

Why Employers Are Vital to Missouri's Public Workforce System

September is Workforce Development Month in Missouri, a time to recognize the connection between employer and jobseeker in the state's workforce system. Missouri continues to expand access to training, education, and workforce services so people across the state can pursue meaningful, rewarding careers while providing employers a strong, adaptable talent pipeline to support business operations.

Employers are not just participants in the workforce system—they are essential partners whose involvement directly shapes its effectiveness. Employer engagement ensures that programs and resources truly meet the needs of Missouri's economy.

- **Employers define the workforce skills required for success.** Workforce initiatives succeed when they are aligned with real industry needs. Employers' ongoing feedback guides the development of training programs, apprenticeships, and youth pathways, ensuring Missourians are trained in skills that matter most.
- **Employers provide job opportunities that make workforce investments meaningful.** Job Centers and training providers prepare individuals for employment, but it is employers who turn that preparation into career opportunities, creating the bridge between talent development and economic growth.
- **Public workforce tools are built around employer participation.** Platforms like HireMO are designed to support employers in finding qualified candidates quickly and effectively. When employers actively engage with these tools, the entire workforce system becomes more responsive and more connected.
- **Work-based learning thrives because employers open their doors.** From apprenticeships to youth career programs, hands-on learning depends on employers who are willing to invest time, mentorship, and workplace experience. Employer involvement ensures individuals learn skills directly applicable to today's jobs.

Employers' collaboration, leadership, and investment make Missouri's public workforce system stronger. The partnership helps job seekers build meaningful careers, supports community vitality, and fuels statewide economic growth.