***Who is the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)?***

APSE is the only national membership organization focused exclusively on Employment First to facilitate the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace and community.

APSE members recognize that everyone has abilities to contribute, and their work should be recognized and rewarded with fair pay, creating inclusive workplaces. Employment enriches and adds meaning to every life, and workplaces and communities are enhanced when they embrace differences.

***What is Employment First?***

Employment First means that employment in the general workforce should be the first and preferred option for individuals with disabilities receiving assistance from publicly funded systems.

Simply put, Employment First means real jobs for real wages.

***What is the Employment First Collaborative?***

APSE provides regional collaboration and organizational transformation workshops to help jump start learning around Employment First. They’ve packaged the best of their highly acclaimed regional institutes and created a virtual experience to be able to reach more people.

***What are the benefits of this training?***

* Participants will gain a thorough understanding of Competitive, Integrated Employment (CIE), what it looks like, and best practices to support results.
* All trainings align with APSE’s Universal Employment Competencies and Domains.
* Access to Workshops to Workplaces and Financial Literacy courses
* 1-year Professional Membership with APSE for each participant
* Certified Employment Support Professional™ (CESP) credential for those who complete the collaborative and desire to be certified

***What does the participant experience look like?***

**Before Kick-Off:**

Training starts with a survey of all participants to tailor training to attendee needs. Each participant will have access to 4 webinars before the kick-off to jump start their learning.

**Kick-off Event**

Join for live speakers, national connections, and an exciting start to the 8 weeks of programming

**8 Weeks of Curriculum & Discussion**

Using APSE’s Core Competencies curriculum as a guide, the next 8 weeks include two 2-hour meetings a week. Participants will discuss their training and begin planning what changes they implement.

**Collaborative Wrap Up**

You will end the program with connections to your state chapter and have the option to join on monthly regional meetings. Learning will focus on implementing Employment First learning, group sharing and brainstorming, and facing challenges together to advance employment for individuals with disabilities.