

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT MONTH: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?



OCTOBER 2021

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Industries for the Blind and Visually Impaired:

- Persons with a disability are less likely to have completed a bachelor's degree or higher than those with no disability.
- In 2020, 29 percent of workers with a disability were employed part time, compared with 16 percent for those with no disability. Across all age groups, persons with disabilities were much less likely to be employed than those with no disabilities.
- In general, those with vision loss will be a large portion of those rates as unemployment is statistically higher for the blind and visually impaired community.

These statistics are staggering and show why the work of CSC's Employment Department is so important. Our employment staff aid in the career development process by focusing on the client's individual needs, interests, goals and personal preferences to find and maintain competitive employment. Available services are listed below:

Vocational Evaluation

CSC assesses vocational strengths, aptitudes, abilities and academic skill levels to help develop employment goals.

Community Based Assessment (CBA)

CSC partners with community businesses that provide job tasks to clients to observe them in a work environment to assess skills, abilities, preferences and barriers.

Job Development

CSC will provide training and support to build job readiness skills, reduce barriers and identify potential jobs in the community.

Job Coaching

CSC provides one-on-one support to employed consumers to help them learn job tasks, develop natural supports and adjust to the work environment.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

CSC offers Pre-ETS to students aged 14-21 who experience low or no vision or any work-limiting disability. Pre-ETS are typically brief with introductory topics that can precede or supplement transition services.

"My job coach was a light in a dark place. She and Cleveland Sight Center encouraged me every step of the way while finding a job. Being employed means I can help take care of my grandchildren and afford to go bowling or out to dinner without the stress or feeling like I can't."

-Patricia, CSC Client

Learn more online:

<https://www.clevelandsightcenter.org/programs-services/training/employment-services>