State Exchange on Employment & Disability (SEED):
Advancing Policy for a More Inclusive Workforce

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Value of Inclusive Employment Policies

- People with disabilities want to work, can work, and deserve to work.
- Implementing policies that promote the employment of people with disabilities means enhanced workforce development and reduced dependency on government-sponsored disability programs.
- Traditional models of disability vs current trends:
  - Consider the interaction between an individual's condition and the social environment and systems that create barriers to inclusion and access.
- Americans with disabilities lag behind the rest of the population on the jobs front:
  - In November 2015, the labor force participation rate of people with disabilities was 19.2%, compared to 68.3% for people without disabilities.
  - In August 2014, veterans with a service-connected disability rating of less than 30% were much more likely to be in the labor force than those with a rating of 60% or higher—50% and 32.6% respectively.
- "America works best when we field the whole team"
Introducing SEED

- Advances effective policy development and adoption at the state and local levels, with the goal of fostering a nationwide workforce more inclusive of people with disabilities
- Disability policy and subject-matter expertise available at policymakers’ fingertips
- Experts remain ready to quickly respond to state legislators’ inquiries and requests
What does SEED offer?

- One-on-one consultation and knowledge sharing on policies both directly and indirectly related to employment, such as transportation, technology, health care, housing and more.
- Tools and resources designed to assist legislators in crafting and sponsoring effective policies.
- Sample policy products that states can customize and advance within their own legislatures.
- Access to meaningful data on disability employment and related issues.
- Connections to other DOL agencies, including VETS, as well as national community, advocacy and business organizations.
- A collaborative exchange between states and with the Federal Government on policies that promote an inclusive workforce.

Advancing Policy for a More Inclusive Workforce
Join the Conversation

- How can we foster more collaboration on disability employment and related issues with and among the states?
- What tools and resources would be most helpful to you?
- How can SEED best serve you?
Stay Connected

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