



*Improving the Lives of Older Adults and People with Disabilities
Through Services, Research, and Education*

Dear AoD Program Colleagues:

For many Americans with disabilities, the dream of having a job in a competitive integrated setting remains hard to reach. We know you are working to change that outcome.

October is [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) (NDEAM). For this year's observance, I invite you to join your disability network colleagues across our nation in a collaborative action with ACL to increase job opportunities for people with disabilities.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has selected *The Right Talent, Right Now* as the NDEAM 2019 theme. The theme emphasizes the essential role that people with disabilities play in America's economic success, especially in an era when historically low unemployment and global competition are creating a high demand for skilled talent. Throughout October, ACL will highlight how you are working to increase opportunities for the people with disabilities to bring their talents to the workplace – now!

We want to share your success stories and promising practices! These can include:

- Actions and events you are leading, or participating in, to help people with disabilities find and keep competitive, integrated employment;
- Partnerships you are leading to reach out in your communities;
- Help and support you are providing to individuals seeking jobs; and
- Efforts your agencies are taking to support individuals with disabilities improve their financial capability (i.e. promoting ABLE accounts, etc.).
- Anything you're particularly proud of!

We plan to share stories via the ACL website, ACL blogs, social media messages, and other awareness-raising efforts in October as part of NDEAM. Please consider sending us a story or two and/or photographs by Friday, September 6 to AoD@ACL.hhs.gov.

Thank you in advance for your stories and for all you do every day on behalf of and alongside Americans with disabilities.

Best,

Julie Hocker
Commissioner, Administration on Disabilities
Administration on Community Living
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services