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Local employers invited to June 24 workshop

Employers from around the region are invited to an Employer Awareness Workshop that will be held on Thursday, June 24 from 1-3 p.m., and focus on the subject of hiring ex-offenders.

Athens County Job and Family Services and the Ohio Poverty Law Center (OPLC) will host the workshop, "Rebuilding Lives: Giving Second Chances Through Employment," at The Work Station, located at 70 North Plains Road in The Plains. This will be the first in a series of workshops for employers and human resources professionals, and it will be led by a panel of reentry and employment experts.

More than 29,000 ex-offenders are released from Ohio's prisons each year, and a significant percentage return to southeastern Ohio. Many ex-offenders struggle for years to obtain employment, and without jobs they are unable to fully reintegrate and become productive members of society.

The Employer Awareness Workshop will provide information on the tangible and intangible benefits to local companies and organizations from hiring ex-offenders and will also address questions and concerns about hiring and employing this population.

The OPLC is co-hosting the workshop series as part of its prisoner reentry Equal Justice Works Fellowship. The OPLC is the statewide support center for legal services programs and is dedicated to using the law to fight poverty in Ohio. By co-hosting the Employer Awareness Workshop series, the OPLC hopes to promote positive policy changes in the area of ex-offender employment. "Rebuilding Lives: Giving Second Chances Through Employment" is a free workshop, but registration is required. For more information or to register, send an e-mail to OPLC representative Melissa Lindsay at mlindsay@ohiopoverlylaw.org or call Nancy Stotts at The Work Station at 797-1405.

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