



What is Employment First?

“Employment in the general workforce is the first and preferred outcome in the provision of publicly funded services for all working age citizens with disabilities, regardless of level of disability.” (APSE, 2010).

In other words, if people with disabilities are receiving services from the state, the first option they should think about (and be told about) is EMPLOYMENT.

What about Florida?

Florida is an Employment First state. Governor Scott signed Employment First Legislation in January, 2016. It defined employment as:

Integrated employment...where an individual is paid by an employer at minimum wage or greater or receives earnings through one's self-employment business, fully integrated in the community workforce, with a goal of maximum self-sufficiency.

Employment First...what can YOU do?

- Request a visit to a business you like for a tour or interview
- Make an employer community map, and think about what businesses are in your local community where you might want to work.
- List people in your network who can connect you to a job.
- Visit your local CareerSource Florida: <http://careersourceflorida.com/>
- Consider applying to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) for help. Visit DVR's website here: <http://www.rehabworks.org/>
- You may be eligible for services from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). APD can help even if you are on the waiver wait list. Visit APD's website here: <http://apd.myflorida.com/>

For more information, please visit Florida's Employment First website:

<http://www.employmentfirstfl.org/>

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