

APSE EMPLOYMENT FIRST STATEMENT

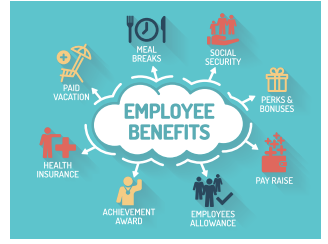


Adapted by Green Mountain Self Advocates and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

All people with disabilities should have opportunities to work. Public dollars should be used to pay for supports for people to work in the community.

People with disabilities, their families, and their allies believe that:

	<p>Too many people with disabilities do not have a job. This is unacceptable.</p>
	<p>All people should have opportunities for real jobs with real wages. It will get us out of poverty. We will be more independent. We will feel more included.</p> <p>All people, with and without disabilities, can work in jobs together earning minimum wage or higher.</p>
	<p>Like everyone else, people with disabilities should have access to supports that they need to work successfully.</p>
	<p>All people, no matter what disability they have, have the right to work a job they choose that matches their skills and interests.</p>
	<p>Public policies must support people with disabilities having real jobs. Money for services should be spent on people having jobs in the community.</p>
	<p>Just calling your state an Employment First state is not enough. "Employment First" is when everyone who wants a job, has a job.</p>

We will know Employment First policies are working when people with disabilities:

	<p>Earn minimum wage or higher.</p>		<p>Are valued by employers.</p>
	<p>Have jobs with benefits.</p>		<p>Feel welcome when applying for a job.</p>
	<p>Own and run businesses.</p>		<p>Don't live in poverty.</p>
	<p>Choose employment as one of the big goals in life.</p>		<p>Get promoted.</p>
	<p>Are given the supports they need to work, no matter what type of disability they have.</p>		<p>Have all kinds of jobs based on their strengths and talents.</p>
	<p>Get to try out different jobs, starting when they are teenagers.</p>		<p>Have opportunities to change jobs and build a career.</p>

If a person is not working in the community, this decision should be reviewed every year. A person's team must write a report describing why the person is not working.