

State of Florida

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Florida's Agency for Persons with Disabilities provides services to more than 55,000 Floridians with developmental disabilities annually, so they can live and work in their local communities; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Division of Blind Services within the Department of Education, assist people with disabilities so they may become employed; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity, CareerSource Florida, and 24 local workforce development boards throughout the state, help people with disabilities locate jobs; and

WHEREAS, these programs have an overwhelming impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of citizens with disabilities by offering services including job placement assistance, training, support services, and job coaching; and

WHEREAS, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities has assisted 2,861 Floridians with disabilities with maintaining gainful employment, and Vocational Rehabilitation assisted 5,924 people, and Blind Services helped 888 individuals achieve successful employment outcomes, while VR assisted another 71,826 and Blind Service another 11,087 individuals to become more successful in school, community and work; and

WHEREAS, the Unique Abilities Partner Program will recognize businesses that are committed to providing career and financial opportunities to individuals with unique abilities, and to the organizations that support them; and

WHEREAS, Florida has the third largest population of disabled veterans in the nation with more than 348,000, including more than 2,500 wounded veterans from service in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Economic Opportunity, and CareerSource Florida network are working together to increase employment opportunities for veterans with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation, Blind Services, Department of Economic Opportunity, CareerSource Florida and the Department of Veterans' Affairs have substantially contributed to the tax revenues of Florida by helping individuals with disabilities go to work, thus increasing their ability to achieve self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Disability Mentoring Day activities are hosted throughout October providing mentoring and job shadowing employment opportunities for students and job seekers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Florida joins the rest of the Nation in recognizing the contributions of the 5.7 million Floridians with unique abilities by celebrating October 2019, as Disability Employment Awareness Month with the theme *Abilities Work*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida do hereby recognize October 2019, as

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in Florida and commend the programs for their dedication and outstanding assistance toward improving the quality of life for the citizens of Florida with disabilities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Tallahassee this the 8th day of October, 2019.





RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR



ASHLEY MOODY
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JIMMY PATRONIS
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



NICOLE FRIED
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE