

# 2026 Employment Symposiums



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS



## 2026 Northeastern Regional Employment Symposium

**The 2026 Central Employment Symposium will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at PaTTAN Central.**

- **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**The Symposium offers opportunities for:**

- **Attendees to hear from self-advocates, State/County staff, providers, and employers about how working together creates positive outcomes for both employees and employers.**
- **Local Employment Coalitions to connect with other Coalitions in their region.**
- **Local business owners and employers to learn about the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities.**



## New for 2026

- **Remarks from ODP and OVR Leadership.**
- **2 Panel Discussions**
  - Local employers share how they worked with local providers to hire employees with disabilities
  - Self-advocates and their support teams share the benefits and impact that working in their community has had on their lives.
- **Presentation from ODP and OVR.**
- **Coalition Share Out**
  - County Employment Coalitions will have the opportunity to discuss their work to support and create partnerships and employment opportunities in the community.



## **Focus on Employers**

**The Symposiums represent a unique opportunity to directly engage with businesses and employers!**

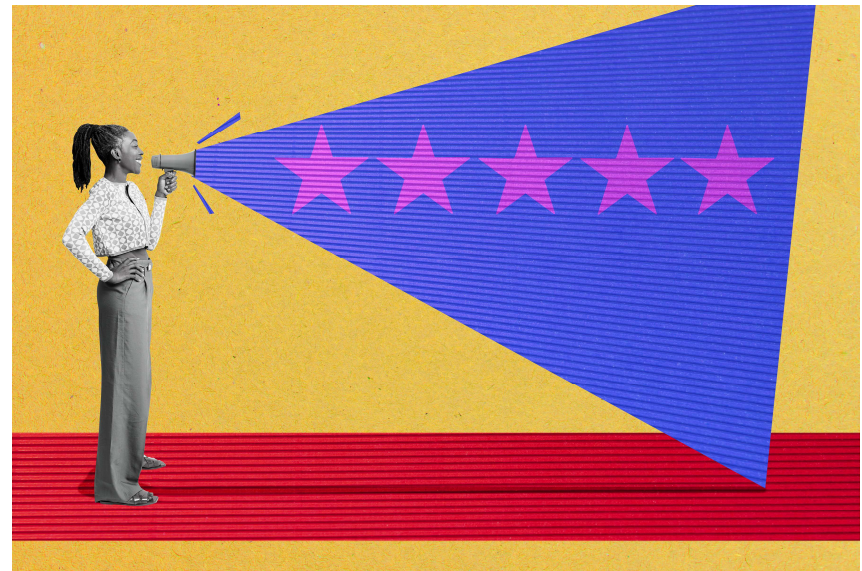
- In 2025, ODP partnered with OVR's Business Services team and Pennsylvania's Chamber of Commerce to increase outreach to local businesses and employers.**
- In 2026, we want to build on these efforts and invite even more local business and employers to attend these events .**



## Coalition Challenge

**In 2026, ODP and OVR are asking all County Employment Coalitions to help us in outreach to local business and employers.**

**We are challenging Coalitions to invite local business and employers who are not already employing individuals with disabilities to attend the Employment Symposiums.**



# Outreach to Employers



**ODP and OVR will recognize the outstanding outreach efforts of the local Employment Coalition that inspires the most local businesses and employers to register to attend their regional Employment Symposium.**

- **Recognition at the Regional level.**
- **Recognition at the State level.**

## Celebrating Successes!



**ODP and OVR are also looking for individuals and local businesses and employers to highlight in upcoming projects, including:**

- **Participating on panels at this year or future Employment Symposiums.**
- **Being featured in:**
  - **Promotional videos.**
  - **ODP's Annual Employment First Report and other reports.**
  - **Social media posts.**

# Questions?

