



AJC-Largo Newsletter

SECOND EDITION

AUGUST, 2019

2019 Workforce Legislation in Maryland

WELCOME

In an effort to increase information-sharing and integration of services throughout AJC-Largo and the local workforce development community, this quarterly newsletter is intended to inform and support the common mission and interests of AJC-Largo and community Partner Staff to provide job preparedness & readiness services and viable career opportunities for the local areas' job seeking residents and employers.

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As a state of Maryland public workforce development professional, it is important to stay abreast of the state's legislative activities, particularly those related to workforce development initiatives. These initiatives directly (and indirectly) impact the employment-related needs and desires of Maryland's jobseekers. They also impact the role and responsibilities of public workforce development professionals.

This year, Maryland's legislative body, which consists of the state's elected officials (i.e. 47 district representatives, 47 Senators, and 141 House of Representative delegates), also collectively known as the "General Assembly", have enacted several key workforce development bills that public workforce development practitioners, should be aware of.

This article provides an overview of two key legislative workforce development bills passed by the General Assembly.

The Clean Energy Jobs Bill (Senate Bill 516) is slated to take effect October 2019. This bill focuses on strategically implementing "a gradual transition to increase the state of Maryland's utilization of renewable sources of ener-



gy, such as solar and offshore wind power. The bill stipulates a total minimum increase of 25% usage of renewable energy sources by 2020, which includes 2.5% of the energy coming from solar sources. The state of Maryland's Public Service Commission (PSC) approved the building of two offshore wind projects in 2017. These projects, once completed, are estimated to meet the statutory requirement for offshore wind energy production.

Maryland's long-range goal is to increase the use of renewable energy throughout the state by 50% in 2030. So, what's the connection? JOBS!

Increases in the utilization of renewable energy is a "win" for the environment and a "win" for national and local labor markets and economies. This shift has the short-term potential to displace work and workers and the long-term benefits of: creating sustainable environmentally safe energy sources, creating gainful 21st century career opportunities, and enhancing public workforce development initiatives that provide jobseekers with access to effective ca-

reer development and job training resources, services, and programs.

Family Investment Program-Work Activity Requirement Bill (House Bill 1066)



represents a significant aspect of public workforce development professionals' work, particularly those working within American Job Center systems (AJCs). AJCs serve as primary career development resources for social service recipients. Through local workforce development systems and AJCs, social service recipients are afforded greater access and opportunities to help them obtain gainful employment, for themselves and their families.

Specifically, in accordance with the provisions set forth by Maryland's Department of Human Services, this bill changes the previous work requirements of recipients from "a maximum of 12 months by engaging in vocational/ educational activities for a minimum/average of 20 hours per week" to "**allowance of an applicant or recipient to meet the work activity requirement for a maximum of 24 months**" as follows:

- ◆ A minimum of 20 hours per week of vocational education that leads to an associate degree, a diploma, or a certificate; or
- ◆ An average of at least 20 hours per week of education directly related to employment, which may include an adult basic education program, an English as a second language program, or a GED program.

Partner Spotlight

Staff Spotlight: Janice Drakeford, DORS



This edition of the AJC-Largo Newsletter highlights the invaluable commitment and contribution(s) of **Ms. Janice Drakeford**. Janice has served as a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist with the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) for approximately five years and has served as a key member of the AJC-Largo professional community. Janice says what she enjoys most about her work is “assisting individuals [to] return back to work, and most importantly, being part of their journey to self-sufficiency”. “As a DORS employee and partner of AJC, I see firsthand the services [being] offered...I see Consumers who have just been released from incarceration...seeking vocational services for someone [who] has been incarcerated can be like [being in] a maze...however, because of [AJC’s] partnerships, I have been able to call [the center] and talk to the Re-entry Coordinator (Pete Goodson) to receive feedback and services promptly, which has been so helpful. Additionally, my Regional Director (Mrs. Lash) has been great at collaborating, building, and maintaining relationships with AJC and other agencies such as the Bridge center”. [These] “partnerships are great at providing wrap around services to our Consumers/ Customers, [such as] the Department of Social Services offering assistance with a Health Navigator, food stamps, [and/or] temporary cash to families with dependent children, and childcare information which are all an important part of being job ready.” Janice’s final words of wisdom to the AJC community are, “**Treat others as you would like to be treated**”. On a fun note, Janice “enjoys spending [time] with family and friends...hosting game nights... swimming and play[ing] tennis”. When possible, [she] competes in 5k marathons and [her] favorite 5k marathon is the annual turkey trot, which [she] participate[s] in every Thanksgiving Day. Lastly, Janice’s personal challenge for 2019 is “to surprise myself by doing something I never thought I could do, stay tuned!”

DORS’ mission is to provide leadership and support in promoting the employment, economic self-sufficiency and independence of individuals with disabilities.

DORS’ vision is that Maryland is the best place in our nation for persons with disabilities to live, work and raise a family. Individuals with disabilities are welcome, fully included and actively participate in all Maryland communities.

AJC-Largo Core Partner Spotlight



The Maryland State Department of Education’s, **Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)** operates under a dual consumer model, serving Marylanders with disabilities, who want to become or stay employed, and assisting Maryland businesses with recruiting and retaining qualified, valuable employees.

DORS administers two employment readiness programs for individuals with disabilities: the general **vocational rehabilitation (VR) program**, and **Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)**.

DORS Business Relations Team serves as a business resource on disability and employment matters by providing: disability awareness training, workforce diversity and inclusion initiatives, training on the Americans with Disabilities Act, and assistance in finding reasonable worksite accommodations. DORS’ VR services help people with physical, emotional, intellectual, developmental, sensory, and learning disabilities by providing services such as career assessment and counseling, assistive technology, work-readiness training, job training, higher education, job coaching, and job placement. DORS staff have specialized training to work with people with a variety of disabilities, including: blindness and vision loss, orthopedic, deafness and hearing loss, deaf-blindness, autism, acquired brain injury, intellectual, serious mental illness, health, and other disabilities. DORS VR staff focus on helping consumers obtain competitive integrated employment (CIE). **DORS’ Pre-ETS** are specifically for students who have a documented disability. Students who qualify for Pre-ETS would work with staff that specialize in working with students ages 14 –21. Pre-ETS are limited services to prepare students for future employment, training, or college options.



AJC-Largo Core WIOA Partners

AJC-Largo consists of eight state-mandated Partners that contribute services, programs, and resources to support Prince George’s County jobseekers and employers to address and achieve their employment-related needs and goals. You are highly encouraged to familiarize yourself with each WIOA core partners’ offerings to efficiently and effectively support and assist AJC-Largo Customers. For more information about each core partners’ services, programs, and resources contact the AJC-Largo Operator (contact info on p. 4).

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | Maryland Department of Labor | | Prince George’s Community College |
| | Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services | | Employ Prince George’s |
| | Local Department of Social Services | | United Communities Against Poverty |
| | Job Corps | | Senior Community Service Employment Program |

AJC-Largo Core Job-Seeker Services

AJC-Largo’s Self-Directed Services Offered to Job Seekers:

In addition to Core Partner programs, AJC-Largo offers **FREE** job-readiness resources and self-directed services to job seekers who have satisfied all intake/MWE requirements.

Customers must register for workshops at:
<https://mwejobs.maryland.gov>
 ⇒Click Appointment Center
 ⇒Click Events Calendar
 ⇒Select the date (s) you wish to attend.

Or call AJC-Largo for more information at:

301-618-8425

Regular Workshops

- AJC -Largo Orientation/ How to get the most of MWE
- Resume Clinic
- Interviewing Skills
- Mapping a Quality Job Search
- Basic Microsoft Word & Excel (Weeks alternate)
- 55+ Workshop
- DORS Information Workshop (Bi-weekly)
- UCAP Information Workshop (3rd Thursdays)
- Wednesday Wellness Workshop

Self-Directed Services

- Intake & Resource Rooms (Computers, printers, and basic equipment/resources for jobseekers' use)
- Special Events & Activities (Hiring events, guest speakers, and more)
- Business Services Core Partner Business Services Staff (based on availability & eligibility)
- Federal Hiring Process Workshop (dates/times vary)
- La Busqueda de Empleo (dates/times vary)

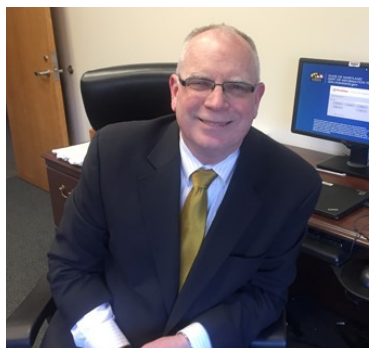
Did you know AJC-Largo has over 50 community partners, AND GROWING??? Community partners share a common mission: to provide jobseekers a wide-array of employment-related services, resources, and programs throughout the local area. For more information about community partners, their contact information, and service offerings, please contact the AJC-Largo Operator (contact info on p. 4).



PGCMLS offers a host of online employment-related services and resources for jobseekers. PGCMLS online services can be accessed at: <https://www.pgcmls.info>
 Note: You must have a PGCMLS library card to access the job services & resources on the PGCMLS employment webpage.

Message from Mr. Scott Dennis

Director, Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)



Disability is a significant barrier to employment, so DORS is pleased to be working with its workforce partners to develop and implement strategies and training, throughout the workforce system, that focuses on providing a clear understanding of disability, its impact on employment, and how to provide workforce development services to individuals who have a disability so they may obtain Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE).

DORS values its workforce development partners in Prince Georges County and has two full-service locations to serve the community at: 4451-Z Parliament Place in Lanham, MD and 5001 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD (Bridge Center/Adam's House).

Scott Dennis, DORS Director

Feature Events & Activities

MULTICULTURAL AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Presented by:



Transforming lives.
**PRINCE GEORGES
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



Second Friday
All-Staff Training and Development Meeting

Date:
September 13, 2019

Time:
2:00 pm—4:30 pm

Location:
1801 McCormick Drive,
Room 140,
Largo, MD 20774

For more information send email to:
pgcoperator@eckerd.org






Workshop Objective:

To assist participants in understanding some of the cultural biases they may encounter in working with clients from different countries and cultural backgrounds.

Wellness Workshops are Back!!!

Presented by:



When: **Every Wednesday**

Time: **11:00 am—1:00 pm**

Where: **1801 McCormick Dr., Largo, MD 20774**
(except holidays/dates/times subject to change)

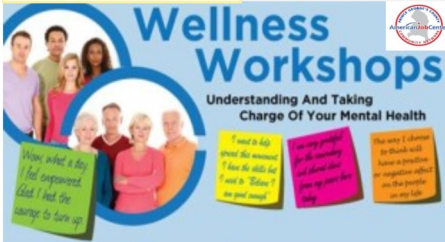
American Job Center
LARGO

Register to Attend!

Online registration instructions
Go to <https://imwajls.maryland.gov>

- ✓ Click Appointment Center
- ✓ Click Events Calendar
- ✓ Select the date(s) you wish to attend
- ✓ Click Register

Questions? Contact the Prince George's American Job Career Center at (301) 658-8425



Are you feeling emotionally drained, disempowered, and overwhelmed??

This is the workshop for you!!!

Being unemployed and/or underemployed can be a challenging, frustrating, and stressful time in anyone's life. Career search and preparation activities can feel like a demanding, full-time job. And, balancing all the other important areas of your life can be tiring, stressful, and overwhelming.

Take time to care for your mental health and wellbeing

JOIN US!!! Every Wednesday at 11am

Tips for Maintaining Positive Mental Health & Well-being

- Don't isolate yourself
- Follow a regular routine
- Set parameters around job searching
- Make time for physical fitness
- Volunteer

Learn more at: <https://www.mentalhealthscreening.org/blog/how-to-take-care-of-your-mental-health-when-youre-unemployed>

Main Location
1801 McCormick Dr.
Suite 120
Largo, MD 20774

Main Phone Number
301-618-8425

Normal Business Hours
Mon.—Thurs:
8am—4:30pm
Fri: 8am—2pm
Excluding Holidays & Breaks

AJC-Largo Operator



Phone: 301-618-8452
Email: pgcoperator@eckerd.com

Visit us on the web at www.pgcajc.com