

CAPE - Youth

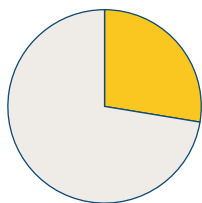
CENTER FOR ADVANCING POLICY
ON EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH

The Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth) seeks to **improve employment outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities** by helping states enhance their youth service delivery and workforce systems. CAPE-Youth works with state leaders through technical assistance and state-centered support to improve employment outcomes through partnerships, systems coordination, professional development, and career pathway strategies.

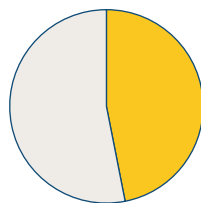
Interested in policies and programs for youth and young adults with disabilities? Want customized research or resources to enhance programming? Email info@CAPEyouth.org.

Disabled Youth Workforce Participation in the United States¹

2.1 million young people between the ages 16 and 24 **have a disability**. Of this population:

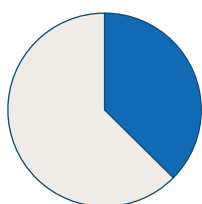


27.6% ages 16-19
participate in the labor force

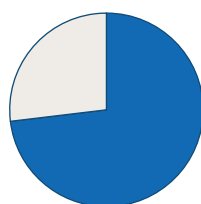


46.9% ages 20-24
participate in the labor force

In comparison, 36.8 million young people between the ages 16 and 24 **do not have a disability**. Of this population:



37.4% ages 16-19
participate in the labor force



73.1% ages 20-24
participate in the labor force



Policymakers, which the Center considers anyone involved in the crafting or implementation of policy, play a critical role in creating policies and programs that advance the lives of young adults with disabilities. Providing youth with meaningful employment services and supports can boost state economies, reduce poverty, and promote self-sufficiency. Policy leaders can access specialized technical assistance and resources for their states by working with CAPE-Youth.

¹ Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics – 2024.

The Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth

- ▶ **Conducts** research on promising policies and practices related to improving transitions from school to employment for youth and young adults with disabilities.
- ▶ **Shares** best practices and develops strategic partnerships among national, state, and local workforce and training systems.
- ▶ **Provides** customized analysis and technical assistance, focusing on state-specific goals.
- ▶ **Assists** states in identifying challenges and opportunities to expand career prospects for youth and young adults with disabilities.

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capeyouth.org



Technical Assistance

The Center collaborates with policymakers from all areas of state government and workforce professionals to provide research assistance on a variety of transition-related topics, such as:

- Provider approaches to delivering Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs.
- Integrating mental health services into employment programs through provider networks and nonprofit partnerships.
- Interagency coordination and collaboration to identify “braided funding” opportunities, where multiple funding streams are used separately and simultaneously by two or more systems to provide specific services.
- State data-sharing initiatives related to students with disabilities.

CAPE-Youth offers dynamic, research-based technical assistance for policymakers and youth leaders. To learn more or request technical assistance, email info@capeyouth.org.

Acknowledgements

The Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth) is a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy, The Council of State Governments, the K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan Institute on Employment and Disability at Cornell University, the Interwork Institute at San Diego State University and the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals.

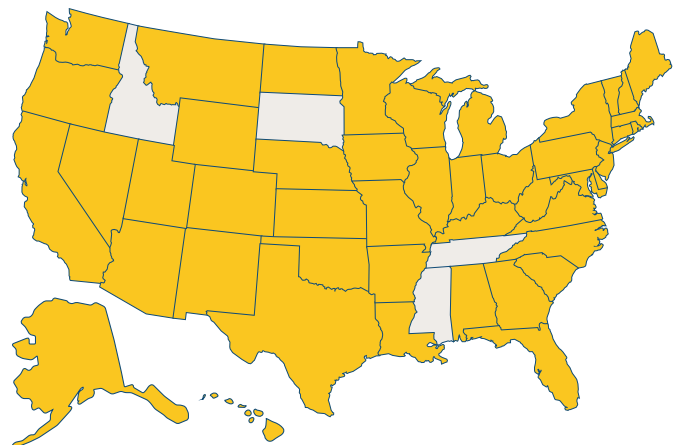
Preparation of this item was fully funded by the United States Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy in the amount of \$7.5 million under Cooperative Agreement No. 23475OD000001-01-00. This item does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations, imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

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▶ States engaged with CAPE-Youth



*Since 2019, CAPE-Youth has engaged 46 states through providing technical assistance, convening key stakeholders, and supporting professional development efforts throughout the workforce system.