Tips for Work-Life Coordinators and Supervisors

Dependent Care

Employees with dependent care responsibilities may need support during the phased return to work. These employees may need to phase back to a regular work situation at a pace that is responsive to their needs. Here are some tips for Work-Life Coordinators and Supervisors to help employees as they consider returning to work.

- **Remind employees that there are work-life programs tailored to support working caretakers.**
  Utilize your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to direct employees to a wide range of resources available to assist with the care of a child or an adult or elderly family member in need.

- **Help employees phase back to a regular work situation.**
  Determine a pace that is responsive to each employee’s unique needs. Have conversations among Work-Life Coordinators, Supervisors, and employees to determine the best path forward.

- **Encourage the continued application of workplace flexibilities, to include the use of maximum telework.**
  Employees with dependent care responsibilities may benefit from continuing to exercise workplace flexibilities. Review OPM’s Maxi-Flex Guidance for additional details.

- **Explore working with agency vendors/contractors that provide dependent care supports to the workforce to meet emerging or changing needs.**
  OPM encourages agency Work-Life Coordinators to partner with their provider to respond to the workforce.

OPM’s Work-Life staff is here to assist. Please reach out to us any time at worklife@opm.gov.