DYS Initiative: Expansion of vocational preparation program

- A promising aftercare program has expanded to two more counties, Summit and Medina. Cuyahoga, Stark, Franklin, and Hamilton have already spent nearly 2 years participating in an employment and education focused program that is funded through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

Program Success: Nearly 500 youth have already been served through this program to date. Overall, 42% of youth involved have obtained employment and 39% have become enrolled in post-secondary education or training.

Strategy of the program:
Local providers begin working with older youth from their counties in the institution to teach life and employment skills and to offer job coaching through a mentoring relationship.

The coaching relationship continues after the youth is released onto parole with job placement services and continued support.

Program expectations:
- To help ensure successful reentry of DYS youth by providing occupational services
- To increase the employment and retention rates of the youth released from DYS
- To connect youth with post-secondary education and other training opportunities