



Significant Issues

Aging and Long Term Care contributes.

People with disabilities have had and continue to have the highest unemployment and under-employment rate in the State and nationally, some 60-plus percent. This is a long-term issue that will take time, understanding and re-tooling and re-designing the system to meet the needs of people with disabilities and the employment sector. The education system will also come into play as the need for a disability community that has been educated to the need to be employed and been trained for significant employment will have to be developed and implemented.

There may continue to be utilization of the State programs that provide personal assistance and health-related benefits to begin to break down the disincentives to employment, both by employers (outside of government) and people with disabilities. Private employers may initially need 'incentives' to recruit and hire people with disabilities.

**MW/yr**