

Employment First: Frequently Asked Questions

Job Seekers with Disabilities

[Kentucky Employment First law](#) states that “The General Assembly finds and declares that 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.” You can [learn what Employment First means to Kentuckians](#) in this short video.

What is Employment First, and how does it help me find a job?

Answer: Employment First, by law, sets the expectation that employment be the first and preferred option for individuals with disabilities. It works to increase the ways you can connect with resources, support, and training so you can find meaningful work in your community.

How do I start the process of finding a job?

Answer: If you want help finding a job, you can start by [contacting your local vocational rehabilitation agency](#), your case manager, or an employment service provider. They will guide you through an assessment of your skills, interests, and any support you may need to succeed in the workplace. [This guide can help step you through the process of getting help finding a job.](#)

What kind of support can I get while working?

Answer: It depends on the impact of your disability and what you need. You could receive help to figure out what you want to do, find a job, and learn how to do it. Someone may be able to help you find assistive technology or other things that help you do your job. These supports can be tailored to your needs and, if they include long-term support, can be adjusted over time as you become more independent. If you qualify for supported employment, [this guide can help you understand what to expect and how to select an employment provider that is a good fit for you.](#)

Can I work and still receive disability benefits?

Answer: The answer is often yes, but it is important to talk to someone knowledgeable to understand how employment affects your specific situation. Wages impact public benefits such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

in different ways. You can ask your VR Counselor for help or contact a Benefits Counselor. [You can learn how to contact a Benefits Counselor in this resource.](#)

How can I be sure that my job is right for me?

Answer: Your VR Counselor or Employment Specialist will work with you to explore your interests, skills, and strengths to find a job that matches your preferences. It's essential to share your interests and needs when seeking employment, as this helps ensure you find a job that aligns with your passions and goals, because you have the right to pursue work that truly fulfills you.