

# FEMA's Work During National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

October is [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) (NDEAM). Each year, this national campaign increases awareness and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

The 2023 theme, “Advancing Equity and Access,” recognizes the vital role people with disabilities have in making the nation's workforce diverse and inclusive. FEMA is committed to equal opportunity and diversity inclusion while accomplishing our mission of helping people before, during, and after disasters. FEMA Office of Civil Rights will be hosting the following events:

- Join in our **Disability Employment Observance** on Tuesday, **October 17 from 11 a.m. – Noon Eastern**, featuring FEMA's Disability Integration and Coordination Director [Sherman Gillums, Jr.](#), a U.S. Marine who was injured during service. Mr. Gillums advises Administrator Criswell on meeting the agency's commitment to equity in emergency management for people with disabilities, including older adults and others with access and functional needs. Join the ZoomGov Meeting at: <https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1606232573> ; **Meeting ID:** 160 623 2573; **Passcode:** 035728
- **FEMA Disability Mentoring Day** on **Wednesday, October 18 from Noon – 6 p.m. Eastern**, promotes career development for people with disabilities. Staff members and people from outside the agency can attend a panel discussion with leadership and pair with FEMA employees to learn what it's like to work at the agency. The event is virtual and in-person. If you are interested in attending please email [James.C.Dean@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:James.C.Dean@fema.dhs.gov) by Tuesday, October 10.

During October and throughout the year, I encourage you to learn more about the valuable contributions of people with disabilities in the workplace. To learn about Schedule A Hiring, a federal hiring authority for people with qualifying disabilities, visit [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ABC's of Schedule A](#). You can also learn more about National Disability Employment Awareness Month observance and disability issues by visiting:

- [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#)
- [Disability Etiquette – Job Accommodation Network \(JAN\)](#)