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National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM): An Essential Workforce

Nationwide, the [workforce participation rate](#) for individuals with disabilities has been less than half of the workforce participation rate for individuals without a disability. For people with *developmental disabilities*, the discrepancy is even greater with only 18% of individuals reporting employment, as measured by the [National Core Indicators](#) (an annual survey of services from public developmental disabilities agencies).

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in many changes for employees and job seekers with disabilities as well as those who support them. However, countless individuals with disabilities have been a part of the essential workforce to help communities and businesses remain strong. [APSE](#), a national non-profit membership organization dedicated to Employment First for people with disabilities, is highlighting the stories of essential workers and the businesses who employ them as part of NDEAM. These highlights, which include a success story from Missouri, can be accessed at [Missouri-NDEAM 2020](#).