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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

October is recognized as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), and 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the nationally recognized month. The yearly event began in 1945 under a different name and was only recognized for one week - it was called "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1988, Congress officially commemorated NDEAM, marking a significant milestone in disability rights and labor laws. The month serves as an observation of the positive impact that individuals with disabilities have on the American workforce. The official recognition allows for more opportunities for individuals with disabilities to seek employment, creating a more inclusive workplace environment in our country. In 2001, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) was created to ensure that NDEAM be formally recognized each year - including the selection of a yearly theme. The 2025 theme - Celebrating Value and Talent.

The recognition of NDEAM is important for all Americans to understand and honor, as nearly 85% of the I/DD population goes without employment, despite their credible qualities. This poses a critical need for diversity in the workforce, and an even bigger need for employers to accommodate for the needs of well-deserving individuals. At Imagine the Possibilities, NDEAM is recognized to uplift the individuals in our care who both seek and retain employment, as well as spread awareness to those in our community. As of June 2025, Imagine

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serves 250 individuals who participate in supported employment – a testament to our mission of empowering individual achievement.

We deeply value NDEAM as a pivotal time to celebrate the individuals in our care and across the country who work so diligently to reach their goals. It serves as a moment to reinforce their commitment to fostering more inclusive work environments and promoting equal opportunities for all. By actively promoting the awareness month, Imagine the Possibilities aims to highlight success stories of both the individuals we serve and the leaders that inspire them each day. Our relentless advocacy is intended to educate our community, potential employers, and advocate for policies that support the employment and advancement of individuals with disabilities, hoping to ensure a future that is inclusive, welcoming, and built for all. We encourage you to visit our social media pages to see how Imagine recognizes and supports this important month <https://linktr.ee/imaginethepossibilities>.



Visit www.imagineia.org to learn more.

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2023-2026
Community Employment Services
Community Integration