

# National Disability Employment Awareness Month

**A Statement from  
The Multi-Agency Task Force on Increasing Employment Opportunities for Americans with Disabilities  
in recognition of  
National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

In April 2018, eleven federal agencies came together to create the **Multi-Agency Task Force on Increasing Employment Opportunities for Americans with Disabilities**. The aim of this unique collaboration of federal agencies is to address the chronic unemployment rate of Americans with disabilities and work toward the complete integration of people with disabilities into the American workforce. Each of these agencies has a representative member serving on the task force. The agencies are the Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, Education, Veteran Affairs, Commerce, and Transportation, along with the Social Security Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, the Small Business Administration, the National Council on Disability, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In creating and supporting the Task Force, each representative has affirmed their shared commitment to increasing opportunities for people with disabilities to obtain competitive, integrated employment.

Every October, we observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month by celebrating the many and varied contributions of workers with disabilities. This year, it is more important than ever to bring attention to many contributions of workers with disabilities. As our nation battles the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that we continue to improve access to the supports and opportunities that will increase the participation of workers with disabilities in our nation's workforce. The Multi-Agency Task Force on Increasing Employment Opportunities for Americans with Disabilities is pleased to acknowledge the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month and renews its commitment to working together to **Increase Access and Opportunity** for every American.



Lance Robertson, Task Force Chair  
Administrator  
Administration for Community Living  
Department of Health & Human Services



Mary Lazare, Task Force Co-chair  
Principal Deputy Administrator  
Administration for Community Living  
Department of Health & Human Services



For more information and resources about National Disability Employment Awareness Month, including ideas for how you can participate, visit the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy's NDEAM website at [www.dol.gov/ndeam](http://www.dol.gov/ndeam). Employers of any size, in any industry – as well as community organizations, advocacy groups, and schools – are encouraged to participate.