



SIGNED!

Governor Doug Ducey declares Arizona an Employment First State.

On November 16, 2017, the Governor of Arizona signed an executive order that will require key state agencies to partner with private sector vendors to expand job opportunities for all Arizonans who have a disability through Employment First principles and practices.

GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA ★ EXECUTIVE ORDER

Executive Order 2017-08
The establishment of Arizona as an
Employment First State

WHEREAS, Arizonans who have disabilities are valued members of society; and

WHEREAS, opportunity for all includes ensuring opportunity for individuals who have disabilities; and

WHEREAS, there is a dignity in work that provides individuals not only a source of income, but also a source of pride, sense of accomplishment, and opportunities for social interaction; and

WHEREAS, every Arizonan should have the opportunity to participate in the workforce, including those who have disabilities; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 418,000 individuals in Arizona have some form of disability; and

WHEREAS, the employment gap between individuals with and without disabilities in Arizona has been between forty and fifty percentage points over the last several years; and

WHEREAS, opportunities for meaningful and competitive employment will improve the individuals' quality of life, increase community participation, and empower them to make their own choices in life; and

WHEREAS, individuals who have disabilities can be dedicated and productive members of the workforce; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, only 14% of Arizona's developmental disability funding spent on day and employment services went to integrated employment; and

WHEREAS, an inclusive and diverse workforce will help erase the stigma attached to those who have disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Arizona seeks to improve and coordinate efforts to increase community employment opportunities for Arizonans who have disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Arizona hereby declare the following:

1. All state agencies that provide services and support to persons who have disabilities shall implement Employment First in Arizona and shall coordinate efforts to improve employment opportunities for working-age adults who have disabilities. Such efforts shall include:

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Opportunity for all means that everyone in our society has the opportunity to get a job and participate in the workforce . . . this executive order focuses on empowering all Arizonans, and our hope is that it will mean more and better jobs for individuals with disabilities. I thank all our community partners and stakeholders who will be working with the state to make this initiative a success. — Governor Ducey



www.azemploymentfirst.org