



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

Tracey Lowe
Strategic Communications Director
Cell: 850.212.8438

**Workforce Expansion Would Add More than \$111 Billion
to Florida Economy**

The Able Trust's goal of adding 300,000 persons with disabilities to Florida's workforce by 2032 would have an economic impact of \$111.78 billion over the next ten years and increase state tax revenues by \$1.08 billion.

Tallahassee, Fla. — Today The Able Trust released a report that calculates the economic impact of increasing Florida's labor force participation rate for people with disabilities. For more than 40 years, there has been a workforce participation gap of approximately 40 percentage points between persons with disabilities and the general population without disabilities.

The new report, [**The Benefits of Increasing the Labor Force Participation Rate for People with Disabilities**](#), states that increasing the number of persons with a disability in the workforce by one percentage point per year for the next ten years would have a \$111.78 billion impact on Florida's economy over the course of the 10-year period, from 2023-2032. That would also increase state tax revenues by an estimated \$1.08 billion.

The report was a project completed on behalf of The Able Trust by Master of Science students in Applied Economics at Florida State University (FSU). Their economic analysis and research findings were conducted under the guidance of FSU Adjunct Faculty member Jerry D. Parrish, Ph.D. The Able Trust, established by the Florida Legislature in 1990, is a direct support organization for the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. In their Inclusive Florida initiative, The Able Trust established the goal of adding 300,000 persons with disabilities to Florida's workforce by 2032.

"This workforce gap between persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities has persisted for more than 40 years," said Allison Chase, President & CEO of The Able Trust. "We believe closing this gap and expanding disability employment in Florida will be a tremendous benefit not only to Floridians with disabilities who want to work but to local economies across

Florida. We are very excited that this report confirms the economic and fiscal benefits of adding job seekers with disabilities to Florida’s workforce. We appreciate the work of the students and the quality program provided by Florida State University.”

To calculate the economic impact of this goal, FSU students used population projections and trends in the reporting of disabilities to calculate the number of persons with disabilities (PWD) who would be added to the labor force to achieve The Able Trust’s 10-year goal. They used standard economic analysis models to find the economic and fiscal impacts of this increase of greater than 304,000 total PWD being added to the labor force between the years of 2023 and 2032.

According to Dr. Jerry Parrish, “I was proud to have worked with these talented graduate students on determining the economic impact of increasing labor force participation of Floridians with disabilities. Their report reflects the quality of the Master of Science in Applied Economics program at Florida State University, and their findings bring to light the very positive impact of increasing Florida’s workforce through engaging this underutilized talent pool.”

To download a copy of the report, [click here](#).

NOTE: The Able Trust is holding a Q&A Session on the report for Media on Tuesday, September 20, from 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. EDT. During this 30-minute Q&A webinar, The Able Trust President & CEO Allison Chase and Economic Consultant Dr. Jerry Parrish will provide a brief overview of the report, The Benefits of Increasing the Labor Force Participation Rate for People with Disabilities.

Following their overview, media will be able to ask questions on the report findings. To RSVP, [click here](#).

About The Able Trust

The Able Trust is a 501(c)(3) public charity established by the Florida Legislature in 1990 as a direct support organization for the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Its mission is to be a key leader in providing Floridians with disabilities opportunities for successful employment. The Able Trust supports numerous workforce development projects, including the High School High Tech program and career preparation programs for adults with disabilities. The Able Trust also assists businesses as they seek to employ people with disabilities. Since its beginnings, The Able Trust has worked with community organizations in every county in Florida to put thousands of people with disabilities to work. Information is available at www.abletrust.org.

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