



GREAT PROVIDER SERIES

Outcomes | National Disability Employment Month | Community of Experts

Great Providers: Person-Centered, Outcome-Focused

Ohio's Outcome Tracking System (OTS) provides a snapshot of competitive employment for people with developmental disabilities.

These numbers are more than data; they help us understand whether the services we provide are creating meaningful opportunities and outcomes for the people we support.

5,975: People in competitive employment

6,229: Competitive jobs

25%: Increase in people and competitive jobs since 2019

47%: Of people in competitive employment were eligible for fringe benefits

Explore more Ohio employment data, including wages, hours, benefits, transportation, and occupations [here](#).

Data is from **Reporting Period 2023, the most recent reporting period available through the OTS.*



Celebrating Value & Talent

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), a time to recognize the contributions of workers with disabilities and the value and talent they bring to workplaces and communities. The 2026 theme, "Celebrating Value and Talent," is a reminder that people with disabilities have talents, skills, goals, and contributions to make.

For Great Providers, this connects directly to one of our five characteristics: **Great Providers deliver person-centered, outcome-focused services.**

That starts with the person. What do they want for their life? What are their interests, strengths, and goals? And what can we do to help make those goals possible?

For many people, meaningful employment is an important part of that picture. For others, a different outcome may be the right one. The point is knowing



A Community of Experts

I have a lot of confidence in the people who make up the OPRA team and our community of providers. I truly believe we have subject matter experts who can hold their own with anyone in the country.

When it comes to day and employment services, **Scott Marks and the providers in our OPRA community are the people I want in the room.** They know this work, they're asking the right questions, and they're constantly learning from one another.

If you're trying to strengthen your employment services, rethink your day array, build better partnerships with employers, or figure out what's working for other providers, that's exactly what OPRA is here for.

We have an incredible community that cares deeply about helping people live the lives they choose. **Use them. Learn from them. Bring your questions.** That's what being part of OPRA is all about.

Pete

Pete Moore, President & CEO

the person well enough to understand what matters to them and providing the right support to help them get there.

It also means continually asking whether our services are creating the opportunities people want. Are we building pathways to competitive employment? Are we developing meaningful day options? Are we helping people build connections in their communities? And are we willing to rethink what we've always done when it no longer reflects what people want for their lives?

NDEAM gives us an opportunity to celebrate the progress being made while continuing to ask: What is possible for the people we support?

One of the best ways to answer that question is to learn from other providers. Across Ohio, providers are working through these same challenges, sharing ideas, testing new approaches, and learning what works.

That is one of the reasons OPRA brings providers together through its **Day Array Committee and Employment Services Committee**. These groups create space for providers to share experiences, tackle challenges, and learn from one another.

OPRA also brings national expertise into those conversations. **Scott Marks**, OPRA's subject matter expert on day and employment services, co-leads ANCOR's national **Community of Practice on Day and Employment Services**, connecting Ohio providers to ideas and promising practices from across the country.

Keep asking what's possible. Keep learning. And keep putting the person's goals at the center of the work.

That's what Great Providers do.

For more information on **OPRA membership**, please contact **Sonya Summers**, Member Communications Manager.

