



**Kay Ivey**  
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of  
**REHABILITATION SERVICES**



**Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw**  
COMMISSIONER

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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## *Ivey honors businesses, employees with disabilities*

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Kay Ivey will personally recognize the accomplishments of employees with disabilities and businesses from around the state at an awards reception Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. at the Alabama State Capitol.

The reception is being held by the Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS).

The honorees have earned top accolades in their respective categories, including Large and Small Employer of the Year; Partnership; Youth Leadership; Media; Student; Educator; Professional; and Large and Small Business of the Year.

In October, 17 local committees from around the state recognized more than 120 individuals and businesses for "National Disability Employment Awareness Month" awards ceremonies. The state winners were then selected from these local winners following the local committee nominee submissions.

"I cannot think of a more fitting way to cap off this great year of employment of Alabamians with disabilities than by celebrating their achievements with this ceremony," said Leslie Dawson, state administrator for business relations. "This is a significant honor for the many businesses that create opportunities for people with disabilities and the individuals, both young and old, who overcome obstacles to positively impact their communities."

Gadsden State Community College, Bama Dining/Aramark, Alabama Insurance Agency, Inc., and WTLS 106.5 FM are among the businesses and organizations to be honored.

ADRS has several services to assist employers that are interested in hiring people with disabilities. Through the Business Relations Program, ADRS staff recruit qualified people with disabilities to meet the employer's needs, provide training for the individual, and provide suggestions for accommodating the individual with a disability.

ADRS also provides services to help employers retain employees who acquire disabilities because of illness, aging, or accidents by providing or suggesting accommodations for those individuals.

In fiscal year 2017, ADRS assisted 4,633 Alabamians with disabilities in becoming successfully employed.

The Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities was created in the late 1940s by Gov. Jim Folsom as a response to veterans with disabilities who returned home and found no work available. Since that time, many individuals with disabilities, both veterans and civilians, have received the benefit of activities of the Governor's Committee. The committee coordinates a network of local volunteer groups throughout the state and works closely with ADRS staff to develop employment opportunities and raise awareness of the needs and rights of Alabamians with disabilities.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

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SERVING ALABAMA'S CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES