

Employment First & Advocacy Newsletter



Questions about employment or advocacy? Contact Tammy Smith, Employment & Advocacy Coordinator

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MARCH IS DD AWARENESS MONTH

As part of DD-Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month we wanted you to be aware of supports and programs in the area to help on the path to employment.

Did you know?

Apollo offers Project SEARCH- *“Project SEARCH is a high school transition program for high school students who are on an IEP (Individualized Education Plan). This program will prepare students for work and assist with developing soft skills for the workforce.”* Applications for the 2026-27 program year are due by March 13, 2026. More details can be found at <https://apollocareercenterhs.com/project-search/>

Not sure what type of work you want to do? OOD-Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities can help ages 14 and up prepare for and obtain jobs. Summer Youth is one of the services offered that allow youth to complete paid work experiences with staff present for support. More information can be found on OOD’s website <https://ood.ohio.gov/> .

The ACBDD-Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities Employment and Advocacy Coordinator is also available for help exploring other options.

Ways ACBDD promotes advocacy in March:

- Advocates and ACBDD staff attend DD Day at the Statehouse in Columbus
- Individuals and ACBDD staff read books to local schools to spread awareness
- ACBDD Employment & Advocacy Coordinator leads a 1-day Advocacy & Me training to help Project SEARCH interns learn about advocacy
- OSU Lima partners with ACBDD to have a fun activity for individuals to gather and celebrate
- Lima Senior DECA also has a fun event in March to celebrate
- ACBDD staff speak at local service groups and to OSU Social Work classes to explain services and advocacy efforts
- Allen County People First has a fundraiser to raise funds for local advocates to attend Synergy conference in the fall. There they learn leadership skills with others from all over Ohio.
- The Allen County People First Just Do It Crew will also announce their new officers this month. These officers serve a 2-year term of leading the local chapter.
- All throughout the year, ACBDD spreads awareness and promotes advocacy efforts. Check out the Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities Facebook page or the website <https://www.acbdd.org/> for more info and events!