding one for Area 14. Working closely with each OhioMeansJobs center individually has highlighted the unique strengths they bring to their communities, and it has been exciting to see that work evolve into something even bigger. What stands out most to me is the growing collaboration among our OhioMeansJobs centers and the way they are increasingly functioning as a unified team.

Across Athens, Meigs, and Perry counties, staff have supported one another, shared ideas, and worked together to better serve job seekers, employers, and partners. At the same time, Area 14 has strengthened its collaboration at the regional level with Areas 15 (Morgan, Noble, Monroe and Washington Counties) and 16 (Belmont, Harrison, Jefferson and Carroll Counties), helping ensure our workforce efforts are aligned, strategic, and responsive to regional needs.

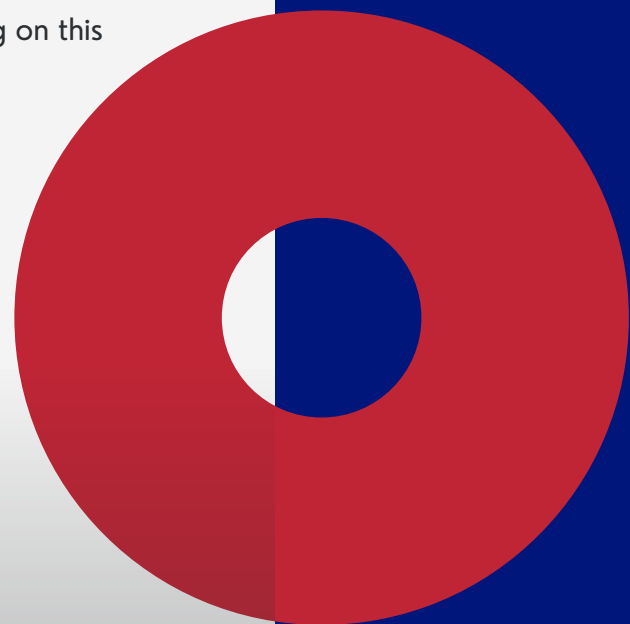
I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Director of the Area 14 Workforce Development Board. This is a role I do not take for granted. I am proud of the progress we have made together this year and deeply appreciative of the dedication, creativity, and teamwork demonstrated across our local and regional partners. I look forward to building on this momentum and continuing this work in the years ahead.

— Morgan DeLay
Director, Area 14 Workforce Development Board



Workforce Development Area 14
Athens, Meigs & Perry Counties

A proud partner of the American Job Center network



2025 MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

1

PERFORMANCE METRICS

Area 14 demonstrated stable and positive workforce outcomes across key employment, education, and training measures when comparing PY 2023 Adjusted Annual results with PY 2024 Unadjusted Annual performance. These results reflect continued progress for jobseekers and employers served throughout Athens, Meigs, and Perry Counties.

2

EMPLOYER & PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

Area 14 strengthened relationships with local employers and community partners to advance workforce development efforts across Athens, Meigs, and Perry Counties. These partnerships supported job fairs, apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, and career pathway initiatives, helping connect jobseekers to training and employment opportunities aligned with regional workforce needs.

3

AWARDS

OhioMeansJobs Meigs County has been awarded the bronze category of the VETS O.N.E Incentive Award from the Jobs for Veterans State Grant. Additionally, the Area 14 WDB was awarded an Ohio Auditor of State Award for excellence in fiscal reporting.

4

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Area 14 prioritized continuous improvement by providing multiple staff trainings throughout the year, including CCMEP training, performance report interpretation, and technical assistance across partner programs. These efforts strengthened staff capacity, supported consistency and compliance, and enhanced service delivery across the region.

ADDITIONAL FUNDS RECEIVED

Meigs Vets O.N.E Incentive Award: \$6,369.30
Perry CDJFS Rapid Response Funds: \$29,504.32

JOB FAIRS AND EVENTS



JOB FAIRS

In 2025, Area 14 hosted several hiring events, including our annual job fair, which was held in June this year and brought in 120 job seekers and 66 employers. Each county also held their own job fairs, where they assisted over 2000 job seekers.



SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Area 14 Director Morgan DeLay and local OhioMeansJobs staff were part of several presentations in 2025, including speaking events at local high schools and colleges. Additionally, the VR Career Exploration headsets were a hit again this year at events around the area.



CAREER PATHWAY INFORMATION



In 2025, Area 14 strengthened career awareness, expanded talent pipelines, and deepened connections between jobseekers, students, and employers across Athens, Meigs, and Perry Counties. The following highlights showcase progress in building clear, accessible pathways into in-demand careers.

1. Growing Career Exploration in Local Schools

- Increased student exposure to in-demand occupations, credentials, and real-world job requirements.
- Strengthened partnerships with ESCs to deliver consistent career pathway messaging.

2. Advancing Apprenticeship & Pre-Apprenticeship Pathways

- Supported ongoing employer engagement to introduce more youth and adults to Registered Apprenticeship opportunities in high-demand trades.

3. Career Pathway Events & Hands-On Exploration

- Participated in numerous career fairs, pathway days, and youth exploration events across all three counties.
- Reinforced connections between career interests, wages, and educational pathways.

4. Employer Insights & Labor Market Messaging

- Shared employer feedback showing significant hiring challenges in the trades and technical occupations highlighting the strong demand for local talent.
- Used regional data (including commuting patterns and job posting trends) to emphasize the value of staying local and pursuing in-demand pathways.

Area 14 continues to strengthen its role as the connector between education, training, and employment by supporting a skilled, locally rooted workforce and helping residents access strong career opportunities close to home.

UNIVERSAL CUSTOMER & SPECIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Area 14's OhioMeansJobs centers continue to serve as a vital resource for residents and employers. The information below provides a snapshot of how our teams supported the community in 2025 through direct services, skill-building, and employment connections.

On-Site/Virtual Customers Served: 10,589

Staff Assisted Résumés: 528

Jobs Reported w/ Staff Assistance: 394

On Site Hiring Events: 41

Mobile Events: 259

OhioMeansJobs.com Registrations: 1183

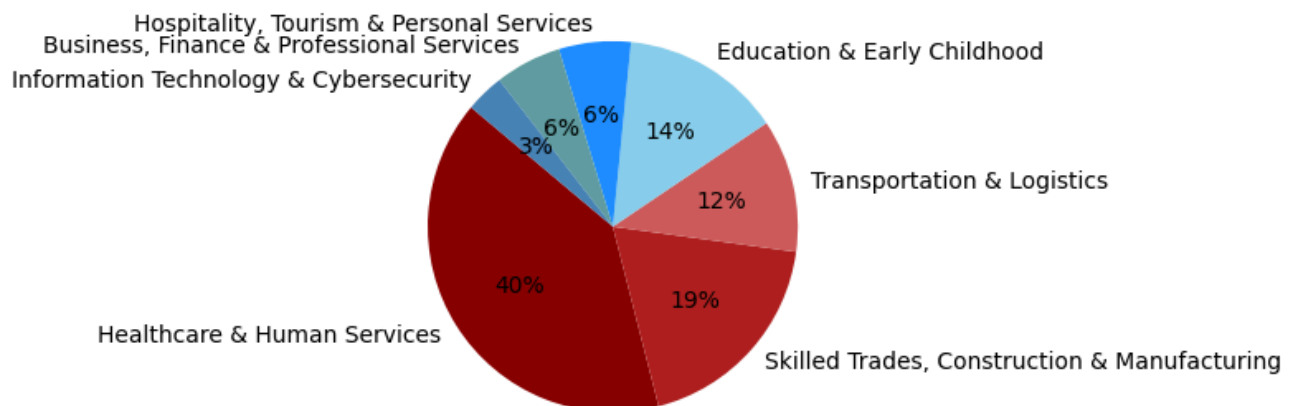
TRAINING PROGRAM INFORMATION

Across the three counties, Area 14 supported strong participation in WIOA-funded training during 2025. On average each quarter, approximately 64 Adult participants, 11 Dislocated Workers, and 64 Out-of-School Youth engaged in occupational training, while an average of 75 In-School Youth received career-focused skill development.

An average of 46 participants per quarter trained to receive an occupational skill certificate and an average of 23 participants per quarter worked toward educational certificates (GED/HS Diploma).

Training activity spanned several career pathways, including Nursing, Physical Therapy Assisting, HVAC, CDL, Early Childhood Education, Social Services, Medical Assisting, and the skilled trades, reflecting strong alignment between customer interest and regional employer demand.

2025 Occupational Skill Training by Career Cluster (All Quarters)



EMPLOYER ASSISTANCE

In 2025, Area 14's OhioMeansJobs centers continued to provide comprehensive, year-round support to local employers. Beyond large hiring events, staff worked closely with businesses to understand their workforce needs, assist with recruitment, and connect them with programs that help attract, train, and retain talent. These efforts strengthened employer relationships across Athens, Meigs, and Perry Counties and ensured companies had access to practical tools and resources to build a skilled workforce.

Employer Assistance Highlights:

- Continued collaboration with Mark Porter Auto Group to advance the Area 14–sponsored Automotive Technician Pre-Apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship programs, providing structured pathways into high-demand automotive careers.
- Assisted Vitruvian, a new regional employer, by connecting the company to local workforce, training, and community resources to support startup operations.
- Customized recruitment support, including job postings, applicant prescreening, and résumé forwarding
- Ongoing outreach and relationship building through employer check-ins, site visits, and direct communication
- Guidance on workforce programs such as On-the-Job Training (OJT), Incumbent Worker Training, and apprenticeship pathways
- Coordination with schools, training providers, and community partners to strengthen pipelines into high-need occupations

OUTREACH EFFORTS

Area 14 expanded its outreach efforts in 2025 to ensure that workforce services were accessible to all residents, including those who may face transportation barriers or live in remote parts of our counties. Through regular community visits, partnership events, and strategic use of our mobile units, staff brought OhioMeansJobs services directly into neighborhoods, libraries, schools, and community gathering spaces. This approach allowed individuals to receive job search assistance, résumé support, and information about training opportunities without needing to travel to an OhioMeansJobs Center.

Outreach Highlights:

- Utilized mobile units to provide on-the-spot résumés, job applications, and career guidance across Athens, Meigs, and Perry Counties.
- Participated in community events, school visits, and pop-up workforce sessions to meet individuals where they are.
- Expanded access for customers facing transportation challenges, caregiving responsibilities, or rural distance from an OhioMeansJobs Center.
- Strengthened partnerships with libraries, community organizations, and local agencies to host recurring outreach stops.
- Increased visibility of OhioMeansJobs services and connected residents to job openings, training programs, and supportive services.





Job Fair:

This year, we hosted seven career fairs, bringing together employers and community members to explore new job opportunities and establish valuable connections. At these events, our team assisted with resume writing and offered additional training services as necessary. As a result, several participants received job offers!

Work + Program:

Our Work+/CCMEP Program helps income-eligible youth in Perry County, ages 14 to 24, through year-round education, coaching, and a paid summer work experience. In 2025, more than 150 students enrolled, and 62 took part in subsidized employment for six to eight weeks, earning \$12.50 per hour. The summer program partnered with more than 45 local employers, offered each student support from a summer coach, and even led to job offers for some participants after the program.

WIOA

Throughout 2025, our case managers were dedicated to helping individuals succeed through education and employment. We proudly witnessed two individuals graduate from the RN program at Hocking College and the Mid-East Career Center. Additionally, one individual earned their EFDA Certification for Dental Assisting. Among our Rapid Response participants, one completed their training in medical billing and coding, while the other specialized in CDL and Heavy Equipment training. An additional dislocated worker also finished CDL training.

Our program offers a maximum of \$25,000 in WIOA tuition assistance per program year, available for up to two years. This limit supports a diverse range of program enrollments to ensure that when training is completed, individuals will be able to obtain employment that will lead to self-sufficiency.

Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC)

PRC funding provides various programs to

address the emergent needs of TANF eligible households. Our Individualized Training Program offers up to \$10,000 for individuals to complete education and training opportunities. Other PRC programs include: emergency housing, professional clothes, shelf stable food, car seats, leadership classes, summer camp, hygiene items and more.

Special Grants

The OHMAS program provided support for community members entering or participating in the behavioral health field. With this grant funding we served 40 participants who were able to earn the following credentials: CDCA credentials, bachelor's and master's degrees in social work, degrees in human services and psychology, SEL yoga facilitator training, and Trauma Informed Care training.

Top 5 Training Programs for Enrollment

	PROGRAM COST	AVERAGE WAGE
CLASS A CDL	\$6,995	\$33.33
DENTAL ASSISTING	\$6,995	\$21.60
DENTAL HYGIENE	\$37,713	\$49.00
HEAVY EQUIPMENT	\$13,990	\$30.51
MEDICAL: STNA, LPN, & RN	\$600- \$20,704	\$19.66-\$40.16

The Perry County Community

Foundation Grant supplied the necessary funding to enhance our outreach vehicle by adding storage and a workspace for employees. This improvement enables us to assist individuals more effectively and manage cases with greater ease.

Overview

Throughout 2025, OhioMeansJobs–Athens County expanded our ability to serve job seekers, employers, and businesses following the move to a new location in Nelsonville. Increased space and accessibility allowed the center to host more workshops, events, and partner services while remaining responsive to community workforce needs.

WIOA Training & Career Advancement

Athens County supported WIOA participants across multiple education and training pathways aligned with regional demand, including healthcare, skilled trades, transportation, and education. In addition to occupational training, participants received individualized career planning, résumé assistance, and job search support. The center also hosted sessions with the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation and ApprenticeOhio to promote programs such as TechCred, IMAP, and Registered Apprenticeships, increasing awareness of upskilling opportunities for both job seekers and employers.

Business Services & Workshops

Athens County partnered with the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet) to deliver the Building Better Businesses workshop series. Nine sessions supported entrepreneurs and small business owners with topics such as digital tools, alternative business models, branding, and resources for women-owned businesses.

Digital Skills & Résumé Support

To strengthen digital literacy, Athens County launched the Hiration Résumé Builder, available remotely and on-site. Additional trainings included Microsoft Office and introductory AI tools, presented in partnership with GRIT and Holzer Health Systems.

Wraparound & Partner Services

A holistic service model remained a priority in 2025, with regular on-site access to partners including Health Recovery Services, OhioHealth’s Substance Use Navigator, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Unemployment Insurance, and the Athens County Public Libraries’ Digital Literacy Team.

Mobile Outreach & Community Access

Through the Mobile Career Center and JFS-On-Wheels, Athens County extended services across the county, including rural areas. The Mobile Career Center served 412 community members at schools, hiring events, and community visits, while JFS-On-Wheels participated in 153 outreach events connecting families to employment resources and referrals.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Athens County enters 2026 with a continued focus on collaboration, innovation, and expanded access to workforce services, ensuring strong alignment between job seekers, employers, and regional workforce needs.

Job Fairs & Employer Engagement

Meigs County hosted a successful countywide job fair in September, welcoming 166 students, 129 job seekers, and 30 employers, including Nucor, a major sheet steel mill under construction in Mason County, West Virginia. The event included dedicated student career exploration sessions and public hiring hours, supporting both early career awareness and immediate employment needs. In May, OMJ-Meigs also hosted a Reverse Job Fair at Meigs High School, allowing students to showcase their skills directly to employers.

Youth, Education & Career Pathways

OMJ-Meigs maintained strong partnerships with local schools and training providers throughout the year. Staff worked directly in schools using virtual reality career exploration headsets, expanding student exposure to in-demand occupations. Through collaboration with Mark Porter Auto Group, five students successfully completed pre-apprenticeships during the school year. Of those students, four received employment offers (two with Mark Porter and two with other employers) while one student continued on to college. Meigs County also partnered with Buckeye Hills Career Center, RISE UP, and ASPIRE to support high school dropouts in earning their diplomas and reconnecting with education and training pathways.

Veterans Services

Meigs County was awarded the VETS O.N.E. Award, receiving \$6,369 in recognition of its continued excellence in serving veteran populations. Meigs County demonstrated a strong commitment to serving veterans in 2025 by hosting a Veterans Appreciation Event in October. More than 120 veterans received \$50 gas cards through the VETS O.N.E. incentive award, and at least one recently separated veteran secured employment during the event.

WIOA Success Story

In January 2025, a 54-year-old Meigs County resident came to OhioMeansJobs facing significant barriers, including unemployment following COVID-related job loss and housing instability. Through the WIOA Adult program, he completed CDL training, earning his CDL and passenger endorsement on the first attempt. Immediately following training, he secured full-time employment transporting goods across multiple states and is now earning approximately \$3,000 per week. His success highlights the transformative impact of WIOA services and demonstrates that it is never too late to reenter the workforce and achieve stability.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Meigs County will continue expanding partnerships with schools, employers, and training providers while growing apprenticeship, internship, and WIOA opportunities. With a continued focus on youth engagement, veterans services, and employer alignment, OMJ-Meigs remains committed to building strong career pathways for county residents.



OhioMeansJobs®

Perry County

A proud partner of the
American Job Center network

5250 STATE ROUTE 37 EAST
NEW LEXINGTON, OH 43764
(740)342-3551
OHIOMEANSJOBS.COM/PERRY



OhioMeansJobs®

Athens County

A proud partner of the
American Job Center network

10 WEST WASHINGTON ST
NELSONVILLE, OH 45764
(740)797-1405
OMJ.ATHENSOH.ORG



OhioMeansJobs®

Meigs County

A proud partner of the
American Job Center network

150 MILL ST
MIDDLEPORT, OH 45760
(740)992-4576
OHIOMEANSJOBS.COM/MEIGS



OhioMeansJobs.

**Workforce Development Area 14
Athens, Meigs & Perry Counties**

A proud partner of the American Job Center network

340 W. STATE ST
UNIT 35
ATHENS, OH 45701

740-566-4395
OHIOAREA14.ORG