

PRESS RELEASE

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American Institute for Full Employment Announces its 2019 Full Employment Award Winner

Ohio Initiatives Improve Unemployment Claimant Reemployment

The American Institute for Full Employment (AIFE) has given its 2019 Full Employment Award to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for its development of a series of reemployment-focused initiatives for unemployment insurance (UI) claimants. The award is given after the end of each year to a state or individual demonstrating a commitment to excellence in helping job seekers become reemployed.

Nationally, UI claimant reemployment continues to be a challenge. Despite an era of record-low unemployment, nearly 2 million UI claimants annually continue to exhaust all of their unemployment benefits without finding a job – many after six months.

To attack this problem and others, Ohio implemented five important reemployment initiatives over the past seven years. Those include:

- 1) Modernizing and expanding the state's UI work search policies
- 2) Becoming the first state to leverage a new innovative partnership with LinkedIn that taps its valuable and verifiable work search activities
- 3) Enhancing and further integrating its online job search systems
- 4) Significantly improving completion rates in its Reemployment Eligibility Services and Assessments program (RESEA) to over 76% and
- 5) Strengthening its communications with claimants

Commenting on the state's success, AIFE President, John Courtney said, "Ohio has systematically implemented reemployment best practices that are driving great results. Though Ohio's total unemployment rate at the end of September 2019 was the 11th highest in the nation, its unemployment claimant exhaustion rate was the 11th lowest at 24.3%."

Courtney added: "It's encouraging to see leading states like Ohio continue to stay ahead of the challenges all states will face in the next recession by implementing more scalable and effective approaches to reemploy UI claimants well before they exhaust their benefits."

To learn more about Ohio's award-winning initiatives as well as prior year award recipients, visit the American Institute for Full Employment's [website](#).

About the American Institute for Full Employment

The American Institute for Full Employment is a nonprofit consulting and research group, founded in 1994 to promote best practices in solving unemployment in America. Its mission is Full Employment in America. The Institute's team consists of former state agency executives. Its team has designed best practices in workforce, unemployment and welfare programs for decades, working on policy design and implementation in more than 25 states.