



Massachusetts APSE Annual Report - 2016

Massachusetts APSE is the state chapter of National APSE, the Association People Supporting EmploymentFirst. APSE is a national and international membership organization that focuses exclusively on employment of people with disabilities in the general workforce.

APSE's Vision and Mission

Vision

People with all types of disabilities are employed, pursuing careers and building assets just like people without disabilities.

Mission

Through advocacy and education, APSE advances employment and self-sufficiency for all people with disabilities.

To change expectations and achieve outcomes, APSE must:

Advocate.

1. Champion the employment first principle that employment and careers be the expected and preferred outcomes of all publicly funded services for those with disabilities.
2. Change philosophies, policies, practices and funding to advance employment, career development and economic advancement for people with disabilities.

Educate.

1. Promote attitudes and beliefs that fully include and support people with disabilities to be part of the economic and social mainstream, to achieve careers and lifestyles like anyone else.
 2. Empower individuals with disabilities to fully recognize their abilities.
 3. Raise awareness within the business community as to the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities.
-

Massachusetts APSE Update

- MA-APSE's current membership is 93 individuals.
- Current account balance: \$8,260

Highlights Over the Past Year

- **Annual Conference:** This year's conference is the 5th Annual Employment Matters Conference, presented by MA-APSE with financial sponsorship from the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. This year's one-day conference has over 200 attendees, and 11 breakout sessions.
- **CESP:** A major APSE initiative is the development of the Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) credentialing program. Individuals who successfully pass the CESP exam, receive a recognized credential that indicates their high level of competency in supporting

and assisting individuals with disabilities to become successfully employed. The purpose of the CESP program is to raise the consistency in quality of direct service staff. The CESP exam has been offered a number of times over the past year in Massachusetts, and there are now 52 CESP currently in Massachusetts (a growth of 7 since last year), with 1,331 nationally. For more information go to: www.apse.org/certified-employment-support-professional

- **Mental Health Employment Advocacy:** MA-APSE is working with a coalition of organizations to increase focus on employment, in the spirit of Employment First, in the mental health community.
- **Website and Social Media:** MA-APSE continues to operate a website as an information hub for MA-APSE activities - www.massachusettsapse.org. MA-APSE is expanding its social media presence through launching of a Facebook page, and using Twitter (#maapse).

Massachusetts APSE Plans for the Coming Year

- **Annual Conference and Additional Training/Events:** MA-APSE will hold the 6th Annual Employment Matters Conference and continue to expand opportunities for learning and sharing of information. MA-APSE will also have an additional on-line or in-person event every quarter.
- **Expanded Public Policy Efforts:** MA-APSE will work to expand its public policy efforts to advocate for a pro-community employment agenda in Massachusetts in line with Employment First, and working more strongly with other like-minded advocacy organizations.
- **Expanded Online Presence and Member Communication:** MA-APSE will expand its online presence with expanded information on its website, as well as an increased social media presence, and ongoing communication with members. This includes the launch of a monthly e-news update to members.
- **Expanded Membership:** MA-APSE will work to expand its membership, with a focus in part on under-represented groups (non-professionals, family members, students, etc.) to ensure that MA-APSE is representative of the diversity of individuals in the Commonwealth who have an interest in advancing employment of people with disabilities. Our goal is to expand to a minimum of 125 members over the next year.
- **Increased Number of CESP:** Massachusetts will sponsor two CESP test events over the next year, with a goal of increasing the number of individuals holding the CESP in Massachusetts to at least 100.
- **Board Elections:** Massachusetts APSE will be holding board elections in the fall. You must be an APSE/MA-APSE member to run for the board. The board provides oversight of chapter activities, and determines what areas the chapter will focus on. As a volunteer organization, chapter board members are expected to dedicate time, energy, and ideas to organization and implementation of chapter activities.



Please contact Chapter President David Hoff at david@apse.org for more information on MA-APSE activities.