

Employment First Maine

1. A coordinated Educational/Marketing approach to Businesses about the benefits of engaging a diverse workforce that includes employees with all abilities
 - In order to share consistent information, practices and approaches based in best employment practices
 - Utilize Maine stories that show outcomes
 - Across all DOE, DHHS, DOL offices that engage with businesses
2. Provide increased support to Businesses that include resources, tools and access to information on Accessibility, Accommodations, Electronic Applicant Screening, Disclosure and other areas as identified by business
 - In order to have ongoing, updated information readily available to all businesses
3. Provide a Business to Business platform that engages and shares information, resources and strategies that have been effective in a Business
 - Continued financial support to efforts such as The Maine Business Leadership Affiliate established in 2010 that provides a mechanism for business to support one another
 - In order to promote more businesses hiring employees with disabilities
4. Re-commit Maine as a Model Employer with an Updated Executive Order
 - In order to bring new focus to Maine State Governments commitment to hiring employees with disabilities
5. Increased focus about Business as a Customer in the Employment First Initiative and across all DOL, DHHS and DOE initiatives
 - Allow for Business Consultant roles within State Offices that provide support and services directly to a Business engaging in disability hiring initiatives
 - Implementation of new WorkForce Innovation and Opportunity Act Employer Section
Improves Services to Employers and Promotes Work-Based Training: WIOA contributes to economic growth and business expansion by ensuring the workforce system is job-driven – matching employers with skilled individuals.