

Dec. 21,2018

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: Employment First: Looking back at 2018

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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I wanted to take this opportunity to look back at the many accomplishments achieved throughout our employment system in the past year. I wanted to highlight a few points that are fully detailed in our Employment First Outcomes and Success Report, which is available at:

https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/EMPLOYMENT/EMPLOYMENT-FIRST/Documents/EF_Outcomes_Successes_October_2018.pdf

Here are just a few accomplishments from 2018:

- According to ODDS data, 1,223 people were working in community jobs with supports in March 2018. This is a 10 percent increase from the previous year.
- Of the 1,223 people working in community jobs with supports, 319 people worked 20 hours or more. This is a 21 percent increase from 2017.
- In March 2013, there were 2,806 people in sheltered workshops (the highest number recorded in the current data system). In March 2018, there were 664 people in sheltered work. This is a 76 percent decrease.
- In Oregon, 274 transition-age students with I/DD got a job with supports in 2018, up from 255 in 2017.
- The Oregon Department of Education's Post Schools Outcome Data shows some significant improvement for the I/DD population. For instance, in 2017, 35 percent of students surveyed reported attending job training, school or education program in the 12 months after leaving school, compared to 26 percent in 2016. The number working 20 hours or more also increased, from 40 percent to almost 52 percent in 2017.
- We launched the [State as Model](#) employer program to increase opportunities for people with I/DD in state government employment.
- We launched a redesigned [Employment Outcomes System](#) website which makes it easier for individuals, families, Service Coordinators, Personal Agents, and VR counselors to explore provider data and make choices.

Thank you for helping to improve employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I wish everyone a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

~ Acacia