

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR E1ST IMPLEMENTATION?

E1stNY is led by an E1st Director in the NYS Office of the Chief Disability Officer and requires the primary public health agencies supporting people with disabilities to implement E1st principles. Key to E1st is that efforts encompass the system as a whole and are not limited to employment programs!

- Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)
- Office of Mental Health (OMH)
- Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS)
- Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)
- Department of Labor (DOL)
- Office of Temporary Disability Assistance (OTDA)
- NYS Education Department (NYSED)
- Department of Health (DOH)

WHY IS EMPLOYMENT SUCH A BIG DEAL?

Lack of employment is a key social determinant of health, as is poverty. Both lead to poor health outcomes. Low employment and high poverty rates are pervasive for people with disabilities and the compounding effects are more significant than that of their non-disabled unemployed peers.

Learn More



Office of the Chief Disability Officer
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
ny.gov/cdo
employmentfirstny@exec.ny.gov



Office of the Chief Disability Officer

EMPLOYMENT FIRST (E1ST)

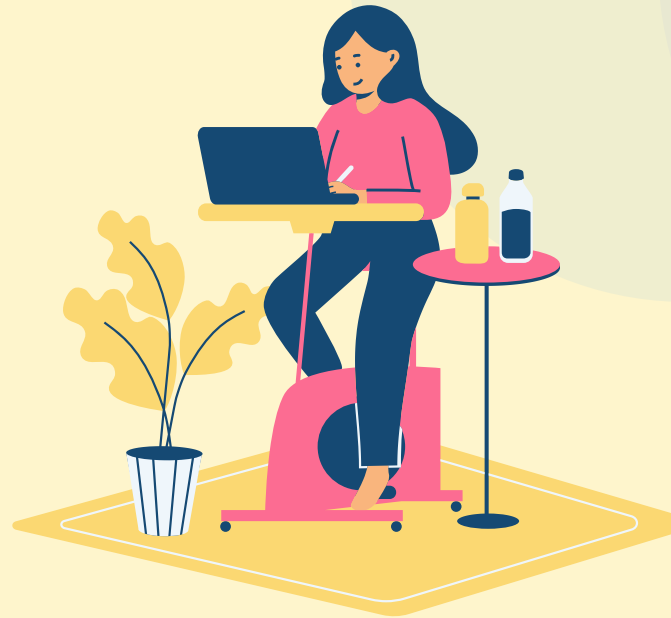
Building an Inclusive Workforce



WHAT IS E1ST?

Governor Kathy Hochul signed Executive Order 40 establishing New York as an Employment First (E1st) state in September, 2024. E1st is a national movement built upon the principle that employment should be the first and preferred option for people being served by our disability public health system, and that Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) be not just a primary goal, but an expectation, even for those with the most significant disabilities.

E1st is a civil rights, economic, public health and workforce issue that requires deep public policy, cultural, social and economic progress to become a reality. This includes an acknowledgement that our system has not historically been good at prioritizing or understanding the benefits of employment, and, in fact, is often a big part of the problem!



WHO'S ON THE E1ST TEAM?

- Chief Disability Officer
- E1st Director
- E1st Business Liaison
- E1st Chief Data Strategist
- E1st Steering Committee
- E1st Stakeholder Committee

WHAT'S ON THE INITIAL E1ST AGENDA?

- Support and bolster the employment services system
- Assess and enhance systems data infrastructure
- Leverage assistive technology and secure AI opportunities
- Expand business partnerships and private sector engagement
- Strengthen systems that support seamless transition across the lifespan
- Launch agency E1st implementation strategic plans (January 2026)
- Publish inaugural E1stNY Annual Report (Summer 2026)