

A photograph of three women in a modern office hallway. The woman on the left has long red hair and is wearing a white top. The woman in the middle is a Black woman with short hair, wearing a black blazer over a red top and black pants, holding a tablet. The woman on the right is a white woman with long dark hair, wearing a white top and a long pink skirt, with a prosthetic leg. They are all smiling and looking at the tablet. The background shows a modern office interior with glass walls and wooden floors.

# Federal Exchange on Employment and Disability (FEED) Meeting

September 10, 2025

# Today's Agenda

## Introduction (1:00-1:05 p.m.)

- **Akinyemi Banjo**, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

## Welcome (1:05-1:06 p.m.)

- **Renee Tajudeen**, Supervisory Program Manager, Division of Policy Communication and Outreach, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

## Group Discussion of Priority Topic Areas for FY2026 (1:06-1:40 p.m.)

- **Akinyemi Banjo**, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor

## Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) (1:40-1:55 p.m.)

- **Colleen Doyle**, WRP Program Manager, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor
- **Frances Vhay**, WRP Program Manager, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor

## National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) (1:55-2:10 p.m.)

- **Michelle Barfield**, Business Development Specialist, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

## Chat with U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) (2:10-2:40 p.m.)

- **Wendy Doernberg**, Acting Assistant Director, Special Operations Division, Senior Attorney-Advisor, Federal Sector Programs, Office of Federal Operations, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
- **Elyssa Santos-Abrams**, Senior Attorney-Advisor, Outreach, Training, and Engagement Division, Federal Sector Programs, Office of Federal Operations, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

## Open Forum: FEED Member Brag and Ask, Closing (2:40-3:00 p.m.)

- **Akinyemi Banjo**, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

# Introduction

**Akinyemi Banjo**, Senior Policy Advisor

Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

# Welcome

**Renee Tajudeen**, Supervisory Program Manager  
Division of Policy Communication and Outreach, Office of Disability Employment  
Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

# Group Discussion of Priority Topic Areas for FY2026

**Akinyemi Banjo**, Senior Policy Advisor  
Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor

# Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP)

**Colleen Doyle**, WRP Program Manager

Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor

**Frances Vhay**, WRP Program Manager

Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor

# Workforce Recruitment Program

Federal Exchange on Employment and Disability

September 10, 2025

Colleen Doyle, Lauren Karas and Frances Vhay  
Office of Disability Employment Policy  
U.S. Department of Labor





# Current Status

- Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) is a resource for agencies in complying with Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- For agencies in a position to hire, federal employees can register for an account at [WRP.gov](https://WRP.gov) and search the database.
- For more information about the 2025 database, view the [WRP Federal Employer Fact Sheet](#) (PDF).
- DOL WRP staff are available to conduct presentations to HR and hiring managers. Please email [wrp@dol.gov](mailto:wrp@dol.gov).



# WRP New Partnership with USAJOBS

- The Office of Disability Employment Policy and WRP are excited to announce a partnership with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) USAJOBS team!
- The WRP.gov database is transitioning to become a USAJOBS Talent Program, which will streamline how federal agencies connect with WRP candidates.
- WRP applicants are applying through USAJOBS this fall.
- Federal employers, hiring managers, and HR staff will transition to USAJOBS [Agency Talent Portal](#) in December 2025.

# Program Changes for Fall 2025-2026

- New student and recent graduate application process through USAJOBS.
- School Coordinators are responsible for WRP campus outreach but will no longer verify candidate eligibility.
- WRP Program Staff will verify candidate eligibility for participation through a transcript and Schedule A letter (now required).
- Individual informational interviews will not be provided this fall; a different virtual career development activity (TBD) will be offered.

# Tentative WRP Dates

- Student registration opened: August 25
- Student registration closes: October 10
- Career development activity: November 2025
- Database released to employers: December 2025

# Upcoming Platform Changes for Federal Employers

- Through 2025, Federal employers will continue to search the WRP database using [WRP.gov](https://www.wrp.gov).
- Beginning in December 2025 (tentative), WRP employers will transition to OPM's [Agency Talent Portal](https://www.opm.gov/employment/) to search for WRP 2026 candidates.
- WRP will send out email communication to all registered employers to notify them of the transition.

# Ways to Support WRP

- Report WRP hires on [WRP.gov](https://www.wrp.gov).
  - If you need help, please email [wrp@dol.gov](mailto:wrp@dol.gov).
- Request agency presentations.
- Promote the program through emails, newsletters, Intranet site, articles, and success stories.
- In 2026, spread the word at your agency about WRP's database change and encourage colleagues in recruitment to check out the WRP Talent Program through the [Agency Talent Portal](#)!

# Questions & Contact Information

- Reach out to WRP staff at any time at [wrp@dol.gov](mailto:wrp@dol.gov).

# National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

**Michelle Barfield**, Business Development Specialist  
Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)





# Celebrating Value and Talent

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)



OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

# National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)



- Held each October.
- Celebrates the contributions of America's disabled workers including those with mental health conditions and other nonobvious disabilities.
- Showcases workplace practices employers across the country use to support their employees with disabilities.

# NDEAM History

- **1945:** Congress passed a law establishing the first week in October to enlist support for the employment of people who were physically disabled.
- **1988:** Congress expanded the week to a month and changed its name to “National Disability Employment Awareness Month.”
- **2001:** Congress authorized the establishment of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), and ODEP assumed responsibility for coordinating NDEAM, including developing a new theme and resources each year.

# NDEAM Theme



- This year we celebrate the 80th anniversary of NDEAM.
- This year's NDEAM theme and graphics also will honor America's 250th anniversary as we lead up to its celebration in 2026.
- NDEAM 2025 will recognize the value and talent American workers with disabilities add to our workplaces and economy and highlight their achievements both past and present.
- That's the spirit behind this year's official theme: "Celebrating Value and Talent."





# Celebrating Value and Talent

National Disability Employment Awareness Month



OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

#NDEAM  
80th Anniversary  
[dol.gov/odep](https://dol.gov/odep)

# Plan, Observe, Celebrate!



- Plan NDEAM Observances:
  - Ideas grouped by user: employer, educator, disability-related organizations
- 31 Days of NDEAM:
  - Put up the NDEAM poster
  - Promote your NDEAM activities through social media
- Year-Round Strategies:
  - Incorporate disability into your onboarding processes
  - Host a Disability 101 event for employees

# NDEAM Resources

- Poster
- Virtual backgrounds
- Social graphics and stickers
- NDEAM explainer video



# Visit our NDEAM Page

[dol.gov/ndeam](https://dol.gov/ndeam)

# Chat with U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

**Wendy Doernberg**, Acting Assistant Director

Special Operations Division, Senior Attorney-Advisor, Federal Sector Programs, Office of Federal Operations, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

**Elyssa Santos-Abrams**, Senior Attorney-Advisor

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# Open Forum: FEED Member Brag and Ask, Closing

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Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

# Mark Your Calendars

## **EARN Webinar**

### [Prioritizing Mental Health: Supporting Young Professionals with Disabilities](#)

- September 17, 2025, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

## **FEED Meeting**

- February 11, 2026, 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET

# EARN Funding Statement

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# Thank You!

Visit us at [AskEARN.org](http://AskEARN.org)  
Follow us on social media!