

# HISTORY OF SHELTERED WORKSHOPS AND EMPLOYMENT FIRST IN OREGON

1990s

- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities begin exiting Fairview after decades of institutional living.
- Sheltered workshops open as time-limited training and skill-building centers to help people with I/DD transition to community employment and life.

2008

- Oregon one of first states to make Employment First a state policy.
- Federal actions on sheltered workshops ramp up.

2012

- Oregonians with disabilities file suit against state of Oregon, claim the state has over-relied on sheltered workshops. U.S. Department of Justice joins lawsuit.

2013

- Medicaid's Home and Community Based Services regulations issued, which states that employment services must be provided in integrated settings.
- Governor's Executive Order 13-04 issued; prioritizes integrated employment services for people in sheltered workshops and transition-age youth.

2014

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) authorized by Congress, places priority on integrated employment for people with disabilities.

2015

- Oregon prohibits new entries to sheltered workshops.
- Number of people in community jobs: 1,359. Number in sheltered work: 3,711.

2016

- Lane v. Brown lawsuit settled.
- Settlement legally requires Oregon to decrease number of people in sheltered workshops; increase number of people in community jobs.
- U.S. Department of Justice issues guidance that the Americans with Disabilities Act applies to employment and day services.

2019

- Number of people in community jobs: 2,170. Number in sheltered work: Less than 300.

2020

- Oregon end funding for sheltered workshops.

2023

- Oregon ends subminimum wage for people with disabilities.