

A BRIEF HISTORY OF EMPLOYMENT FIRST FLORIDA

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

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

Employment First Act becomes law
Department of Economic Opportunity implements Unique Abilities Partner Program
Nassau County becomes first school district to become a Division of Vocational Rehabilitation vendor
Department of Management Services begins work to ensure equal employment opportunity policies include individuals who have a disability.

Workers' Compensation Law expands state workers' compensation to individuals with disabilities who work in state-sponsored work experience activities

Florida's Employment First partners revise, create or improve 58 employment related policies and procedures Partner agencies work with Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to give students ages 14-21 on-the-job training while still in school.

2011

2013

Employment First Executive Order 13-284
Employment First Florida Grassroots Group online meeting series begins

2014

2015

Three local interagency collaboratives sites established
CareerSource Florida Inc. facilitated an interagency task force to assist in WIOA implementation

2016

2017

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council "A Systematic Approach to Revising Florida's Integrated Employment Funding System" report released.
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

2019

11 state agencies and organizations sign a renewal of the Employment First Interagency Cooperative Agreement

2020

2021

House Bill (HB) 173 passes, requiring the Florida Department of Education in collaboration with the Project 10: Transition Education Network to review transition services and programs for students with disabilities to identify best practices.
The REACH ACT, a blueprint for enhancing access, alignment, and accountability across the state's workforce development system is passed.
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



www.employmentfirstfl.org