

RIGHT HERE!

Monthly Newsletter
About Your Rights
& Responsibilities

OCTOBER 2026
National Disability
Employment Awareness
Month (NDEAM)

EMPLOYMENT
BUILDS
INDEPENDENCE,
INCLUSION
& STRONGER
COMMUNITIES!

The Right to Obtain Meaningful and Productive Work

Everyone has the right to work, to choose the type of work they want, and to be supported to reach their employment goals.

WORK
CREATES
BRIGHTER
FUTURES!



Understanding This Right

You have the right to obtain meaningful and productive work. This means you can:

-  Choose the type of work you want.
-  Be supported to explore your interests and build job skills.
-  Work in places that are integrated in the community.
-  Receive the supports you need to be successful.
-  Be treated fairly and without discrimination.

How Staff Can Help

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) play an important role in supporting this right. Staff can:

-  Get to know each person's interests, strengths, and employment goals.
-  Provide information about work options and community resources.
-  Support skill building, training, and job exploration.
-  Help with transportation, communication, and workplace supports.
-  Encourage self-advocacy and decision making about employment.
-  Celebrate progress and accomplishments!

NYS Laws That Support This Right



This right is protected by New York State laws, including:

- **Mental Hygiene Law Article 6 (MH § 633)**
People have the right to appropriate treatment, training, and rehabilitation services to help them achieve meaningful and productive work in integrated community settings.
- **Social Services Law § 624**
Services must support each person to live, work, and participate in the community, with opportunities for employment consistent with their goals, interests, and abilities.

What OPWDD Says

"People with developmental disabilities have the same right to work, to contribute to their communities, and to have meaningful careers as all other New Yorkers. OPWDD is committed to expanding opportunities for competitive, integrated employment and to supporting people to reach their employment goals."

— OPWDD



Word Search



E	M	P	L	O	M	E	N	T	M	W	O	R	K
T	R	A	I	N	I	G	K	K	I	L	L	S	D
S	U	P	P	O	R	T	C	H	O	I	C	E	S
O	P	P	O	R	T	U	N	I	T	Y	G	O	A
C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	C	A	R	E	E
I	N	D	E	P	E	N	D	E	N	C	E	J	O
R	E	S	P	E	C	T	N	C	L	S	I	O	N
A	C	C	E	S	S	A	D	V	O	C	A	C	Y
P	R	D	D	U	T	I	V	E	R	I	G	H	T
E	Q	U	I	Y	Y	U	C	C	E	S	S	L	A

EMPLOYMENT
WORK
JOBS
TRAINING
SKILLS
SUPPORT
OPPORTUNITY

COMMUNITY
INTEGRATED
INDEPENDENCE
RESPECT
CHOICES
ADVOCACY
CAREER

PRODUCTIVE
MEANINGFUL
SUCCESS
INCLUSION
EQUITY
GOALS
RIGHTS