Employment First means competitive, integrated employment is the first and preferred option for individuals with disabilities receiving assistance from publicly funded support.

Why is Employment First needed in SC?

- There are 727,701+ individuals with disabilities in South Carolina.
- 67.4% of individuals with disabilities in South Carolina are unemployed.
- South Carolina’s unemployment rate for people with disabilities is the 6th highest in the country.

Did you know...

- 32 of 50 states in the U.S. have adopted Employment First legislation?

Employment First Legislation would...

- Ensure state programs, policies, procedures, and funding support the competitive and integrated employment of South Carolinians with disabilities.
- Share data and information across systems in order to track progress.
- Create benefits for businesses that hire citizens with disabilities, like lower costs, higher revenues, and increased profits.

Learn more about Employment First at hiremesc.org.

This document was developed by Able South Carolina, Inc.

Sources for this information include: SC Employment First Study Committee Report (2019)