



Board of County Commissioners

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For Immediate Release

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Fairfield County Launches Workforce Recovery Initiative

Lancaster, Ohio – Fairfield County Economic & Workforce Development is launching the **Workforce Recovery** initiative to help local Fairfield County businesses address the current challenges with hiring and retaining a skilled workforce. The Workforce Recovery initiative is providing services and programs designed specifically to address the needs of businesses in manufacturing, healthcare, and restaurants in Fairfield County.

As part of the initiative, Fairfield County is offering six local manufacturing or healthcare businesses the opportunity to work one-on-one with a personal RAMA Consulting team to develop a comprehensive, customized Recruitment & Retention Plan. Called R&R Boost, this program provides RAMA's consultation services to these employers at no cost to the business. This plan will be tailored to meet the needs of each business and include emerging best practices and a fresh perspective.

"Businesses throughout the entire nation are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain employees," said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director. "I know that local employers are stretched thin, and they don't have time to focus on building new strategies for recruitment and retention. That's why we wanted to provide them with a resource to help develop a long-term plan to build their workforce."

Services provided are completely confidential and all fees are covered by the Fairfield County Commissioners through the American Rescue Plan. The pandemic has amplified the labor shortage and these funds will assist companies in emerging post pandemic. Applications for this unique opportunity will be accepted until April 1, 2022 and can be found at Fairfield33.com.

The Fairfield County Commissioners selected RAMA Consulting because of their broad business knowledge and ability to identify trends and build a strategic plan to address opportunities. Since RAMA will spend a significant amount of time working with each employer, only six companies will initially be selected from two of Fairfield County's largest industries: manufacturing and healthcare. A broader initiative tailored toward the restaurant industry will be rolled out later this year.

"We've had the pleasure of working on several recent Fairfield County initiatives and are continuously impressed with the progressive and thoughtful approaches to meeting community needs," said Leslie Westerfelt, Assistant Vice President at RAMA Consulting. "This is a unique opportunity to work closely with local employers to develop a roadmap that will help grow a skilled and competitive workforce."

Companies will be selected based on various criteria, including number of employees and ability to follow through on RAMA's recommendations.

For more information contact Rick Szabrak at rick.szabrak@fairfieldcountyohio.gov.

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