

Nov. 6, 2020

**To: Employment and DSA Providers**

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

**Re: Employment First: New Outcomes & Successes Report**

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

The newest [Employment First: Outcomes and Success](#) report for October 2020 is now published online.

This report highlights some of the outcomes and successes achieved toward the goal of increasing community jobs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

This year, the report specifically focuses on how programs shifted rapidly to continue employment supports when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Oregon. I want to note a few highlights that wouldn't be possible without the work of self-advocates and families, along with everyone in the field – the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselors, Services Coordinators, Personal Agents, providers, and others who are striving to help people with community employment.

- We now have more than 1,575 people working in supported employment in Oregon. In 2015, that number was just over 570.
- September 2020 marked the end of ODDS-funded sheltered workshop services in Oregon. This transition happened because of tremendous efforts by self-advocates, families, providers, case management entities and others. These efforts resulted in Oregon [being recognized in 2020 by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights](#) as a leader in eliminating subminimum wage and in transitioning to integrated employment.
- After the COVID-19 pandemic hit, VR shifted to virtual intakes for the first time in the program's 100-year history. Since mid-March, more than 300 people with I/DD have applied for VR services and 243 people with I/DD closed successfully with a job.

The Employment First: Outcomes and Successes reports are all available online under "Documents and Publications" at: <http://iworkwesucceed.org>; or the full link for the 2020 report is:

[https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/EMPLOYMENT/EMPLOYMENT-FIRST/Documents/EF\\_Outcomes\\_Successes\\_October\\_2020.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/EMPLOYMENT/EMPLOYMENT-FIRST/Documents/EF_Outcomes_Successes_October_2020.pdf)

I also want to point out that the [Lane v. Brown Settlement Semi-Annual Data Report](#) also published. Specifically, I want to call out how close we are 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 Oregon to meet the number of 1,115 people from sheltered workshops in CIE by July 1, 2022. Currently, the count is 1,023.

Even with the challenges brought with COVID-19, 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.

Thanks as always for your support in serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon.

Acacia