



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HEAD INJURY
ADMINISTRATORS



NASHIA Celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2020

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) joins other organizations in recognizing **October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)**. The purpose of NDEAM is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) provides a toolkit, materials and resources to assist with educating the public about disability employment issues on its [website](#). This year marks the 75th observance of NDEAM, the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the 100th anniversary of the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

**What can
YOU do?** The Campaign
for Disability
Employment

At work, it's what people CAN do that matters. That's the simple message behind an ODEP - funded outreach effort to promote the hiring, retention, and advancement of people with disabilities. The CDE is a collaborative of several leading disability and business organizations convened by ODEP to work together to address disability employment.

The outcome of this collaboration is a national outreach initiative titled "**What can YOU do?**" Framed around messages developed collectively by the

VR100
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION • 1920-2020

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the first federally funded program to assist people with disabilities that had not acquired their disabilities as a result of serving in the military. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Fess Act of 1920, also known as the Industrial Rehabilitation Act and referred to as "The National Civilian Vocational Rehabilitation Act", into law.

The U.S. Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has been celebrating "100 Years of VR" throughout

CDE's Members, this initiative challenges common misconceptions about disability employment and encourages employers and others to recognize the value and talent that people with disabilities add to America's workplaces and economy. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Thanks to the ADA Resource Center, we can celebrate the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities (ADA), the landmark civil rights legislation, all year long. This month, learn about the history of the ADA, signed into laws July 26, 1990, and Title I pertaining to employment via podcasts developed by the ADA Resource Center that are posted on its [webpage](#).

The [ADA National Network](#) and its ten regional ADA Centers across the United States developed a Toolkit that provides comprehensive "one-stop" information, guidance and training on all titles of the [ADA](#) pertaining to employment, public accommodations, telecommunications, and miscellaneous.

(Note: The anniversary logo was developed by the ADA National Network - [adata.org](#)).

2020. The anniversary content is housed on its [webpage](#).

VR is a federal-State program that helps people who have physical, cognitive, emotional, health or mental disabilities to get or keep a job. The 1973 law included civil rights protections under Title V, Sections 501, 503 and 504 that provided protections with regard to hiring (federal sector), employment (federal contractors) and participation in programs and activities supported with federal funds. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 is the last reauthorization of the VR program.

Finding your State VR office

Every State has a VR agency to help individuals with disabilities meet their employment goals. Depending on needs, a variety of services may be provided, such as medical and psychological assessment; vocational evaluation and planning; career counseling and guidance; work experience while in high school; training and education after high school; job-site assessment and accommodations; job placement; job coaching; on-the-job training; supported employment; assistive technology and devices; and time-limited medical and/or psychological treatment.

Many State and local VR agencies have changed or adapted their work environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. This information may be posted on the State's VR webpage. Click [here](#) to find each State office contact.

NASHIA Website



NASHIA

