

Employment First in Kentucky

It is the policy of the Commonwealth of Kentucky that competitive integrated employment shall be considered the first and primary option for persons with disabilities of working age who desire to become employed.

Kentucky's Employment First Policy was signed into law on March 24, 2022.

What it Means

Employment in the general workforce should be the first and preferred option for individuals with disabilities receiving assistance from publicly funded systems.

Why it Matters

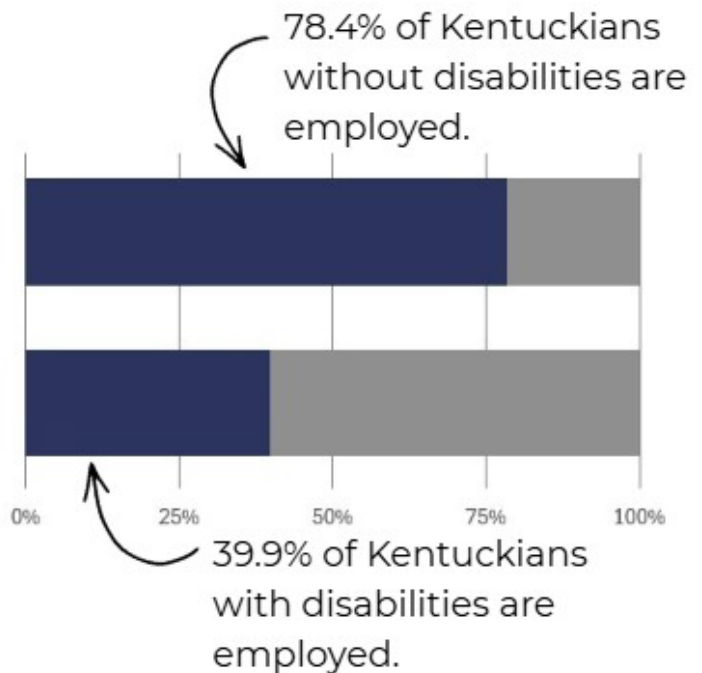
Kentucky has among the highest rates of people with disabilities in the nation and among the lowest rates of people with disabilities who are employed. *

This 38.5% gap ranks Kentucky 48th in the nation.

What it Will Do

Employment First will help to:

- Build an inclusive workforce
- Strengthen Kentucky's economy
- Improve the quality of life for citizens with disabilities across the Commonwealth



Kentucky's Employment First Council

The Employment First Council advises the executive and legislative branches of government on increasing meaningful opportunities for competitive integrated employment for citizens with a disability seeking employment, regardless of their level of disability. The twenty-eight-member Council is appointed by the Governor.

For more information about Kentucky's Employment First Council, contact Nanci.Howard@ky.gov.

What You Can Do



Employers should consider how Employment First policy impacts employee recruitment, development, advancement, and retention.



State Policymakers should consider how the implementation of Employment First informs and advances workforce development plans, policies, and related efforts.



Disability Service Providers should consider how Employment First policy impacts the provision of goal setting and service delivery.



People with Disabilities should consider how Employment First policy can help advance their employment goals and inform the services they need.



Schools should consider how Employment First policy impacts the development and implementation of Individual Education Program (IEP) postsecondary employment goals for students with disabilities.



Families of people with disabilities should consider Employment First policy when setting expectations and supporting the goals of loved ones.

Resources

- Scan the QR code to the right for [Employment First Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Learn more about [Employment First](#)
- Learn more about [Competitive Integrated Employment](#)



Employment First FAQ