

December 20, 2019

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: [Employment First](#): Happy holidays from Employment First

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

I wanted to write and thank everyone during this holiday season for all the hard work supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their employment goals.

We have achieved a lot this year. More people with I/DD are getting jobs, and our numbers have increased annually since 2015. Importantly, we are extremely close to reaching one of our biggest goals of the Lane Settlement – to increase the number of people with I/DD who have been in sheltered workshops obtaining Competitive Integrated Employment. The settlement requires the state to meet the number of 1,115 people from sheltered workshops in CIE by July 1, 2022. Currently, the count is 914.

We are very close to meeting one of the essential requirements of the settlement, and that is because of the amazing work you are all doing to support people with I/DD to get community jobs. With a lot of hard work, we could meet this requirement in the coming year. We have many resources to help support people to achieve these goals, including the [Employment First podcasts](#), [Road to Work](#) tool, and [Employment Outcomes System](#) capacity information.

None of this success would be possible without the hard work of individuals and their families, providers, Services Coordinators and Personal Agents, Vocational Rehabilitation counselors, employers and all the people who believe in the mission and vision of Employment First: with the right supports, everyone who wants to work can!

Thanks as always for your support in serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon. I wish everyone a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Acacia