



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 2020


Disability Employment Awareness Month

Thirty years since the Americans with Disabilities Act established equal access and protection from discrimination for people with disabilities, this community is making its mark in every sector of society. National Disability Employment Awareness Month celebrates the significant contributions people with disabilities make to the prosperity and vitality of our state and recognizes the importance of hiring and retaining these individuals in building a stronger, more inclusive economy.

There is still much work to be done to break down the barriers to education and employment faced by people with disabilities. The 2019 Report of the Employment First Committee convened by the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities found that the employment rate of working-aged people with disabilities is about 38 percent – compared to 78 percent of working-aged people without disabilities. My Administration is committed to reducing this disparity and improving employment outcomes for people with disabilities. We are proud to advance an initiative this year to create a new position within every state agency for people with disabilities to help expand opportunities to find meaningful work at our agencies and departments.

Workplaces that welcome the different talents and skills of all people reap the contributions of our diverse communities and bring our state closer to full inclusion and integration for all. This month, I call on employers, schools and other community organizations in California to redouble their efforts to ensure access, equity and opportunity for people with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom