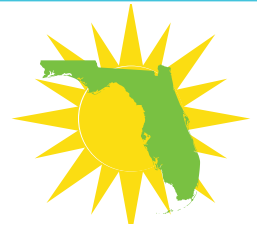


Fast Facts about Employment for People with Disabilities in Florida

Employment First
FLORIDA



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Working in the Community: Why it's Important

People with disabilities want jobs that are meaningful. They want to be able to pay their bills and taxes. Jobs can give people the chance to make new friends. Working can give people a sense of meaning and contribution in life.

What do we mean when we say “working in the community”?

Working in the community means having a job that you choose, where you earn at least minimum wage, and where you work with people who do not have disabilities.

What are the benefits of working?

- A paycheck that you can feel good about.
- An “everyday” life like everyone else, where you get to be included with other community members, co-workers, and friends.
- Pride and satisfaction in your job.
- Independence, self-confidence, and a belief in yourself that you can be successful in your job or career.
- Opportunities to speak up for yourself and get the support you need.

Why is employment important?

Arizona from Tampa says:

“My disability at work sometimes has a negative effect on my self-esteem, but my job helps me keep my head on straight and helps me focus.”

Aaron from Martin County says:

“I feel happy when I have a job and get a paycheck. I put the paycheck in my bank account or cash it. I use the money for groceries, DVDs, and soundtracks. And I pay my bills like water and electricity and my rent. I make new friends at work. Having a job makes me feel good about myself and I get out of the house. I like to live on my own and pay my own bills. A job helps me do that.”

“Employment First” means that working in the community should be a choice for everyone, with or without a disability.

The Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston is working with the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council and other state agencies to make “Employment First” happen in Florida.



Florida
Developmental
Disabilities
Council, Inc.

For more information about Employment First Florida, please visit the website www.EmploymentFirstFL.org/

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