



# Info Brief: Employment

## WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT EMPLOYMENT?

The Division of Developmental Disabilities is talking about employment for two main reasons:

1. For a long time, people with disabilities have been left out of the conversation about whether or not to work.
2. Rhode Island is an **Employment First** State. We believe that everyone can work if they want to. If you think you'd like to get a job, having a disability shouldn't stop you.

When it comes to employment, just like everything else in life, each one of us is different. Some will need assistance to find a job, while others require more intensive/long-term support to keep it. Some want to work 40+ hours per week. Others prefer part-time, or maybe even starting their own business.

There are also those who may not be sure if they actually want to work, or if they'd be able to. Work isn't for everyone. Some will consider their options and decide that they're not interested in getting a job. Meanwhile, others who have already worked will say they're ready to retire.

All of these choices are OK! Remember, whatever you decide to do, the key word here isn't "employment;" it's "CHOICE."

### **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Our goal at the Division is to ensure that you have both the opportunity to make informed choices, and the supports you need to reach the goals you've chosen. Work may not be for everyone, but if you think it's for you, then don't let anyone tell you can't do it. **Employment First** says you can!



## **WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

The Division is committed to promoting **Employment First** and will be reaching out to participants & families to discuss their interests and options for Employment Services.

Additional funding is available for employment supports through the *Person-Centered Supported Employment Performance Program (PCSEPP)*. If you Self-Direct, you can use **PCSEPP** funding to hire your own staff, or to purchase Employment Services from a provider agency.

There are also several new providers in Rhode Island specializing in employment supports who are currently accepting new customers.

### **Did You Know?**

**You can use more than 1 agency!** For example, you can use Agency #1 for Employment Services, and Agency #2 for supports to help you reach some of your other goals. Use one agency, or several. Do what works best for you!

## **WHAT IF I'M NOT SURE I WANT A JOB?**

- WORK?**
- yes
  - no
  - maybe



**It's OK! No one will force you to work if you don't want to, or you're not ready.** Some people may have other things they need to focus on first, such as finishing college, managing their health, or dealing with various personal issues.

If you're not sure about work, the Division can provide supports to help you explore different types of jobs, find the ones that might suit you, and see what work might look like for you. There are lots of possibilities, and there's no rush!



**Contact Your Caseworker at DDD to Find Out More!**

