



Dec. 12, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Manufacturers' Association Urges Action as MEP Funding Disruptions Hit Ohio Manufacturers

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) today urged state and federal leaders to come together and help resolve an unexpected interruption in U.S. Department of Commerce funding for a key workforce training program serving Ohio's small and mid-sized manufacturers. Without immediate action, the program is expected to completely shutter its multiple Ohio locations by the end of the year.

Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP) provide on-site technical expertise and workforce support that help manufacturers improve productivity, adopt new technologies and strengthen operations.

"MEPs play a critical role for Ohio's small and mid-sized manufacturers, the lifeblood of the state's economy," said Ryan Augsburger, OMA president. "Abrupt funding cuts put jobs, competitiveness and local supply chains at risk. Like Ohio's agricultural extension network, MEPs provide trusted, on-the-ground expertise where it matters most."

Ohio manufacturers depend on MEP services to maintain competitiveness and sustain growth, and funding disruptions risk forcing program closures that would be difficult to reverse.

"We call on Ohio's leaders to fill the gap and keep these programs fully funded," Augsburger said. "Ohio has done this before, investing directly in manufacturing support through the state-funded Edison Centers that helped companies modernize, compete and grow."

The OMA is engaging state and federal officials to push for a timely funding solution to preserve technical extension services and prevent disruptions to manufacturing support across Ohio.

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The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is Ohio's largest statewide business association composed solely of manufacturers. Established in 1910, the OMA's mission is to 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 approximately 690,000 Ohioans and contributing more than \$138 billion annually to the economy. Visit ohiomfg.com, or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

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