



May 6, 2022

**To:** Employment First Partners, including Case Management Entities, Providers and VR Counselors

**From:** Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

**Re:** Employment First resources

The surprise April snowstorms have brought us May tools! Given the challenges we've faced with COVID-19, the workforce crisis, new personal agents and services coordinators in the system, among other events, we want to remind you of useful Employment First resources that are available.

### **Introduction to employment services**

The Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) has videos and fact sheets available to describe services on the [supported employment webpage](#). This includes information for job seekers, benefit planning guides, and more. [This Employment First PDF](#) is a great introduction to the topic, and includes the purpose and role of ODDS employment services, and how to select employment providers. Also, this [YouTube video](#) explains how to maximize hours.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and ODDS services crosswalk**

The [VR/ODDS services crosswalk](#) is a tool to help assist in employment service planning. It's useful in facilitating conversations around selecting services and planning, can be used for staff education, and is a tool for case staffing.

### **Employment Outcomes System (EOS)**

[EOS](#) is a system for collecting data on the job outcomes of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). This tool can help you search for providers with capacity in your local area and those who can provide specialized supports such as translation services. This is the [EOS dashboard](#) where you can find data, and this [EOS search](#) has provider information and can help with seeking capacity.

### **Success stories**

Employment success stories are a great way to help people understand what's possible and help a parent who might be concerned. This [list of Employment First](#)

[success](#) stories can be searchable by region and topic. ODDS also has [family testimonials](#) among other important information for individuals and families.

### **Road2Work**

[Road2Work](#) is an interactive employment road map to help people with I/DD and their families explore what the next steps might be to finding a job. This can be done individually, with support from family or friends, or even with teachers, services coordinators, or personal agents.

### **Podcasts**

If you enjoy podcasts, we hope you'll give the [Employment First Podcast](#) a listen. There are more than 40 episodes available, as well as a written transcript for each on the individual episode webpages.

Not sure where to begin with the videos and podcasts available? Check out this [video about job coaching](#) and [podcast episode about a family's employment journey](#).

If you'd like these resources in one document, save [this Employment First Resources PDF](#) for quick access.

Thank you for supporting employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Acacia