



2024

Improving Employment for Kansans with IDD



We can dramatically increase the number of Kansans with IDD who engage in work.

Nationally, more than 65% of persons with disabilities are unemployed. Kansas lags far behind other states in funding for employment services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). We can change that during the 2024 Legislative Session.

Two issues must be addressed before Kansas can put more persons with IDD to work:

01 Transition from 14c

14c is a federally-allowed exemption to minimum wage via section 14c of the Fair Labor Standards Act. 22 Kansas IDD service providers currently use 14c as a means to create work opportunities for about 1,000 Kansans with IDD. It is highly likely that this program will soon be phased out by the federal government.

02 Fund Supported Employment

Currently, the reimbursement rate for Supported Employment services (SE) is \$17.87 per hour, an amount wholly inadequate to retain the required highly-skilled employment specialists who develop job opportunities and train persons with IDD on the job. Because of underfunding, SE is only offered sporadically across Kansas.

Governor Kelly has included funds in her SFY 2025 budget to raise SE reimbursement to \$28 per hour. However, 2023 expert analysis has indicated the need for an hourly rate of \$50 in order to enable IDD service providers to offer Supported Employment services across Kansas.

Legislative Action to Improve Employment for Kansans with IDD:



\$6 million SGF to establish a 14c transition fund to assist IDD service providers in voluntarily transitioning from usage of 14c certificates.



14c transition fund would enable providers to **pay a minimum wage** to persons with IDD and would also provide funds to assist those providers in making their operations more competitive.



\$7.2 million SGF to increase Supported Employment services rate to \$50 per hour.

