



# EMPLOYMENT FIRST Regional Summit



In 2014, the Wyoming Legislature passed House Enrolled Act 53, which requires Wyoming to have an Employment First Task Force and develop a statewide Employment First policy. The Task Force is comprised of governor-appointed members that include employees from several state agencies and outside partners. The Task Force agrees that community employment should be the first option for all working age adults and transition-age youth with disabilities.

## Purpose

The Employment First Task Force is holding a one-day summit to develop a regional team in each of the four quadrants of Wyoming. The summit will be an energetic mix of education, training, networking, and exploring regional barriers and solutions relating to the Employment First Strategic Plan.

## When, Where, What & How

December 9, 2015 | Evanston, Wyoming | Historic Roundhouse | From 930a – 330p | Lunch provided

## Agenda

Key activities for the day:

- 930a Welcome & Opening Remarks
- 945a Employment First Overview
- 1000a Audience-driven gap analysis-Identify key local/regional employment barriers and possible solutions
- 1100a Business Leader Keynote-*"The business case for employing a person with a disability- We all win!"*
- Noon Local BLN Executive Director-*"How to successfully make employer connections"*
- 1230p Agency Commercials-Attendees share information about their programs so everyone learns about new local resources available
- 100p Workshop Session-*"How can I incorporate Employment First practices at work?"*
- 200p Success story – Local employee(s) *"How my job has made my life great!"*
- 300p Develop regional goals and personal goals relating to Employment First

## Make a Regional Team Commitment

After attending this dynamic summit, you will be invited to be on a regional employment first team. The summit will teach about the Employment First Initiative, discuss barriers to people becoming employed, and work toward solutions for getting people employed in this region!

## Intended Audience

- ✚ **Department of Family Services** – Roxanne O'Connor, Keith Carter, Key Program Specialists
- ✚ **Department of Workforce Services**-Jim McIntosh, Regional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors
- ✚ **Behavioral Health Division, Wyoming State Hospital**-Discharge Social Workers
- ✚ **Department of Education**-Local School District Transition Counselors, Special Education Teachers, Outreach Consultants, Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Parent Resource Center representatives
- ✚ **Uinta County and U. S. Business Leadership Network**- Wanda Rogers, Lynn Kirkbride
- ✚ **Behavioral Health Division**-Wyoming State Hospital, Mental Health Substance Abuse Services, and DD Section identified staff
- ✚ **Community Mental Health Centers** – Directors, Case Managers
- ✚ **Self-Advocates**-People with disabilities who are working or wanting to find a job
- ✚ **Employers**-Local business leaders who would be interested in mentoring other businesses on Employment First
- ✚ **Chamber of Commerce** –Director, key members
- ✚ **Supported Employment Providers**-Providers of Vocational Rehabilitation or Waiver services who are actively pursuing community integrated employment outcomes for people with disabilities

*Please call, talk, and forward this invitation to specific people you think would be on the team and could help carry out the Employment First philosophy in the course of their routine work!*

**RSVP** All attendees must RSVP to [Jamie.kennedy@wyo.gov](mailto:Jamie.kennedy@wyo.gov) by **November 10, 2015!**

Notify Jamie if you need accommodations or have food allergies we need to consider.

*\*Future Regional Summit planned for Riverton in Spring 2016. Two more will be scheduled in Fall 2016..*