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Industry Sector Partnerships Awarded Funds to Enhance Ohio's Manufacturing Workforce

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Ohio Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, in his capacity as Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, has announced \$2.5 million in awards under the state's Industry Sector Partnership (ISP) grant program. Recipients include eight of The Ohio Manufacturers' Association's (OMA) endorsed sector partnerships, all of which are transforming how manufacturers attract and develop workers.

Among the partnerships receiving funds are the following:

- Advanced Manufacturing Industry Partnership;
- Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition;
- Central Ohio Manufacturing Partnership (COMP);
- ConxusNEO Industry Sector Partnerships;
- Lorain County Manufacturing Sector Partnership;
- Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition;
- Raise the Bar Hancock County; and
- Workforce Connect Manufacturing Sector Partnership.

Industry sector partnerships are widely recognized as a proven strategy for meeting the employment and skill needs of workers and employers. A growing number of Ohio manufacturers are engaged in their local, industry-led regional sector partnerships to address workforce challenges, not the least of which is a widening skills gap resulting in a shortage of qualified candidates.

"The pandemic has exacerbated Ohio's manufacturing workforce shortage," said Eric Burkland, the OMA's president emeritus and leader of the OMA Educational and Industrial Development Institute. "We appreciate the DeWine-Husted administration's leadership in expanding the use of industry sector partnerships to ensure that Ohio remains a national leader in manufacturing."

The OMA helped spearhead the development of the ISP grant program in 2019 and worked to ensure its funding through the state operating budget (House Bill 166).

A directory of the OMA's endorsed sector partnerships is [available here](#).

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The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is Ohio's largest statewide business association comprised solely of manufacturers. Established in 1910, the OMA's mission is protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. It represents manufacturers of all sizes in every subsector of the industry. Manufacturing is Ohio's largest economic sector, employing 700,000 Ohioans and contributing more than \$110 billion annually to the state's economy. Visit ohiomfg.com – or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).