

CAO Information Station

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

Workforce and Community Development Newsletter



Newsletter Highlights

CAO Job Fair 2024

CAO, Chamber partner with SSU for student leadership council, program starts soon.

CAO encourages continued smoking cessation resolutions



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ANNUAL CAO JOB FAIR 2024 TO TAKE PLACE MARCH 13 AT CAO SCIOTO COUNTY WELCOME CENTER

The Community Action Organization of Scioto County (CAO) is preparing for its Annual Job Fair this March 13.

The Job Fair is organized by the Workforce Solutions and Community Development Department, which has just under 30 employees carrying out a plethora of responsibilities, from business development and training opportunities to community development programs that benefit housing, parks, family skills, health treatment opportunities, nutrition, smoking cessation and more. The diverse department has massive implications for positivity in the community and the job fair is only one event they host a year that accomplishes their mission of serving others.

“Our department hosts a variety of events throughout the year, some for expecting families, others for nutrition and wellness; this event focuses on employment opportunities, which is a massive part of what we do, despite having so many other operating programs,” Business and Community Development Manager Joseph Pratt said. “We believe in the motto, “helping people, changing lives,” and our Director Luanne Valentine always says that the work our department accomplishes falls in the changing lives category.”

The event is being managed by Pratt and Business Resource Services Account Representative Lance Richardson. Richardson has organized many employment events and is looking forward to the upcoming fair.

“Job fairs are critically important to businesses and job seekers in our region, and employers can utilize these job fair events as a leverage resource to find qualified workers,” Richardson said. “In today’s post-pandemic world, the labor market is in demand for workers, and job fair events can help bridge the gap between employers and job seekers where résumés and business cards can be exchanged, and gainful employment can be obtained.”

Job seekers are welcome to attend to see what local employers have to offer. Interested businesses and partners wanting to engage in the fair may email Richardson at lrichardson@caosciotocounty.org

The CAO Annual Job Fair will be held March 13, between 10 a.m. and noon, at the Community Action Scioto County Welcome Center at 342 Second Street. To learn more about CAO of Scioto County, visit www.caosciotocounty.org.

STUDENT CHAMBER PILOT PROJECT TO LAUNCH SOON WITH SSU AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Community Action Organization of Scioto County and The Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce have been working closely with Shawnee State University in recent months to prepare a curriculum for a new leadership development class geared towards youth that will start next semester. The class is called the Portsmouth Area Student Chamber and Leadership Council and is the first of its kind. Students who are in grades 11 and 12 may apply to enter a year of teamwork building that is built upon the foundation of one semester at Shawnee State University. They will meet a little over monthly in the evenings, where they will meet elected officials, hear from professionals in workforce development, learn from small business owners and those in the medical field, learn about the important role of non-profits and tourism, and more. "The class is designed to build the foundations of future community leaders by introducing them to the people behind the action today," Community Action Organization of Scioto County Business and Community Development Manager Joseph Pratt said. "They will learn beside their peers and build a network that will carry the Portsmouth Area into the next generation. It is an exciting concept that Lisa Carver and I have been working on with Shawnee State and we are excited to see what opportunities are created as we host the class each year and adapt it into something even greater." Students who participate will get college credit, be eligible for two \$1,000 scholarship opportunities, and leave with greater knowledge and leadership skills. "This program, we believe, will truly shape future leaders, business owners, and movers and shakers," Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lisa Carver said. "We have been accomplishing this task for years with Leadership Portsmouth, but we are very excited about meeting with this team of younger people to prime them for success at an even earlier age." Once the class is finished, the group will continue to meet throughout the year to plan volunteerism, community events, further their networking opportunities and grow as a team. There is no charge for the program and interested students may apply for the program at caosciotocounty.org/youth-workforce. Classes will begin in March and run every other week, until the end of April, in which there will be back-to-back weeks. The group will then meet regularly on a monthly basis.

CAO ENCOURAGES CONTINUED SMOKING CESSATION RESOLUTIONS

Since 2021, CAO of Scioto County has been leading the Scioto County Smoking Cessation Coalition, which tackles dependence on nicotine whether it be smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco, electronic delivery systems (ENDS), or other forms of nicotine use.

The group is in the middle of a five-year plan, achieves seven plus activities a quarter, manages a marketing campaign, is undertaking a major youth initiative, and more.

Two major partners in their work includes the Ohio Department of Health and the 1-800-Quit-Now line, which provides people with the tools necessary to cut their reliance.

The Quit Line offers counseling services, cessation tips, nicotine replacement products, and more.

As people continue a new year with new visions of how they want to live, relationships with tobacco are a common topic considered. Your goal of becoming independent of nicotine is much more achievable with the support that comes from the professional at the Quit Line. Give them a call today or visit their online registration form at ohio.quitlogix.org. You can also email or call Joseph Pratt at jpratt@caosciotocounty.org and 740.464.4501.

The CAO of Scioto County Workforce Solutions and Community Development department is a robust team of under 30 employees running a plethora of programs, including business services, employment opportunities and training, family skills, housing, health services, healthy living skills, maternity benefits, and more. If you're interested in learning more, or have questions about services you may benefit or grow, please email jpratt@caosciotocounty.org