

ORLEANS COUNTY JOB DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (OCJDA) 2017

The Orleans County Job Development Agency (OCJDA) is a department of Orleans County government that assists employers, the unemployed, underemployed and the emerging workforce with their employment needs. The Department works closely with a wide range of public and private sector partners, including the Orleans Center for Workforce Development (NYS DOL), Orleans County Department of Social Services, and local businesses, schools, and organizations. It is part of the GLOW (Genesee-Livingston-Orleans-Wyoming) Local Workforce Development Area, and as such works with the GLOW Workforce Development Board to address workforce issues in the GLOW region.

OCJDA receives its funding from a variety of Federal and State governmental sources, such as the NYS Department of Labor through the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and OC Department of Social Services through the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), to provide educational and training programs to economically disadvantaged adults and youth, dislocated/unemployed workers, displaced homemakers and in- and out-of-school youth. The funds are used to pay for training (e.g. tuition, books, mileage, childcare), on-the-job and customized training reimbursements to employers who hire eligible individuals, paid work experience programs for short periods of time, job search assistance, resume writing, job development/placement/referral services, assessments and job readiness activities, youth employment, pre-employment job skills testing, leadership development, and limited transitional employment in the private sector. OCJDA also provides business services to area employers, including job/career fairs, assistance with recruitments in coordination with NYS DOL, referrals, and information on funding opportunities and other financial incentives.

OCJDA is considered an affiliate site of the statewide “One Stop” system as we are no longer co-located (since 2012) with the New York State Department of Labor (NYS DOL) in Albion. The One Stop Center System is intended to provide quality services to all the county’s job seekers and employers at one location. Access to information on job opportunities, training providers, labor market information, financial assistance and supportive services is made more easily accessible with the One Stop Center. While not in the same physical location, OCJDA continues to work very closely with the partners at the One Stop Center (Workforce Development, adjacent to Genesee Community College), which include the NYS Department of Labor, Adult Educational Opportunity Center (AEOC) of Genesee Community College, Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR), Disability Resource Coordinator, Iroquois Job Corps, Literacy Genesee/Orleans, NYS OTDA, NYS DOL Veterans representatives, and temporary agency recruiters. Career counseling, rapid response activities, employment planning assistance and referral and placement to local, state and national job openings are available to all job seekers, whether they are receiving cash assistance, unemployed or underemployed.

OCJDA is responsible for implementing the County's Welfare-to-Work program through a sub-contract with the OC Department of Social Services. As such, the department works with all Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Safety-Net Maintenance-of-Effort (SN-MOE) applicants and recipients to help move them toward self-sufficiency in an effort to reduce or eliminate their dependency on public assistance. By working with the applicants on resumes and job search skills before their public assistance case is opened, staff endeavors to assist clients in finding employment to meet their needs, and therefore eliminating the need for them to rely on public assistance for support. After clients are in receipt of assistance, OCJDA provides job readiness training, work experience assignments at various public and nonprofit work sites, connection to education assistance relevant to obtaining a high school equivalency, assignment to mobile cleaning crew and mobile road crew, and referral to employment opportunities, employment planning, counseling and assessment.

OCJDA is also contracted to work with youth through OTDA's Summer Youth Employment Program and through the GLOW WDB Youth Contract for Orleans County's in-school and out-of-school qualifying youth. These programs provide quality work experiences for participants along with educational activities, such as financial literacy, job search skills and resume-writing.

Currently, OCJDA has seven (8) full time employees, including the Director Kelly Kiebala, Workforce Coordinator Kellie Schrader-Hurrell, Senior Account Clerk Typist Terri Webster, and five (5) Employment & Training Counselors: Pamela Chatt, Cindy Lonnen, Pamela Hastings, Jori Griffin, and Jessica Sutch. Three (3) of the OCJDA counselors work primarily on the DSS funded Welfare-to-Work program (Hastings, Griffin & Sutch), while others in the department spend part of their time on this program. The Welfare-to-Work staff concentrates on the TANF population to meet the federally required participation rate of 50%. Pamela Chatt is the counselor who works primarily with Adults and Dislocated Workers to assist them with training needs with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding through the GLOW Workforce Development Board. Similarly, Cindy Lonnen works with in-school and out-of-school youth, funded by both the aforementioned WIOA Youth Contract and OTDA Summer Youth Employment Program. Terri Webster, our new Senior Account Clerk Typist, tracks funding sources and prepares all fiscal reports. The Director oversees all programs and works together with all aforementioned partners plus others, such as Orleans Economic Development Agency and regional Workforce Development Institute, to further the mission of the department.

The only Out-of-County travel to note is either directly relevant to staff training and professional development, as many of our trainings are held in Rochester, Syracuse or Albany, or the Director's travel related to participation on the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council and GLOW Workforce Development Board/Directors' meetings.

As you are aware, 2015 and 2016 included a great deal of staffing changes in the department, and we sincerely appreciate the Legislature's support in filling the vacant positions. OCJDA looks forward to continuing to assist employers, the unemployed, underemployed and the emerging workforce with employment needs and workforce development in Orleans County.