

Resilience at Work: Empowering Jobseekers Strengthening Employers

Suja Joseph

Statewide Director of Reemployment Programs (POAC and RESEA)

suja.joseph@maryland.gov

The Why

Federal layoffs

Loss of identity, purpose, mental health, stability (local economies)

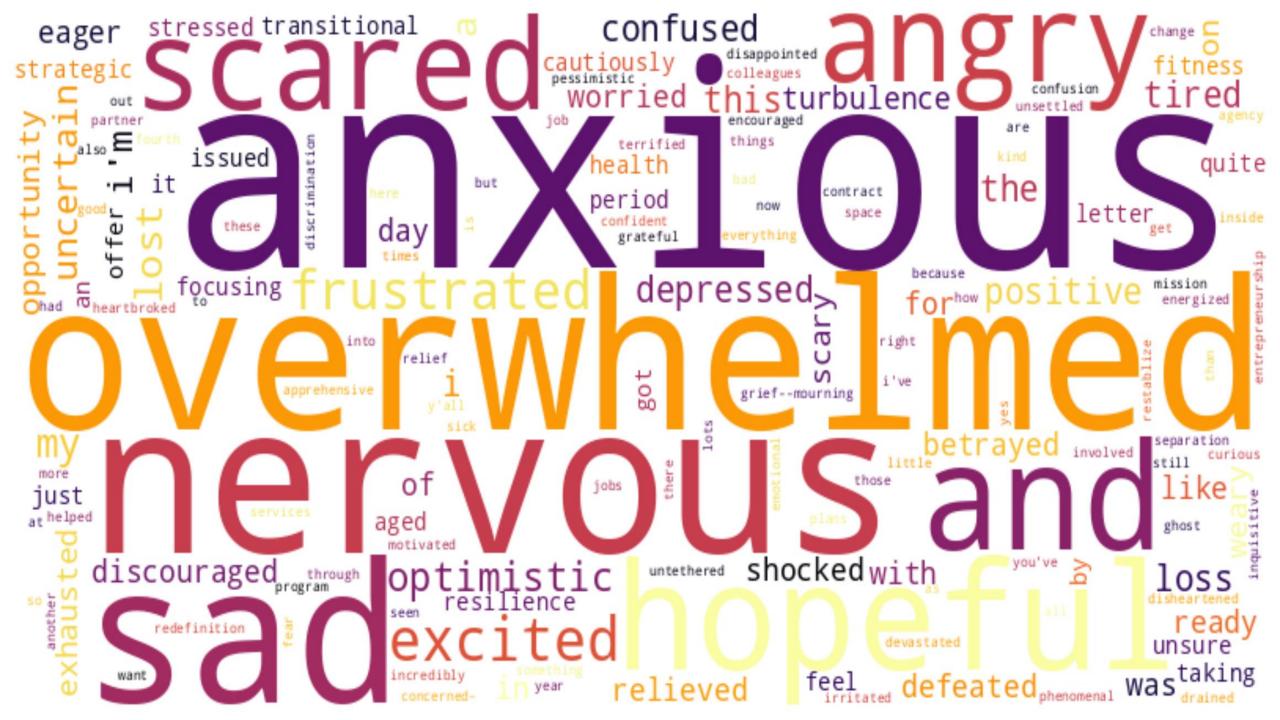
Need for targeted and empathetic intervention



Voices of Federal Workers



- "Grief mourning the loss of my colleagues, agency, mission"
- "I'm weary... this is my fourth contract job change in a year"
- "I feel untethered"
- "Turbulence on the inside and ready"
- "Betrayed. Discrimination was involved."
- "Redefinition"
- "Taking it day by day"
- "Relieved... because y'all are here with something so kind like this"
- "Strategic" and "Cautiously optimistic"



positivecuriousready evedgrateful

About the Workshop



• 3-hour virtual workshop – began Feb 5th

- Designed to support federal employees and contractors transitioning into:
- Private Sector
- State or County jobs
- Entrepreneurship

Core Workshop Components



- Private sector landscape and state job tips
- Resume reinvention
- Skills and Career assessment
- Support for new ventures
- Job search strategies
- Interview prep
- Networking guidance
- Emotional and Practical resilience

Partnership Driven Support



- MD Labor's LMI Team
- MD Labor's HR Leaders
- Big Interview
- MD Health Connection
- Federal HR Expert decoding federal hiring and aligning career transitions
- Operation Hope starting a business, financial planning, entrepreneurship
- Employer Hour (11am 12pm) real time job connections

POAC – the Perfect Partner



- POAC The Professional Outplacement Assistance Center
- Built for dislocated workers
- Tailored for High-Skill Career Transitions
- Services customized to professional-level needs not just entrylevel support
- Emotional and Practical support
- Access to strong employer partnerships, co-hosts hiring events

Strengthening Employers



Access to:

- Disciplined candidates
- Many with security clearance
- Public sector essential skills
- Real-time connection via employer hour/job fair events
- Job Fair Strategies workshop

Beyond the Workshop



- Job Fairs for federal workers
- Rebuilding Careers Job Fair March 18th
- 78 employers, over 1000 registered

- Seamless follow-up from POAC
- Resume reviews, Mock interviews, Career couseling
- Emotional wellness support post-workshop

Stress Relief workshop (monthly)

Grounded Resilience workshop



- A virtual interactive and experiential workshop offered by the **Center for Grounded Action**.
- Participants will:
- Be met with compassion
- Gain insight into stress, challenge, and resilience
- Learn 2 powerful stress tools and 2 relational skills
- Leave feeling more grounded—with tools to stay there



Beyond the Workshop



- Salary negotiation workshop
- Upcoming
- Financial wellness workshops (series)
- Start your own business workshops

Participant Impact



- **Registered** 2,363
- **Attended** 1,376
- Testimonials

"grateful for this space and program"

"Once again, I just want to thank you and your team for today's session! As a HR professional who worked in the recruitment area for a very long time, I am very familiar with the federal way of resumes and ATS, etc.

Your session hit on the spots that I have found to be blurry as I work to transition to the private sector. I am leaving the session with more clarity and a bit more optimism for future possibilities!"

Participant Impact



"I was laid off from the federal contractor I was working for, as was 60%+ of their staff since federal agencies aren't allowed to re-sign contracts.

Your dedication, expertise, professionalism, compassion, and willingness to actively support us and field all of our questions, truly does make a difference!

They are bright and hopeful moments during this uncertain and scary time, and we can certainly use more of them right now.

I truly appreciate all that you are doing to assist me and others in the same situation!"

Resilience in Action



- Increase in confidence
- Adaptability
- Courage

- Story
- Limo after layoff



We're grateful for the opportunity to share our work supporting Maryland's transitioning federal workforce.

Together, we can strengthen our economy by empowering jobseekers and engaging employers.



