



JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

BusinessFirst! 2025 Goal update

2025 was a great year for the program! There was a 39% increase in the number of visits over last year for a total of 162. 38% of those visits were with Manufacturing companies. Harrison Township, Oakwood, Yellow Springs and Centerville held very successful business walks that connected with 235 companies. This was the first business walk for both Yellow Springs and Oakwood, who are new to the program this year.

We started the year off right with a great in person event with ExecutivePulse to talk about how AI is being used in our industry. The event was well attended and really highlighted how this emerging technology can be an asset for business retention and attraction. BF! also had two Resource Partner highlights with the GoCyber Collective and Women's Business Center.

Congratulations to everyone for the great work that you did working with our businesses to keep them successful and growing throughout the region. You are making an impact!



The Revamped BF! Website is Live!

The site has been refreshed to highlight the great things that are happening in our region and includes an updated Resource Partner Directory to help you connect your businesses with resources. Visit www.businessfirstdaytonregion.com today!



I-70/75
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Cornerstone Project: Infrastructure & Growth at the I- 675/Wilmington Pike Interchange

January 16, 2026, 7:30 am - 9:00 am
Sinclair College, Building 12

Discover the next phase in the Cornerstone Project in Centerville, OH — a 72-acre mixed-use development designed to complement Cornerstone North and drive regional growth. Presented by Dan Hoying of LJB Inc. and Wayne Davis, City Manager of Centerville, this session will walk us through the project's evolution, plans for Cornerstone South, and the critical infrastructure upgrades needed to improve one of Ohio's busiest interchanges. They'll share how collaboration among communities, innovative funding strategies like TIF, and strategic engineering will shape a safer, more connected, and economically vibrant corridor.

EVENT REGISTRATION



**Department of
Development**

Minority Business Assistance Center

MBAC Series: Benefits of State Certification

January 27, 2026, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Learn the benefits of becoming a MBE, WBE, VFBE or EDGE certified company, and how to apply!

If you are a minority-owned, woman-owned or veteran-friendly business, certification will



**Opportunities for
Ohioans with
Disabilities**

All About Disability Etiquette

January 22, 2026, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Join us as we host a webinar titled, "All About Disability Etiquette." In this webinar we will enhance your understanding of disability awareness and etiquette, provide practical communication strategies, and offer actionable tips for creating accessible, welcoming environments for all.

This webinar will address:

- The importance of disability etiquette in professional settings;
- Effective communication and interaction strategies when engaging with individuals with disabilities; and
- Ways to promote accessibility and disability inclusion in everyday workplace and customer service scenarios.

Presenters

Brianna Seth, OTR/L, ADAC, Accessible Ohio Specialist, Northeast Ohio
Tanya K. Vela, OTR/L, ADAC, Accessible Ohio Specialist, Southeast Ohio

EVENT REGISTRATION



Leadership Dayton - Class of 2027 Information Session

January 27, 2026; 7:30 am - 9:00 am
NCR Country Club

Are you interested in learning more about the Dayton Region's premier community

help unlock doors for your business. Obtaining a certification will grant exclusive benefits and access to government contracts.

Join the Dayton Minority Business Assistance Center (MBAC) on this virtual workshop as we explain the types of certifications offered by the State of Ohio, the benefits of each and guiding you through the application process

[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)



Solving the Workforce Puzzle: Using Automation to Connect Talent, Training, and Employers

January 28, 2026, 12:00 pm

As workforce recruitment and training concerns continue to emerge from BR&E visits, communities are seeking better ways to align partners, reduce duplication, and make their workforce ecosystem easier for employers and job seekers to navigate.

To address this need, Golden Shovel Agency is introducing EcoMap to our economic development community as an automation tool designed to meet this moment. EcoMap's AI-powered platform centralizes workforce resources, education and training providers, and employer connections in one place, turning fragmented information into a coordinated ecosystem. The result is a more responsive, scalable approach to supporting local businesses and strengthening workforce outcomes across the community.

Join us for a webinar with EcoMap co-founder and CEO Sherrod Davis to learn:

leadership development program? Find out why more than 1,700 business and community leaders have completed the Leadership Dayton program since its inception in 1976.

Leadership Dayton is a premier community leadership development program designed to identify, educate and motivate a network of community leaders and increase their capacity to serve the Dayton region. Participants are immersed in the many facets of our community through seminars, small work groups, panel discussions, experiential activities and direct interaction with community leaders.

Applications for the program will open the week of the info session and will remain open through **Friday, March 27, 2026**.

[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)



OOD - 2026 Webinars!

Governor Mike DeWine and OOD Director Kevin L. Miller announced OOD's new webinar series for 2026, which aims to foster both community and workplace inclusion for Ohioans with disabilities.

"At OOD, our mission is to open doors—to employment, to independence, and to community," said Director Miller. "This series is designed to help employers and community leaders take meaningful steps toward disability inclusion, so that Ohioans with disabilities can fully participate and succeed."

Webinar Schedule

- **[January 22: All About Disability Etiquette](#)**
- February 18: All About Funding for Accessibility and Accommodations
- March 18: Understanding Disability: Chronic Conditions
- April 22: Understanding Disability: Temporary Conditions
- May 21: Practical Steps for Document Accessibility

- The Automation Edge: How to use AI to centralize dispersed workforce assets into one navigable map.
- Sustaining Federal Dollars: How mapping your ecosystem positions your community to win (and sustain) federal workforce grants.
- Data-Driven BR&E: How to give employers the resource clarity they demand during retention visits.

EVENT INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

- June 17: ADA Series: Dispelling Common Misconceptions
- July 15: ADA Series: Moving Beyond the Minimum Guidance
- September 16: Title I of the ADA and Other Employment Laws
- October 21: Title I of the ADA and Your Role as a Supervisor
- November 19: Accessible Meetings and Events

All webinars begin at 10 a.m. and will be conducted via Microsoft Teams. Each webinar will be recorded and archived for future viewing. More information and registration links for all upcoming webinars can be found at **EMPLOYER EVENTS**. Participants in these live webinars can earn professional development credits.



DDC Annual Meeting + Economic Review

February 4, 2026, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Dayton Convention Center

Join us on February 4, 2026, for a look back on 2025. Learn more about the DDC's 2025 results and the economic landscape for 2026.

Registration/Doors Open: 10:30 a.m.
 (Networking Encouraged)

Served Lunch and Program: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION.



Expanding the Talent Pipeline | Employing New Americans Roundtable: February 2026

February 18, 2026, 8:30 am - 10:30 am
Mont County Business Solutions Center

As employers continue to face workforce shortages, expanding where and how talent is sourced is a critical business strategy. This roundtable brings employers together to explore practical approaches to hiring and integrating New Americans into the workforce.

Participants will hear from peers and experts on effective recruitment strategies, onboarding and retention best practices, and how to navigate available resources and supports. The discussion will focus on real-world employer experiences, shared challenges, and opportunities to strengthen talent pipelines while supporting long-term business growth.

This interactive session is designed for employers seeking innovative, scalable workforce solutions and a competitive edge in today's labor market.

The New American Employer Roundtables are brought to you in partnership by the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Welcome Dayton, Catholic Social Services of Miami Valley, and Brunner Literacy Center.

[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)



I-70/75
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Dayton Development Coalition Economic Update

February 20, 2026, 7:30 am - 9:00 am
Sinclair College, Building 12

The Dayton Development Coalition has been instrumental in helping businesses grow and thrive in the Dayton Region. But what is going on in the region lately? Join us this February as Jeff Hoagland reviews our region's performance in 2025 and shares the DDC's vision and goals for 2026.

Member-only registration is now open. Tickets are limited, with a current maximum of two attendees per company. Registration for non-members and additional company representatives will open at a later date.

Our events have grown in popularity. To help us plan accurately and ensure everyone has a chance to attend, please notify us if your plans change after registering. For events with high demand, this is especially important so we can open your spot to others who may be waiting.

[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)



DRMA Leadership & Development Workshops



Montgomery County Local Foods Conference

February 24, 2026, 8:00 am - 2:30 pm
Calumet Center, Dayton

Please join us for the Inaugural Local Foods Conference as we work together to increase the number of farmers who are providing local food to restaurants and other suppliers.

Keynote address from farmer and organizer Walt Bonham (Richland Gro-Op) and multiple deep dive opportunities for beginning farmers, seasoned growers, and institutional buyers. This is a networking opportunity you won't want to miss!

Free to attend, locally sourced breakfast and lunch included!

[EVENT PAGE](#)

[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)



Technology First: Connect, Strengthen, Champion

DRMA Members: Don't miss the opportunity to develop your leaders in 2026! Registration is still open for DRMA's 2026 Leadership & Development Workshops, presented by Brixey & Meyer. These interactive programs are designed to strengthen leadership capability at every level of your organization.

Supervisory Excellence Workshop Series - Ideal for new or experienced supervisors looking to lead with confidence, manage effectively, and build accountability and engagement. \$1,500 for 6 sessions. *Start date moved back to February 19th!* For more information and to download the registration form, [click here](#).

Emerging Leaders Circle - A high-impact development experience for rising professionals preparing for future leadership roles. \$3,200 for 10 sessions plus a talent summit. Starts February 17. For more information and to download the registration form, [click here](#).

HR Leadership Circle - Designed for HR professionals seeking to elevate their strategic influence and leadership impact. \$3,200 for 10 sessions plus a talent summit. Starts February 12. For more information and to download the registration form, [click here](#).

All programs are led by **Steve Black**, certified HR professional and leadership coach with over 15 years of experience helping organizations build strong teams and cultures.

If developing your people is a priority in 2026, these programs offer a meaningful and practical investment.

For over 25 years, Technology First has been the go-to trade association for technology professionals in the Dayton, Ohio region. We are more than just an organization — we are a vibrant community that connects innovators and thought leaders in the tech industry. Our mission is to foster collaboration, skill development, and networking, empowering both individual professionals and the broader tech ecosystem to thrive and evolve. Discover how you can be part of shaping the future of technology in Dayton and beyond.

[JOB BOARD](#)

[TECHNOLOGY FIRST EVENTS](#)



Created in 2001, the nationally recognized BusinessFirst! program uses a customer oriented approach to economic development that connects businesses to resources in the Dayton Region. We are the single-point of contact for all of your business needs. BusinessFirst! has provided assistance to over 7,800 businesses in the Greater Dayton Region - we are here to assist your company, too.

Phone: (937) 225-4642

featured in our newsletter, please let us know.

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