Brief History of Employment First Florida Activities

# 2011

* Governor’s Commission on employment established
* Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. (FDDC) Employment First Project in partnership with the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston

# 2013

* Employment First Executive Order 13-284
* Employment First Florida Grassroots Group Online Meeting series begins

# 2014

* 9 state agencies and organizations sign the 5-year Employment First Interagency Cooperative Agreement
* Florida Abilities Work Web Portal and Help Desk launched
* Federal Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) enacted
* Employment First Collaborative Training Toolkit developed in partnership with the Center for Social Capital

# 2015

* Three local interagency collaborative sites are established in Florida
* CareerSource Florida, Inc. facilitated an interagency task force to assist the state in its implementation of WIOA

# 2016

* Florida's Employment First Act becomes law
* Department of Economic Opportunity implements Florida Unique Abilities Partner Program
* Nassau County becomes first school district in Florida to become a Division of Vocational Rehabilitation vendor
* Department of Management Services begins work to ensure that Florida’s equal employment opportunity

policies specifically include individuals who have a disability.

# 2017

* Florida Developmental Disabilities Council released the report “A Systematic Approach to Revising Florida’s

Integrated Employment Funding System.”

* Florida achieved the greatest number of Project SEARCH sites in the nation
* Department of Financial Services My Money curriculum website
* The Explore Work curriculum for self-advocates becomes available

# 2018

* Workers’ Compensation Law expands state workers’ compensation to individuals with disabilities who work

in state-sponsored work experience activities

# 2019

* 11 state agencies and organizations sign a renewal of the Employment First Interagency Cooperative Agreement  
    
  **2020**
* Employment First Florida helped change more than 58 employment related policies and procedures.

**2021**

* House Bill (HB) 173 was signed into law, requiring the Florida Department of Education in collaboration with the Project 10: Transition Education Network to review existing transition services and programs for students with disabilities to identify best practices. Find out more:

<https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9224/dps-2021-91.pdf>.

* The REACH ACT, a blueprint for enhancing access, alignment, and accountability across the state’s workforce development system is passed. Find out more: <https://careersourceflorida.com/boardroom/reach-act/>
* The Florida Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health is awarded an ASPIRE grant to integrate state policy, program, and funding, to expand employment services for people with mental health conditions

Find out more:  <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/aspire>

For more information, visit [www.employmentfirstfl.org.](http://www.employmentfirstfl.org/)

*The EmployMe1st project is a joint project of the* [*Florida Developmental Disabilities Council,*](http://www.fddc.org/) *the* [*Institute*](http://www.communityinclusion.org/)[*for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston*](http://www.communityinclusion.org/)*, and* [*National Association of State*](http://www.nasddds.org/)[*Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services*](http://www.nasddds.org/)*.*