

EMPLOYMENT FIRST WISCONSIN



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**.

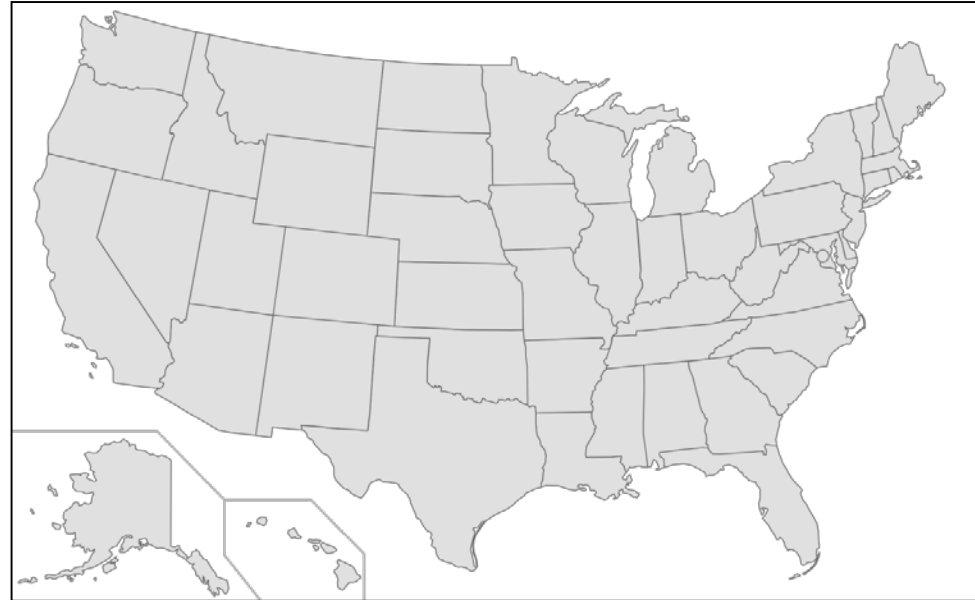




IS EMPLOYMENT FIRST HAPPENING ONLY IN WISCONSIN?

No!

- Employment First is happening **across** the US
- In fact, people in **46** 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
- Policy Makers and Law Makers that everyone deserves a **real** job for **real** pay – regardless of disability



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROMOTE **EMPLOYMENT FIRST** IN WI?

- Check the Employment First Website often at www.wiemploymentfirst.com
- Start or join a local Employment First Community Action team
- There are teams in: Milwaukee, Waukesha, Manitowoc, Racine, and Hudson with contact information on the website.



APPLY TO BE AN EMPLOYMENT FIRST AMBASSADOR

You can apply if you:

- Have a job in the community
- Believe that there is a job in the community for everyone, regardless of disability
- Are willing to share your employment story
- Would like to talk to elected officials about why Employment First is needed in Wisconsin





WHERE CAN YOU LEARN MORE ABOUT EMPLOYMENT FIRST?

- Go to the Wisconsin Employment First Website at :
www.wiemploymentfirst.com
- Call Ann Sievert at:
608-267-9897

