



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State joins with the entire nation each October to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month, reaffirming our statewide commitment to supporting environments and workplace policies that recognize the input, value, and skills of all New Yorkers with any disability, this year's state observance reflecting the new name, Disability Rights & Employment Awareness Month; and

Whereas, further building on this concept, this year New York State launches a new initiative to reach out to people through its first annual Disability Rights & Employment Awareness Month – or “DREAM” Symposium – a two-day event featuring an in-person vendor fair and a virtual job fair, and that will acknowledge all of the rights that New York's disability community is entitled to, including, but not limited to, the right to equal employment opportunities; and

Whereas, it is incumbent upon our State to protect and uphold the rights that all individuals want and deserve, including the right to gainful, productive, integrated, and necessary employment, especially for persons with disabilities, whose opportunities to find a job are not as extensive and available; and

Whereas, our State seeks to provide innovations in financial and health care systems, and collaborates with many partners whose common goals are to increase personal and financial independence for all members of the community in order that they may live and thrive to their full potential; and

Whereas, New York State's government agencies that serve individuals with physical and sensory disabilities, developmental and/or intellectual disabilities, and/or mental health disabilities, promote community living by developing implementation plans that will foster greater independence for individuals with disabilities and the creation of more employment options; and

Whereas, New York State recognizes the importance of ensuring that people with all types of disabilities have full access to employment opportunities and that the State will not tolerate any form of discrimination based on disability and recognizes that affording the community the same right to earn a living is an essential civil rights issue; and

Whereas, New York State's government, community agencies, and advocacy organizations continuously strive to improve coordination across vocational rehabilitation and employment programs to increase employment, career advancement, and entrepreneurship opportunities for individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas, the Employment First Policy was established in 2015 as a tool for government, community agencies, and advocacy organizations to work collaboratively to increase the employment rate of New Yorkers with disabilities receiving services by five percent; decrease the poverty rate of New Yorkers with disabilities receiving services by five percent; and register 100 businesses as having formal policies to include people with disabilities in the workforce development strategies by hiring qualified workers, and through the development of inclusive workforce environments; and

Whereas, this year, New York State is reinvigorating the original Employment First Commission and its goals to reinforce this State's strong commitment to vastly improve the employment rate for people with disabilities; and

Whereas, entrepreneurs and professionals in various fields – including health, education, vocational rehabilitation, independent living, transportation, and rehabilitation engineering – are working with individuals with disabilities and their families, community leaders, service providers, employers, and organized labor to expand services and support programs that empower people with disabilities to secure employment in their field of interest, including self-employment; and

Whereas, all New Yorkers value and appreciate the contributions of everyone in the community during this month long observance and embrace its theme – “Disability - Part of the Equity Equation” – which recognizes the vital role people with disabilities play in making the nation's workforce diverse and inclusive;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 2022 as

DISABILITY RIGHTS & EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day of October in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh