

Executive Office

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Dear Business Leader,

Welcome to the Employment First Portal. This link is designed for employers who are thinking about hiring a qualified work candidate who has a developmental disability. We have included information on our website that will demonstrate how hiring an applicant with a developmental disability can be a great addition to your workforce and at the same time potentially improve your organization's bottom line.

First, here are some statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Labor, which demonstrate the economic impact of people with disabilities on the national economy:

In 2005 there were 54 million people in the United States who identify themselves as having some type of disability; that is about 1 in 5 Americans.

These Americans have about \$220 billion dollars in discretionary income and \$ 1 trillion dollars in purchasing power.

Here in New York we believe that hiring qualified applicants who happen to have a developmental disability is a win - win proposition for any business organization. We believe that it is a win for an employer because of the numerous benefits that come to any organization when they are presented with a motivated candidate who has been pre-screened and is ready to put forth their best work efforts on behalf of your business. And, it's a win for the employee who holds the same values as any other citizen with a strong work ethic. All of New York's workers, including people with disabilities, contribute to the social fabric and economic well being of their communities.

Employers overwhelmingly rate the overall work performance of employees with developmental disabilities quite favorably. Specifically, when asked how the work performance of individuals with developmental disabilities compares to that of other employees in the same position, employers indicated that the performance of the employees with disabilities meets or exceeds that of their non-disabled counterparts.

Please take a few minutes and look at the information presented on this web site. After reviewing it, I ask that you consider contacting our network of Employment Specialists listed in the "Next Steps" section of the Website. If you prefer, please contact us by email at centerforemploymentexcellence@opwdd.ny.gov to learn more about how employing qualified individuals with developmental disabilities can be part of a successful workforce strategy.

Sincerely,



Max E. Chmura
Acting Commissioner