



Ways and Means Committee
SB 0033: More Opportunities for Career–Focused Students Act of 2024
March 20, 2024
Position: Support

The Arc Maryland is a statewide advocacy and service organization that works to protect and advance the rights and quality of life of people with disabilities.

We support SB0033 because we believe it will raise awareness and availability of career pathways post high school for all students, and will benefit students with developmental disabilities by creating linkages to apprenticeships, informing students of postsecondary educational options, and informing students and families of employment and skills training opportunities that are available post exit from high school.

Maryland is an “Employment First” state. Employment First is a concept to facilitate the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in the workplace and community. Under the Employment First approach, community–based employment is the first option for employment services for youth and adults with disabilities, regardless of the significance of the disability. The foundation of Employment First is that all individuals who want to work can work and have success when they are given opportunity, training, and supports that build upon their unique talents, skills and abilities.

The following chart, from less than one year ago,ⁱ summarizes how many individuals, receiving Developmental Disabilities Administration services, are employed on a full or part time basis in Maryland:

| Hours Summary for all providers in all counties in all regions during the May 2023 Reporting Period | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Activity | Number of Individuals in Activity | Percent of Individuals in Activity | Average Hours in Activity | Number worked more than 20 hours/week | Percent worked more than 20 hours /week | Total hours worked this period |
| Individual Competitive Job | 2,324 | 25.3 | 40.2 | 895 | 38.5 | 93406.8 |
| Individual Contracted Job | 373 | 4.1 | 42.4 | 166 | 44.5 | 15806.9 |
| Group Integrated Job | 144 | 1.6 | 25.6 | 23 | 16 | 3683.8 |
| Facility Based/Sheltered Job | 125 | 1.4 | 20.4 | 16 | 12.8 | 2552.7 |
| Self Employment | 17 | 0.2 | 24.1 | 4 | 23.5 | 410.2 |
| Community Based Non Work | 4,218 | 45.9 | 26.4 | 992 | 23.5 | 111236.2 |
| Volunteer Job | 1,162 | 12.6 | | | | |
| Facility Based Non Work | 3,955 | 43 | | | | |
| No Activity Participation | 1,191 | 13 | | | | |
| Unduplicated Total | 9,188 | | | | | |

According to this chart, only a third of individuals with IDD who are supported by a DDA program are in employment. More than half are engaged in “non–work” or volunteer jobs. We can and should do better. We hope the opportunities, awareness, apprenticeship

opportunities, information, and training provided through SB0033 will help to move this dial, for better employment outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For more information, please contact:

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ⁱ https://www.statedata.info/mdda/charts/activity_2.php