



PARTNERING FOR A STRONGER WORKFORCE AT LIBRARIES

Empowering Jobseekers Across Ohio and the Nation

As technology further shifts the economic landscape, libraries prepare American jobseekers to enter the workforce, reskill to meet evolving requirements, and succeed as business owners.

Public libraries in Ohio (1) provide internet access and digital skills programs that encourage use of emerging technologies and empower entrepreneurship, (2) collaborate with other community stakeholders to identify workforce challenges and build vibrant local economies.

With many communities hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and facing economic challenges, libraries are a critical part of the economic safety net, now more than ever.

Skills building and job seeking

In the rural farming community of Grafton, Ohio the Grafton–Midview Public Library offers one-on-one assistance to jobseekers. The library also partners with Job and Family Services to provide workforce preparation for local residents, including ex-offenders getting back on their feet following release from the local prison. In its

work with jobseekers, the library takes a results-focused approach, helping community members complete resumes and develop concrete skills needed to apply online, such as organizing a job search using a spreadsheet. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the library hosted a “Back at Job” half-day event participants learned about and practiced using online tools relevant to professional

TAKEAWAYS for local, state and national public officials, and potential partners

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