

Article 15: Help for the Dislocated and the Disabled Worker Questions & Answers



Q What is the mission for Article 15?

A In 1991, Article 15 was established to provide assistance to workers facing layoff. It was started to mirror the system that private sector workers have had when faced with major layoffs. It has also expanded its mission to help disabled workers get back to work through transitional work programs.

Q What has it accomplished?

A Since it's inception, the Article 15 Committee has helped with layoffs as a result of the closing of institutions in the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, Department of Youth Services and the Departments of Mental Health and MRDD, the abolishment of the Department of Liquor Control and the Student Loan Commission, as well as, smaller layoffs in the Department of Administrative Services, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Ohio Civil Rights Commission among others.

Q How is it run?

A The Joint Statewide Employment Security Committee, a labor management committee, oversees the work of Article 15. The committee consists of five management and five labor members and a neutral chair. Jim Cowles of the Columbus Area Labor Management Committee is currently serving as the neutral chair.

Q How does the dislocated worker program work?

A The dislocated worker obtains information and services through a regional worker adjustment committee (RWAC). Each of Ohio's 88 counties are assigned to one of the six RWAC's which are designated as the North, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, and Central Ohio committees. The geographic maps are described in the attached list. Through

the committees, information is provided to the dislocated worker about unemployment insurance, resume writing, locating job search skills, and employment opportunities. Assistance also includes stress management courses and EAP.

Each RWAC has both a labor and management liaison who serves on the Ohio RWAC Steering Committee. These liaisons also serve as contact persons for questions and information on how to contact them is included.

Q How can the dislocated worker program be accessed?

A You can access information by calling the labor and management liaisons for your regional area on the attached list.

Q How does the transitional work program for disabled employees work?

A The transitional work program, called "light duty", is a joint labor management venture that permits an employee, while in recovery, to return to work with temporary restrictions. While the goal is to return to his/her original job: working in another position prevents the employee from further financial loss. The transitional work program can cover workers comp, disability or both.

Q How can you get a transitional work program started in your area?

A These programs are developed on an agency basis. Usually the agency health and safety committee develops an implementation plan. Assistance for implementation of such committees is currently available through the Department of Administrative Services. If you want to find out what is available in your agency, contact your union steward.

OCSEA

AFSCME Local 11 - AFL-CIO

RWAC REGIONAL LABOR LIAISONS AND COUNTIES

Central Ohio RWAC

Cynthia Robertson (Taxation) Liaison 614-728-8394 Debbie King (ODJFS) 614-466-9870
Gloria Pegues (Commerce) 614-728-3203 Ladonna Taylor (Education) 614-466-0438

Champaign	Fairfield	Hocking	Madison	Perry
Clark	Fayette	Knox	Morgan	Pickaway
Coshocton	Franklin	Licking	Morrow	Ross
Delaware	Greene	Logan	Muskingum	Union

North RWAC

Nina Bey-Jones (RSC retiree) LIAISON 216-481-2278 Quida Higbee (ODJFS) 216-832-5797
James Larocca (Lottery) 216-225-5973

Ashland	Erie	Huron	Medina	Summit
Cuyahoga	Holmes	Lorain	Richland	Wayne

Northeast RWAC

Larry Cremeens (ODJFS) LIAISON 330-491-2638 Tim Watson (MH) 740-680-2490
Cheryl Brown (BWC) 330-797-0476

Ashtabula	Columbiana	Harrison	Mahoning	Trumbull
Belmont	Geauga	Jefferson	Portage	Tuscarawas
Carroll	Guernsey	Lake	Stark	

Northwest RWAC

Donna Westrick (Industrial Commission) LIAISON 419-245-2790
Kathy Newton (ODJFS) 419-783-3484

Allen	Hancock	Marion	Putnam	Williams
Auglaize	Hardin	Mercer	Sandusky	Wood
Crawford	Henry	Ottawa	Seneca	Wyandot
Fulton	Lucas	Paulding	Van Wert	

Southwest RWAC

Gretchen Genung (ODJFS) LIAISON 513-731-9800 Judy Graham (MH) 937-258-0440
Carol Bird (ODJFS) 513-551-1903 Michelle Hunter (MR) 937-233-8108

Adams	Clermont	Hamilton	Montgomery	Scioto
Brown	Clinton	Highland	Pike	Shelby
Butler	Darke	Miami	Preble	Warren

Southeast RWAC

Stephen Carson (ODJFS) LIAISON 740-568-9065 Cindy Bobbitt (ODJFS) 866-882-9500
Beth Sheets (MR) 740-645-3246

Athens	Lawrence	Noble
Gallia	Meigs	Vinton
Jackson	Monroe	Washington

(Revised 4/10/08)

REGIONAL WORKER ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEES

CENTRAL

Cynthia Robertson (Taxation) LIAISON 614-728-8394
Ladonna Taylor (Education) 614-466-0438
Debbie King (ODJFS) 614-466-9870
Gloria Pegues (Commerce) 614-728-3203

NORTH

Nina Bey-Jones (RSC retiree) LIAISON 216-481-2278
James Larocca (Lottery) 216-225-5973
Quida Higbee (ODJFS) 216-832-5797

NORTHEAST

Larry Cremeens (ODJFS) LIAISON 330-491-2638
Tim Watson (MH) 740-680-2490
Cheryl Brown (BWC) 330-797-0476

NORTHWEST

Donna Westrick (Industrial Commission) LIAISON 419-245-2790
Kathy Newton (ODJFS) 419-783-3484

SOUTHWEST

Gretchen Genung (ODJFS) LIAISON 513-731-9800
Judy Graham (MH) 937-258-0440
Carol Bird (ODJFS) 513-551-1903
Michelle Hunter (MR) 937-233-8108

SOUTHEAST

Stephen Carson (ODJFS) LIAISON 740-568-9065
Cindy Bobbitt (ODJFS) 866-882-9500
Beth Sheets (MR) 740-645-3246

(Revised 4/10/08)