



**Fairfield County  
Board of County Commissioners  
Lancaster, Ohio**

**Press Release, for immediate release Wednesday, March 16, 2016**

*Fairfield County Board of Commissioners*

*David L. Levacy, President*

*Steve Davis, Vice President*

*Mike Kiger, Commissioner*

*Carri Brown, County Administrator*

*Rachel Elsea, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners*

**Fairfield County Economic Development Assumes Regional Oversight of  
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**

**Lancaster, Ohio-** Fairfield County's office of Economic Development has added the responsibility of administering the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for Ohio's Area 20. In July, it will assume fiscal responsibility for the five-county region.

WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. The act was signed into law on July 22, 2014 and supersedes 1998's Workforce Investment Act.

"Having a skilled and reliable workforce is paramount to a successful economy," Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic Development Director, said. "This program aligns with our goal to increase the number of able workers in our region so we can continue to attract new businesses to our communities and help current businesses achieve greater success."

Area 20 is comprised of Fairfield, Pickaway, Hocking, Ross and Vinton Counties. Its role is to strategically bring together core programs for employment and training services for adults, dislocated workers and youth. Specifically, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services states WIOA provides Ohio new opportunities to:

- Advance partner linkages through state, regional, and local planning
- Increase return on investment through performance criteria and integrated case management system through core programs
- Enrich services to customers by serving individuals with barriers to employment, including individuals with disabilities and through the use of career

pathways, especially for disengaged young adults

- Enhance service delivery through the procurement of the OhioMeansJobs Center operators, certification of the OhioMeansJobs Centers, and the designation of local areas

Mike Miller, Business Services Manager for Fairfield County's Job and Family Services (JFS), has joined Fairfield County's Economic Development team to help with administrative duties for WIOA. He will also work with the county and the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance to lead efforts in Workforce Development in collaboration with local schools and employers.

"As the Business Services Manager for JFS, Mike has spent the past 16 years diligently working with area businesses to connect them with workforce development resources that meet their current and future needs," Aundrea Cordle, Fairfield County JFS Director, said. "His personal approach focuses on each employer individually and gets to the heart of what they need to be a successful business in our community."

An Economic and Workforce Development Fiscal Specialist will also be added to the team. Applications are currently being accepted at <http://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/humanresources/Employment.htm>.

For more information, please contact Rick Szabrak at [rmszabrak@co.fairfield.oh.us](mailto:rmszabrak@co.fairfield.oh.us) or at 740-652-7162.

###