

Mission

To expand inclusive employment opportunities for all people with disabilities through education, advocacy, & legislative action.

Vision

Competitive & integrated employment is the preferred daily activity for all working age Arizonans who have disabilities.

Strategic Priorities

EMPLOYMENT
FIRST

COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED
EMPLOYMENT

Arizona Employment First Guiding Principles

1. The current low participation rate of people who have disabilities in the workforce is unacceptable. Access to “real jobs with real wages” is essential if people who have disabilities are to avoid lives of poverty, dependence, and isolation.
2. All working age people who have disabilities can participate in jobs that provide for meaningful work, with pay at or above minimum wage, benefits, and opportunities for integration with other workers.
3. As with all other individuals, employees with disabilities require assistance and support to ensure success on the job and should have access to supports needed to succeed in the workplace.
4. All people, regardless of disability, have the right to pursue the full range of available employment opportunities and to earn a living wage in a job of their choosing, based on their talents, skills, and interests.
5. Outreach efforts should include diverse populations statewide.
6. Policies and practices should be conducive to the employment of people who have disabilities in general and Employment First principles.
7. Benefits counseling should be available to all people who have disabilities who want to work so that they understand the options available to them.

Becoming an APSE Member Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What does APSE stand for?

Association of People Supporting Employment First

What does APSE do?

APSE is the *only* national organization devoted to Employment First.

Who is APSE Arizona?

We are the Arizona local chapter associated with APSE National. Our mission is to expand inclusive employment opportunities for all people with disabilities through education, advocacy and legislative action.

Who should join?

Anyone who believes that individuals with disabilities deserve meaningful work and full inclusion in their communities. We encourage membership from all disciplines including, employers, support professionals, educators, individuals with disabilities, and family members.

Why join Arizona APSE?

- Join the national and local movement advancing Employment First initiatives
- Advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities to meaningful employment and competitive salaries
- Access state-of-the-art concepts and practices in expanding equitable employment for individuals with disabilities
- Be involved in legislative action and creating change in public policy
- Access to subject matter expert's/technical assistance through webinars and/or in-person trainings around a variety of topics addressing Employment First principles
- Access to the first national certification program for employment support professionals: Certified Employment Support Professional Certification (CESP)

What is the cost to join Arizona APSE?

Membership fees depend on the type of membership that fits you best.

TO JOIN APSE OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MEMBERSHIP TYPES:

[HTTPS://WWW.AZAPSE.ORG/MEMBERSHIP](https://www.azapse.org/membership)