



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately 29 percent of the United States' population has some type of disability, and that 23 percent (1.6 million people) or nearly 1 in 4 adults living in New Jersey have some type of disability; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are valued residents of our Great State; and

WHEREAS, October marks National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a time to recognize the contributions and potential of workers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities living in New Jersey represent a dynamic and diverse talent pool in our communities, yet remain an underutilized asset to our economy; and

WHEREAS, when people with disabilities thrive, their communities and our economy thrive, because these capable workers strengthen businesses with their knowledge, skills and abilities; and

WHEREAS, innovative and inclusive employers who lead the way in creating meaningful and accessible employment opportunities for people with disabilities should be recognized, and all community businesses and employers should be encouraged to recruit, hire and retain workers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the contributions made by people with disabilities in every occupation, across every industry, throughout the state deserve recognition and respect; and

WHEREAS, expanding awareness and skill-building opportunities, while fostering a fully integrated workforce in New Jersey that welcomes people with all types of abilities, is a necessary endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services through its Division of Developmental Disabilities, Division of Disability Services, Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired works daily to empower individuals with disabilities and position them to successfully enter the workforce through training, advocacy, education, vocational rehabilitation and language access;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mikie Sherrill, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

OCTOBER 2026

AS

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey and urge all employers to support efforts to provide opportunities for people with disabilities, make their workplaces more inclusive and welcoming, and acknowledge the contributions of people with disabilities to the workforce and to our state's economy.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-eighth day of September in the year two thousand twenty-six, the two hundred fifty-first year of the Independence of the United States.

Mikie Sherrill
GOVERNOR