

Family services to host job fairs for teens, adults

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LANCASTER - Adults and teens will get the opportunity for some one-on-one contact with employers who could give them an edge in getting a job.

At least that's what Fairfield County Job & Family Services officials hope happens when people attend the Job Fair and Teen Opportunity Expo on Friday and Saturday.

"A lot of job seekers struggle with getting that face-to-face contact with employers, and that's really vital," said Nida Reid-Williamson, supervisor for workforce development at Job & Family Services. "This is an excellent opportunity for them to go around and introduce themselves. Not only will an employer see your skills on paper, but seeing your personality and putting a face with a name makes it very personal." The job fair and expo are free and will be hosted at the Crossroads Ministry Center gymnasium. Usually the events are at the Ohio University Lancaster Campus, but they had to be switched because of a scheduling conflict, Reid-Williamson said.

About 60 employers will be set up at the job fair, including Anchor Hocking, Fairfield Medical Center, Global Contact Services, United McGill and The Westerman Companies.

Reid-Williamson said a lot of people take for granted they already know what local companies have to offer.

"This is a good opportunity for them to really get to know the employer and see that there is a position that is available for them - something they might not have thought of before," she said.

The job fair usually averages between 200 to 500 attendees at the event, which takes place twice a year. Reid-Williamson said it's difficult for the agency to track how many attendees get jobs as a result of attending the event.

Job fair attendees should take copies of their resumes and dress professionally.

Teen expo attendees might not necessarily interview with companies on site, but they still should dress for success, said Missy Fields, youth career advisor at JFS.

"They may be encountering employers and schools, and it's still a good location to make a good first impression on those who will be there," Fields said.

Teens will get the opportunity to look at expanding their careers beyond high school whether it's attending college, entering job training programs or going into the military.

Fields said FMC will show off its technology during the expo and teens will learn of opportunities where they possibly could get college credits while still in high school.

"It's a one-stop shop," Fields said. "There will be prizes and free food so there's something for everybody."

Fields said many teens are intimidated about job hunting because they're afraid of hearing 'no' from prospective employers.

"It's just really important to keep a positive attitude even when you run up against those thoughts and feelings," she said. "Just come with an open mind because it is a lot of information about a lot of different opportunities."

