

EMPLOYMENT



Individuals with visual impairments have a 70% unemployment rate and a 22% underemployment rate – meaning almost the entire population has an unfavorable employment status.

People experiencing vision loss have unique needs related to obtaining and sustaining living wage employment. These include access technology training, workplace accommodations, transportation and overcoming employer bias toward persons with visual disabilities.

For those reasons, we support initiatives to expand integrated employment opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Repeal a 2013 state law that prevents people receiving **Social Security Disability Insurance** (SSDI) benefits from getting unemployment benefits.

BUDGET ITEMS

Increase resources in the Department of Workforce Development's **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation** (DVR).

Provide authority to create staff positions for vocational rehabilitation self-employment clients.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Ensure that agencies allocate adequate resources for key support services like career counseling, access technology training, and orientation and mobility training.