

WISCONSIN EMPLOYMENT FIRST: *CREATING CHANGE ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME*



SO, WHAT IS EMPLOYMENT FIRST?

It is.....

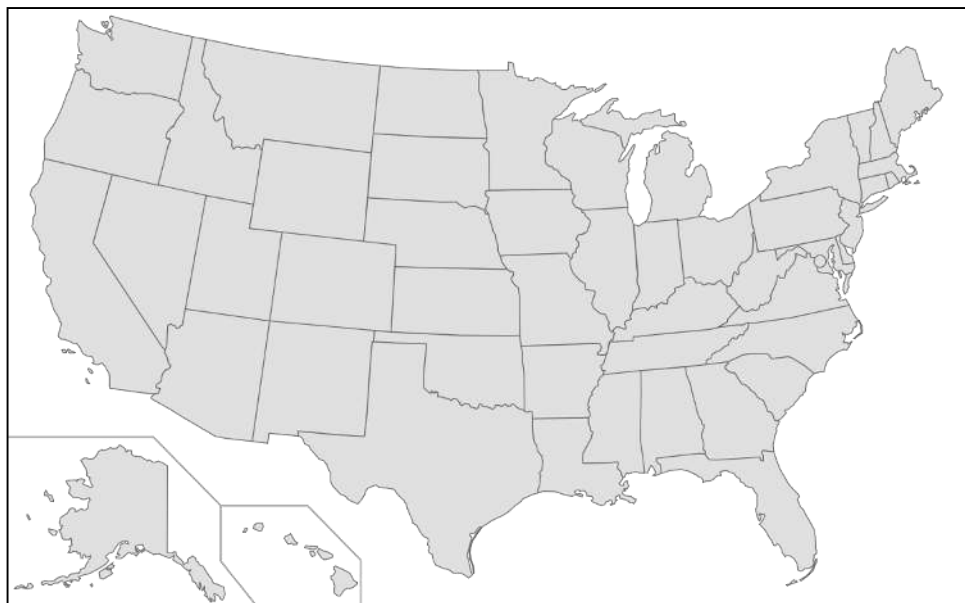
- The understanding that **everyone** can work, regardless of disability.
- Many people working together to support this idea that everyone can work.
- That makes it a **MOVEMENT**.



IS EMPLOYMENT FIRST HAPPENING ONLY IN WISCONSIN?

No!

- Employment First is happening **across** the US
- In fact, people in **49** states are working on Employment First
- There is **POWER** in numbers!



WHAT CHANGES CAN HAPPEN WITH EMPLOYMENT FIRST?

ALL people with disabilities can have the opportunity to:

- Work in the community at a job they choose.
- Be successful with a good job match and the right kind of help.
- Earn the current minimum wage of **\$7.25** per hour – or more.



DOES THIS LOOK RIGHT TO YOU?

- Some people with disabilities get paid just **pennies** an hour like the ones in the top pile.



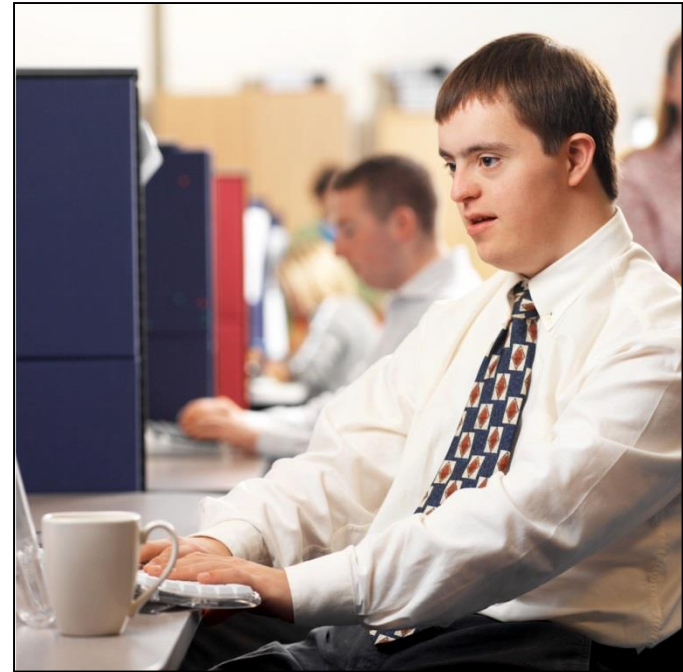
- People who don't have disabilities must be paid at least **\$7.25 per hour**.



WHAT CAN EMPLOYMENT FIRST MEAN FOR PEOPLE?

DID YOU KNOW?

- RESEARCH SHOWS THAT WHEN PEOPLE WORK IN THE COMMUNITY, THEY NOT ONLY HAVE MORE **MONEY**, BUT THEY ARE ALSO **HAPPIER** AND **HEALTHIER**.



WHY IS EMPLOYMENT FIRST SO IMPORTANT?

- There are many people with disabilities in Wisconsin earning **less** than minimum wage and **not** working side by side with others who do not have disabilities in their communities.
- This is not the best thing for people with disabilities or communities.
- We can do **better!**



People with disabilities need **real** jobs for **real** pay!

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF EMPLOYMENT FIRST WI?

The goal is:

- To have **twice** as many people with disabilities working at jobs in the community.



WHAT CAN WE DO TO MAKE EMPLOYMENT FIRST HAPPEN IN WISCONSIN?

- **SPEAK UP!** Tell family members, teachers, law-makers, support agencies, and case managers, that everyone deserves a job in the community earning minimum wage or more
- Tell them all why community employment is so important to you
- * **Tell your stories!**



SPEAKING UP FOR EMPLOYMENT FIRST?

SHOW PEOPLE WHAT IS POSSIBLE BY:

- Creating videos of people with disabilities working in their communities (maybe you or someone you know)
- Having Employers talk to other Employers
- Telling Policy Makers and Law Makers that everyone deserves a **real** job for **real** pay – regardless of disability



BE AN EMPLOYMENT FIRST AMBASSADOR

Do you...

- Have a job in the community?
- Believe that there is a job in the community for everyone, regardless of disability?
- Want to share your employment story?
- Want to talk to elected officials about why Employment First is needed in WI?



If so....we need YOU to be an EF Ambassador!

WHERE CAN YOU LEARN MORE ABOUT EMPLOYMENT FIRST?

- Go to the Wisconsin Employment First Website at :
www.wiemploymentfirst.com
- Molly Cooney:
608-266-0266
molly.cooney@wisconsin.gov

