

[Governor's Commission Recommends Strategies for Increased Job Opportunities for Floridians with Disabilities](#)

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In conjunction with yesterday's 22nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Governor's Commission on Jobs for Floridians with Disabilities released its premier 2012 annual report today.

"As we work to make Florida the best place for businesses to create private-sector jobs, we must also be sure that those persons with disabilities who want to work have the opportunity to do so," Governor Scott said. "Having a job adds to any person's dignity and purpose and opens doors to independence, which is especially important for Floridians with disabilities."

Governor Rick Scott created the Commission through [Executive Order 11-161](#) to study and find ways to address the disparity in employment for persons with disabilities relative to the general population. Charged by the executive order "to provide public policy solutions and strategies to the Governor and state policymakers," the Commission provides three primary recommendations to serve as initial steps for advancing job and employment opportunities for Floridians with disabilities:

- The Commission recommends streamlining information and identifying a single-point of contact for employers so they can easily navigate the disability system and expand their pool of qualified candidates.
- The Commission recommends the development of a long-term communications plan for the state to promote awareness among employers in order to address misperceptions of persons with disabilities.
- The Commission determined persons with disabilities need to be given as many firsthand experiences as possible to participate and compete in the workforce. The Commission recommends state policymakers, business leaders, and community partners promote and utilize internship and work experience opportunities for individuals with disabilities as a key tool to improving perceptions and addressing the employment disparity confronting these individuals.

The Commission will continue to hold periodic meetings around the state to seek input from employers in order to better understand how the state can assist businesses in establishing a corporate culture that is enthusiastic about hiring persons with disabilities. The goal is to fulfill Governor Scott's top priority to ensure all Floridians are able to gain employment.

The full report is available at <http://www.flgov.com/gcjfd>.