

(CANTON, Ohio)— Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted joined with Amazon, the largest Internet-based retailer in the United States, to announce Amazon's plans to build a new one-million-square-foot fulfillment center in Canton.

The center will open in 2022 at 3550 Columbus Road NE in Canton and will create 1,000 new jobs, paying an average starting wage of \$18 per hour and providing comprehensive health benefits, paid time off, up to 20 weeks fully paid parental leave, and more for employees and their families. Amazon cited a talented workforce, welcoming community, and highly developed customer service logistics among its reasons for choosing Canton.

"Amazon has been a strong partner in Ohio, investing billions in cloud data centers, advanced distribution facilities, air service infrastructure, and more while creating over 41,000 jobs that provide healthcare and tuition assistance," said Governor DeWine. "We look forward to working with Amazon as it continues to demonstrate its confidence in Ohio's value proposition, premier location, and outstanding talent."

"Ohio has proven once again that we can compete and win when it comes to attracting major new projects," said Lt. Governor Husted. "Amazon will see that the people of the Canton area

New Amazon Fulfillment Center to Bring 1,000 New Jobs to Stark County

are hard-working, and when you give them an opportunity, they will do a great job."

Amazon has invested just over \$12 billion in Ohio from 2010 until 2020 while creating more than 41,000 jobs in the state. In the Northeast Ohio region, Amazon has created more than 5,000 new jobs and has invested more than \$3 billion since 2010, establishing multi-state fulfillment centers in North Randall, Euclid, and Akron.

"We're excited to be expanding our network to better serve our customers in Northeast Ohio," said Travis Dorion, regional director of operations at Amazon. "We're grateful for the continued support we've received from state and local leaders as we bring 1,000 good jobs to Canton and contribute to the community through sustainability initiatives and philanthropic partnerships."

Local, regional, and state economic development partners - including the City of Canton, Stark Economic Development Board, Stark County Commissioners, Team NEO and JobsOhio - worked collaboratively with Amazon leadership to secure the highly competitive project by illustrating a compelling business case for locating in Canton. Amazon chose to invest in Canton with-

out taking incentives from the organizations.

"Amazon understands the 'Ohio Advantage' and consistently invests in its fulfillment operations here because our unique combination of infrastructure, talent and strategic location, and that means more jobs here in our state," said J.P. Nauseef, JobsOhio president and CEO. "This new advanced facility is more evidence of Ohio's ongoing momentum! Stark County is getting 1,000 new jobs and a company that has consistently invested in education and charitable causes where they have established distribution operations."

"The Board of Stark County Commissioners is elated with the news of Amazon choosing Stark County," said Bill Smith, president of Stark County Commissioners. "We realize there are many great communities in our region that are competing for national companies to choose them. To have an excellent company like Amazon choose Stark County as one of its hubs is nothing short of exciting! We are confident Stark County will provide the resources, talent, and infrastructure needed to make Canton a great place to call home!"

"We are thrilled to welcome Amazon to the City of Canton," said Thomas M. Bernabei, mayor of Canton. "We are excited for the many jobs this project will bring, including long term employment for the company and construction jobs for local companies and unions during the very large construction phase. This is the single largest employer we have brought to the City of Canton in many decades. We look forward to a strong and lasting relationship with Amazon for years to come."

"When a company of Amazon's stature continually chooses to invest in the Northeast Ohio region, it is a testament to the vibrancy in our market and collective might of our assets and resources," said Bill Koehler, CEO of Team NEO. "We are grateful for the partnership and for Amazon's confidence in what Northeast Ohio communities bring to the table."

"We welcome Amazon and the competitive jobs they offer to Canton," said Ray Hexamer, CEO and president of the Stark Economic Development Board. "Not only do workers receive a good wage, employees are offered a comprehensive benefit package starting day one."



U.S. Department of Education Announces Transformational Changes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, Will Put Over 550,000 Public Service Workers Closer to Loan Forgiveness

Today, the U.S. Department of Education announced an overhaul of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program that it will implement over the next year to make the program live up to its promise. This policy will result in 22,000 borrowers who have consolidated loans—including previously ineligible loans—being immediately eligible for \$1.74 billion in forgiveness without the need for further action on their part. Another 27,000 borrowers could potentially qualify for an additional \$2.82 billion in forgiveness if they certify additional periods of employment. All told, the Department estimates that over 550,000 borrowers who have previously consolidated will see an increase in qualifying payments with the average borrower receiving another two years of progress toward forgiveness. Many more will also see progress as borrowers consolidate into the Direct Loan program and apply for PSLF, and as the Department rolls out other changes in the weeks and months ahead.

"Borrowers who devote a decade of their lives to public service should be able to rely on the promise of Public Service Loan Forgiveness. The system has not delivered on that promise to date, but that is about to change for many borrowers who have served their communities and their

country," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "Teachers, nurses, first responders, servicemembers, and so many public service workers have had our back especially amid the challenges of the pandemic. Today, the Biden Administration is showing that we have their backs, too."

The changes announced today include:

A limited PSLF waiver that allows all payments by student borrowers to count toward PSLF, regardless of loan program or payment plan. This waiver will allow student borrowers to count all payments made on loans from the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program or Perkins Loan Program. It will also waive restrictions on the type of repayment plan and the requirement that payments be made in the full amount and on-time for all borrowers. To receive these benefits, borrowers will have to submit a PSLF form by October 31, 2022, which is a single application used to certify employment and evaluate a borrower for forgiveness.

Borrowers who currently have FFEL, Perkins, or other non-Direct Loans, will get the benefit of this limited waiver if they apply to consolidate into the Direct Loan program and submit a PSLF form by October 31, 2022. The waiver applies to loans taken out by students.

Allowing active duty service members to count deferments and forbearances toward PSLF. This solves a problem for service members who have paused payments while on active duty but were not getting credit toward PSLF.

Automatically providing credit toward PSLF for military service members and federal employees using federal data matches. The Department will implement data matches next year to give these borrowers credit toward PSLF without an application.

Reviewing denied PSLF applications for errors and giving borrowers the ability to have their PSLF determinations reconsidered. These actions will help identify and address servicing errors or other issues that have prevented borrowers from getting the PSLF credit they deserve.

On Wednesday afternoon, Secretary Cardona and Under Secretary James Kvaal will meet with a group of public servants who stand to benefit from these changes, including a member of the Army National Guard, a math teacher, and an epidemiologist, among others.

These changes represent a significant step in the Department's efforts to transform the PSLF Program. The Department is exploring additional steps, such as partnerships with employers, to con-

tinue to make this process easier for borrowers. Last week, the Department released materials for the first session of negotiated rulemaking, including proposals to make lasting changes to make it easier for borrowers to make progress toward PSLF.

Federal Student Aid will make more information available to borrowers at StudentAid.gov/PSLFWaiver. In the coming weeks and months, the Department will communicate directly with borrowers about these changes to PSLF to help borrowers understand how they may benefit and any actions they may need to take. Borrowers should ensure that they have accounts on StudentAid.gov and that their contact information there is up to date.

Including the borrowers eligible for immediate forgiveness under these actions, the Biden-Harris Administration has now approved more than \$11.5 billion in loan cancellation for over 580,000 borrowers.



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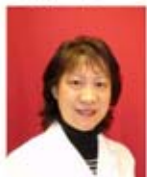
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