

EveryBody Works Update

Gov. Cooper Earns Award for 14,556 New Jobs among North Carolinians with Disabilities

North Carolina has seen an amazing surge of 14,556 new jobs for people with disabilities across the state and Governor Roy Cooper was recently recognized for those gains by RespectAbility at the National Governors Association Winter Meeting.

Our state now ranks 35th in jobs for people with disabilities and almost 250,000 people with disabilities are now actively working, according to RespectAbility. This represents a 34.5 percent employment rate which is higher than states like New York and South Carolina and, hopefully, there is more to come.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	2016
State Population	10,146,788
Number of people with disabilities (all disabilities, ages 18-64)	722,788
Number of people with disabilities who are employed (all disabilities, ages 18-64)	249,230
Percentage of working age people who are employed (all disabilities)	34.49%
Percentage of working age people who are employed (NO disabilities)	76.36%

Data courtesy of National Disability Institute, Inc.



Last October, employment for people with disabilities became center stage when the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) kicked off [EveryBody Works NC](#) in partnership with North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and the NC Business Leadership Network. The campaign took a big leap forward in February when Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, called employing people with disabilities a "win-win for everybody" while visiting the Outer Banks.

Cohen was joined by Tara Myers, Senior Director of Vocational Rehabilitation, and they teamed up to ask the state to reduce the employment gap between those with and without disabilities as part of the new campaign. Myers encouraged both employers and potential employees to utilize Vocational Rehabilitation's employment services as the state's inclusive employment initiative continues to expand.

"There is a lot of momentum behind the [EveryBody Works NC](#) campaign and I urge everyone in the disability community to rethink their own employment situation and goals," Chris Egan, executive director of NCCDD said. "There are new job opportunities out there as demand for new employees remains strong, and there are both training and college opportunities to help people with disabilities prepare for today's competitive job market."



The [EveryBody Works NC](#) campaign encourages people with disabilities to find a meaningful, competitive job and to use VR employment support services that include pre-screening, job training, job coaching and job placement services. In addition, VR provides site modifications and assistive technologies to help assure successful job placements.

For more information, visit everybodyworksnc.org

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