

Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services Year in Review

The Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services (DERS) plays an integral role in improving Arizona's workforce by assisting individuals who are unemployed and underemployed, and those with barriers to employment, to prepare for and obtain gainful employment. DERS supports Arizona employers with recruitment assistance by connecting them to a skilled workforce.

As a result of Governor Ducey's initiative to reduce recidivism, DERS and the Arizona Department of Corrections opened Arizona's first three prison Employment Centers to prepare inmates for the workforce through employment training and viable job opportunities. Since the centers opened, 300 former inmates have obtained employment.

Within the last 12 months, more than 1,900 Arizonans with disabilities obtained employment through assistance from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). RSA has expanded its reach in Arizona's workforce to create wide-ranging employment opportunities for its clients.

Arizona Apprenticeship options expanded significantly, creating opportunities in nearly every occupation for Arizona job seekers who desire to earn as they learn a sustainable trade. Arizona currently has more than 3,000 participants in registered apprenticeship programs.