

MEMORANDUM

TO:

FROM:

DATE:

SUBJECT: **Florida Abilities Work Web Portal and Help Desk**

On [date], we were pleased to inform you of Florida's collaborative efforts to prioritize employment for individuals with disabilities through the "Employment First Initiative." As part of this work, the [organization] and our Partners have developed a long-term communications plan intended to accomplish three objectives:

- 1) Increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities by motivating employers to hire;
- 2) Promote a consistent message of awareness among employers about the value persons with disabilities bring to the workforce; and
- 3) Inform employers about the resources that are available to assist with their hiring needs, including the **Abilities Work Web Portal and Help Desk**.

To begin accomplishing these objectives, we would like to make you aware of the **Abilities Work Web Portal and Help Desk** and encourage you to share information on these valuable tools with your staff charged with facilitating the employment of individuals with disabilities.

The **Abilities Work Web Portal and Help Desk** was recommended by Governor Rick Scott's Commission on Jobs for Floridians with Disabilities as a resource that could help more employers find qualified candidates with disabilities who are ready and able to work in their communities, and provide them with information that would help with their hiring decisions.

The **Abilities Work Web Portal**, located on the Department of Economic Opportunity's Employ Florida Marketplace website, is a new tool where Florida's employers can find information about hiring qualified employees with disabilities: abilitieswork.employflorida.com. The portal also provides information for job seekers and students with disabilities to assist them in their quest for employment.

The **Abilities Work Help Desk**, which can be contacted at 844-245-3405 or AbilitiesWorkHD@vr.fldoe.org, offers a team of professionals to help employers who are interested in hiring a person with a disability locate potential employees. Help Desk staff are also trained to answer questions or refer employers to informational resources that will further support their business needs. The Help Desk is available 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

We look forward to working with our state and community partners to inform employers of this valuable new resource designed to help them locate and hire individuals with disabilities to be part of their talented workforce! If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact _____.