

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Missouri Workforce Development Board | September 29, 2026



October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, or NDEAM. Each year, NDEAM recognizes the positive impact and contribution of individuals with disabilities in the workforce. This year's theme, *Celebrating Value and Talent*, highlights the skills and contributions that individuals with disabilities add to the workplace, communities, and economy.

For employers, October offers a great time to evaluate hiring practices and encourage workplaces that support employees with physical, mental health, and invisible disabilities. Added benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities are a strong and dedicated workforce, innovation, and filling talent needs.

The public workforce system in Missouri offers state and local programs to help businesses recruit, hire, and retain workers with disabilities:

- [Missouri Job Centers](#): Local Job Centers provide free recruitment assistance, candidate matching, and workplace support services. Incentive programs may include on-the-job training and assistance to help employers retrain or upgrade skills of the existing workforce to avert layoffs or improve competitiveness.

- [HireMO](#): Post job openings on the premier online portal for connecting workers and job opportunities.
- [Vocational Rehabilitation](#) (VR) and [Rehabilitation Services for the Blind](#) (RSB): Programs help match trained candidates with employers. VR and RSB may also assist with accommodations such as assistive equipment, job coaches, and on-the-job training to help the worker obtain, maintain, or advance employment.
- [Apprenticeship](#): Missouri continues to lead the nation in providing opportunities to those with disabilities to pursue high-quality career pathways.
- [Governor's Council on Disability \(GCD\)](#): The GCD provides educational presentations, people-first language tips, and youth transition mentoring opportunities. For more information on NDEAM, visit the [resource page](#) for more information.
- [Missouri Assistive Technology](#) : As Missouri's federally funded 21st Century Assistive Technology Act Program, the mission of Missouri Assistive Technology is to increase access to and acquisition of assistive technology and related services. At home, work, school or play, assistive technology provides choice, opportunity, and independence