



Department of  
Rehabilitation & Correction

# **Ohio Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE)**

## **Annual Report 2020**

# Table of Contents

**The Ohio CQE Background..... Page 3**

**The 2020. Report..... Page 4**

**Status of CQE Petition in DRC Database..... Page 4**

**County Breakdown of Approved/Denied CQEs..... Page 5**

**The Ohio CQE: Areas of Employment for Consideration..... Page 7**

## Ohio CQE Background

Effective September 29, 2012, the Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE) was created under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 2953.25. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) adopted rules Ohio Administrative Code 5120-15-01 in accordance with ORC Section 2953.25, for the implementation and administration of this process, forms were generated for the CQE petition as charged under the statute.

In January 2017, the processing of CQE applications was moved from the Justice Reinvestment Officers (JROs) to the Office of Reentry. Changes to the CQE process were made in the budget bill House Bill 49 which became effective On September 29, 2017. ODRC was tasked with promulgating the rules to allow, under certain circumstances, earlier timeframes to apply for the CQE which are located within the Ohio Administrative Code Section 5120-15-01.

Under OAC 5120-15-01 criteria, the petitioner may apply earlier than one year after release from all sanctions including incarceration or any term of supervision from a felony conviction or six months after release from all sanctions from a misdemeanor conviction including incarceration or a term of supervision if:

- The individual has been released from prison and received a certificate of achievement and employability under section 2961.22 of the Revised Code,
- The individual received ninety days of credit toward satisfaction of the person's stated prison term or a ten percent reduction of the person's term under division (A)(2) of section 2967.193 of the Revised Code, or
- The individual has been released from incarceration in a local facility, upon recommendation of the sheriff or designee,
- If the individual receives early termination of community control, has complied with all special conditions, and has no outstanding fines or restitution.

If the individual does not meet the above criteria, then he/she must meet the original filing timeframe for a felony conviction (after one year) or for a misdemeanor conviction six months after release from all sanctions, (incarceration or supervision).

DRC in conjunction with the Ohio Poverty Law Center conducted four CQE clinics after each Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition meeting in 2018. In addition, a new partnership with the Columbus Legal Aid Society morphed into a statewide initiative. Other partnerships include the University of Akron, which conducts legal clinics monthly for those individuals in Summit and surrounding counties that includes filing CQE applications on-site.

Ohio's Certificate of Qualification for Employment has been evaluated by Dr. Peter Leasure, University of South Carolina and published in the Harvard Law Review titled "*The Effectiveness of Ohio's Certificate of Qualification for Employment*". Data from the evaluation indicated that individuals with an Ohio CQE were just as likely to obtain employment opportunities as those who did not have a criminal record. ([ylpr.yale.edu/inter\\_alia/effectiveness-certificates-relief-collateral-consequence-mechanisms-experimental](http://ylpr.yale.edu/inter_alia/effectiveness-certificates-relief-collateral-consequence-mechanisms-experimental)).

## The 2020 CQE Report

As of December 31, 2020, there were 423 CQE applications processed by ODRC and sent to Common Pleas Court Review. This is a total that can easily be extracted from DRC records. The information on the following pages gives specific details regarding the CQE applications in 2020.

### Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE) Summary Data as of December 31, 2020

Petition Status	Total	Petition Status Key
Petitions in Process	798	Petitioner registered in system; Petition has not been submitted
Information Needed	0	Petition sent back to petitioner for additional information
Petitions Cancelled	2	Petition cancelled by petitioner; duplicate petitions likely cause
Ineligible to Apply at this Time	0	Petition submitted; DRC determined ineligible due to time constraints from last conviction/supervision period
Petitions in DRC Review	0	Petition submitted and is awaiting review by DRC staff
Petitions in Common Pleas Court Review	217	Petition submitted and reviewed by DRC staff; submitted to the Court for review (does not indicate if a petitioner has actually filed with the Court)
Petitions Denied	28	The Court has ruled on the petition and denied the CQE; Petition Process Complete
Petitions Approved	178	The Court has ruled on the petition and approved the CQE; Petition process complete
<b>Total</b>	<b>1223</b>	

## County Breakdown of Approved/Denied Petitions 2020 (Counties with 10 or more CQE's)

County Breakdown	Petitions	Approved	Denied	In DRC Review	In Court Review	In Progress (not Submitted)	Other Status
Summit	143	25	1		73	38	6
Cuyahoga	142	23	8		34	68	9
Hamilton	77	23			14	30	10
Franklin	73	16	2		12	33	10
Montgomery	60	27	7		4	20	2
Stark	38	14	1		6	11	6
Mahoning	37	7	4		9	13	4
Lucas	20	2			3	13	2
Lorain	18	2			5	10	1
Lawrence	13	2	1		2	7	1
Scioto	13	5			3	4	1
Trumbull	13	4	2		4	3	
<b>All Others</b>	151	28	2		48	548	14
	<b>798</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>66</b>

## The Ohio CQE: Areas of Consideration for Employment

The Ohio Certificate of Qualification for Employment offers individuals the opportunity to be considered for opportunities in both general and occupational licensing. The listing below is a snapshot of occupations for consideration for those with a granted CQE for the Court.

Accountant	Insurance Agent
AOD Counselor/Case Manager	Law Enforcement
Appraiser/Home Inspector - Real Estate	Massage Therapist
Athletic/Education	Metro Parks Ranger
Aviation	Mortgage Broker
Barber	Nail Technician
Bus Driver License	Occupational Therapist
Caregiver/Care Provider Licensing	Peer Supporter
Casino Gaming Employee/ Table Dealer	Pharmacist/ Pharmacy Technician
Certified Pharmacy Technician	Phlebotomist
Certified Public Accountant	Physical Therapist
Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN, HHA)	Physician
Child Care /Mortician- ODJFS	Plumber
Clinical Case Management	Private Security & Investigation
Clinical Psychologist	Radiology Technician
Commercial Driver's license (CDL)	Registered Nurse/Nurse Practitioner
Construction	School Treasurer
Cosmetology	Security Guard Class A
Dental Hygienist	Social Worker/ LISW
Dental Radiographer	State Tested Nursing Assistant
Electrician	Surgical Technologist
Electrician	Teacher/ Teacher's Aide
EMT	Vascular Sonography
Funeral Director	Veterinarian License
Gaming License	Construction Trades: Welding, Machinist, Electrician

\*General employment in manufacturing, warehousing