



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, since 1945, Congress has recognized the need to raise public awareness about the challenges of finding employment faced by individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 6.7 percent of New Jersey's residents under age 65 have a disability; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 191,000 New Jersey residents with disabilities are currently employed - only about 36 percent of the state's working-age disability population; and

WHEREAS, people with all ranges of disabilities can achieve employment, providing a sense of purpose, dignity, accomplishment and earned income; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey benefits from the participation of people with disabilities in the workforce with increased productivity, expanded tax base and lower poverty rates; and

WHEREAS, in April 2012, New Jersey became an Employment First State, adopting the philosophy and practice that competitive work is the first and preferred post-education activity for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has multiple state agencies and subdivisions working in collaboration to advance employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, to encourage and support their employment, the NJ WorkAbility Program offers full Medicaid health coverage to people with disabilities who are working, but whose earnings would otherwise make them ineligible; and

WHEREAS, the state welcomes and applauds efforts in the private and nonprofit sectors, among faith-based organizations, disability advocacy groups, higher education entities, corporate and business communities to promote employment for people with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

OCTOBER 2019

AS

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey to honor the accomplishments of individuals with disabilities and their employers to promote inclusive working environments and call upon New Jersey's business community to develop its employment outreach to individuals with disabilities.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this ninth day of October