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THE WHITE HOUSE - FACT SHEET: President Clinton Announces New
Action to Expand Medicaid Coverage for People with
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PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES NEW ACTION TO EXPAND
MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Invests Approximately \$1 Billion To Provide a New Coverage Option
Nationwide
October 27, 2000

Today, in a meeting with national disability groups, the President will announce a major new administrative action to expand Medicaid eligibility for people with disabilities and promote the use of home and community-based services and supports. He will also call on the Congress to refocus their priorities from excessive and unaccountable HMO pay increases and towards investments in coverage expansions for workers children with disabilities, as well as new grants to help states explore alternatives to institutionalization. The proposed regulation invests \$1 billion over five years in a new option for states to expand Medicaid coverage for tens of thousands of people with disabilities, preventing them from having to become impoverished and allowing them to move from institutions into community based care settings.

THE NEED TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

? State options for Medicaid coverage for people with disabilities are limited. Thousands of people with disabilities and senior citizens qualify for Medicaid if they have very high medical expenses that force their incomes below the poverty level. Since Medicaid is the only available source of health care and essential personal assistance services for many people, they are forced to keep their incomes low in order to qualify. As a result, they must choose between paying for essential needs such as food or shelter and critical health expenses in order to lower their income to the "medically needy" income levels currently required.

? Families of disabled children are forced into poverty in order to retain Medicaid eligibility for their children. Current data indicate that over 60 percent of the thousands of families with special needs children are turning down jobs, raises, and overtime in order to ensure that they stay in the income bracket that qualifies their child for Medicaid.

? There are insufficient home and community-based services and supports for people with disabilities. For decades people with disabilities need long-term care services, both old and young, have advocated for choice about where to receive those services and asked for alternatives to nursing homes and other institutions where they receive long-term care services. Every state Medicaid program must provide nursing home services but community-based services are optional. In part, this is because institutional bias in Medicaid precludes the development of community services and supports.

PRESIDENT CLINTON TAKES STRONG NEW ACTION TO EXPAND MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. Today, President Clinton will announce action to expand Medicaid eligibility for people with disabilities. The proposed regulation, which costs \$960 million over 5 years, allows states to further "disregard" portions of an individual's income when determining

their eligibility, such as the amount spent on food or shelter. States use these broader rules to provide Medicaid coverage to people who would not otherwise be eligible, and move people from institutions into the community by allowing them to retain additional income to pay for food, clothing, and shelter. In addition, the broader rules can be used to encourage people to return to work or continue to work by ensuring that they will not lose their health insurance coverage if their income increases slightly.

URGES THE CONGRESS TO ACT NOW TO ADDRESS HEALTH CARE PRIORITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. Today, the President will call on the Congress to refocus their priorities from excessive and unaccountable HMO payment increases and towards investments in coverage expansions for workers and children with disabilities, as well as new grants to help states expand home and community based services and supports. As part of this effort, the President will urge the Congress to act now to address critical health care priorities for the disability community, including:

? Increasing access to Medicaid for working families with disabled children. Today, the President will urge the Congress to pass the bipartisan Grassley-Kennedy-Sessions-Waxman Family Opportunity Act of 2000 (S. 2274 and HR 4825), which was sponsored by a bipartisan majority in the Senate and a growing coalition in the House. This bill, which is the logical step beyond the Jeffords-Kennedy Work Incentives Improvement Act, invests \$2.1 billion over five years to establish a new Medicaid buy-in option for thousands of children with disabilities who lose their Medicaid coverage because of increased family income due to employment and a time-limited demonstration that extends Medicaid coverage to children who have a disabling condition that, without health care coverage, would result in them becoming so severely disabled as to be eligible for SSI.

? Enhancing state capacity to provide home and community-based alternatives to institutionalization. The President will join Senator Harkin in urging the Congress to fund \$50 million in new grants to continue intensive outreach efforts to educate people with disabilities about home and community based options currently available to them; create one-stop-shopping centers that streamline application and eligibility processes for home and community-based services and supports; and develop, and implement strategies to modify state policy that result in the unnecessary institutionalization of people with disabilities rather than the provision of home and community based services. As a condition of receiving funds, states would actively involve people with disabilities and their families in the development of programs enabling people with disabilities to choose where they want to live and receive services. Senator Harkin has been a tireless advocate for this critically important initiative.

? Finish the job on the Work Incentives Improvement Act. The bipartisan Work Incentives Improvement Act, enacted by the Clinton-Gore Administration last year, extends Medicare coverage for eight and a half years for people with disabilities who return to work, ensuring that everyone with a disability returning to work has access to health care coverage, even if they live in a state that does not take the Medicaid option. The President will urge the Congress to finish the job on the Work Incentives Improvement Act by providing permanent Medicare coverage to people with disabilities returning to work.

? Additional health care priorities important to people with disabilities. The President will reiterate the importance of a series of other high-priority health care initiatives, including: a voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit; a strong and enforceable Patient's Bill of Rights; a \$3,000 long-term care tax credit for people of all ages and a new \$1,000 tax credit to offset the formal and informal employment costs incurred by working people with disabilities.

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION'S LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO WORKING BEHALF OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES. Throughout this Administration President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked hard to achieve equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities. This Administration has vigorously defended the ADA in court cases across the Nation; collaborated with State Medicaid directors to implement the Supreme Court's 1999 Olmstead decision, which prohibits unjustified isolation of institutionalized persons with disabilities; helped ensure that 80 percent of America's public transit buses are now accessible; implemented the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act, which the President signed into law last December; and developed far-reaching policies for a comprehensive, coordinated employment agenda through the Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities.

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**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
ANNOUNCING NEW ACTION TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

October 27, 2000

Today, at the White House, President Clinton announced a major new action to expand Medicaid eligibility for people with disabilities and promote the use of home and community-based services. The action proposed by the President invests \$960 million over 5 years to allow states to expand Medicaid coverage for tens of thousands of people with disabilities, preventing them from having to become impoverished and allowing them to move from institutions into community-based care settings. The President called on Congress to shift its focus away from excessive and unaccountable HMO payment increases and towards investments in coverage expansions for people with disabilities, and new grants to help states expand alternatives to institutionalization.

The Need to Improve Access to Health Insurance for People with Disabilities. Thousands of people with disabilities and seniors qualify for Medicaid only if they have very high medical expenses that force their incomes below the poverty level. Since Medicaid is the only available source of health care for many people, they are forced to keep their incomes low in order to qualify. In addition, many families of disabled children are forced into poverty in order to retain Medicaid eligibility for their children. There are also insufficient home- and community-based services and supports for people with disabilities.

Expanding Medicaid Eligibility for People with Disabilities. Today's action would expand Medicaid eligibility for people with disabilities by allowing states to disregard portions of an individual's income when determining their eligibility, such as the amount spent on food or shelter. This action will:

- Allow states to provide Medicaid coverage to people who would not otherwise be eligible;
- Move people from institutions into the community by allowing them to retain additional income to pay for food, clothing, and shelter; and
- Encourage people to continue or return to work by ensuring that they will not lose their health insurance coverage if their income increases slightly.

Urging Congress to Act Now on Health Care Priorities for People with Disabilities. The President called on Congress to act now on critical health care priorities for the disability community by:

- Increasing access to Medicaid for working families with disabled children by passing the bipartisan Grassley-Kennedy-Sessions-Waxman Family Opportunity Act of 2000;
- Enhancing state capacity to provide home and community-based alternatives to institutionalization;
- Finishing the job on the Work Incentives Improvement Act by providing permanent Medicare coverage to people with disabilities returning to work;
- Enacting high-priority health care initiatives such as a voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit; a strong and enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights; a \$3,000 long-term care tax credit for people of all ages; and a new \$1,000 tax credit to offset employment-related costs incurred by working people with disabilities.

A Record of Working on Behalf of Americans with Disabilities. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked hard to achieve equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities, including:

- Vigorously defending the Americans with Disabilities Act in court cases across the nation;
- Working to implement the Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision, which prohibits unjustified isolation of institutionalized persons with disabilities;
- Helping ensure that 80% of America's public transit buses are now accessible;
- Signing into law and implementing the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act; and
- Developing a comprehensive, coordinated employment agenda through the Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities.



MARTHA HENNEGHAN <mhennegh@os.dhhs.gov>

10/25/2000 10:37:00 AM

Please respond to mhennegh@os.dhhs.gov

Record Type: Record

To: HHSPRESS@LIST.NIH.GOV

cc:

Subject: HHS PRESS RELEASE--ENABLING MORE DISABLED PERSONS TO WORK

Date: October 25, 2000

For Release: Immediately

Contact: HCFA Press Office (202) 690-6145

**Headline: HHS ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVES
TO ENABLE MORE DISABLED PERSONS TO WORK**

The Department of Health and Human Services today announced two new initiatives to enable people with disabilities to become and stay competitively employed. Of the two grant programs announced today, one will fund cutting-edge demonstrations that enable people with chronic, disabling conditions to get medical benefits without having to quit their jobs to obtain needed care. The other will assist states to increase services and supports to those who work, as well as help others return to work without the fear of losing health coverage.

Both the grants and the demonstrations help advance the goals of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (TWWIIA), a law passed by Congress to encourage people with disabilities to work without fear of losing their Medicare, Medicaid or similar health benefits.

The Demonstration to Maintain Independence and Employment is a new approach for the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), which administers the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The demonstration will allow states to provide health care services and supports to working individuals that they need to manage the progression of their diseases. The program will help people remain competitively employed by preventing or delaying the deterioration or a relapse of their condition. Qualified enrollees will be those with conditions where individuals usually experience progressive deterioration or periodic setbacks in their health and their ability to work.

"By helping employed individuals better manage their own chronic health conditions while they are working, we hope to prolong a healthy, productive work life," said HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala. "We think it makes great sense to assist these workers to stay healthy and employed as long as possible for the benefit of the person and society. I am proud of this administration's long record of assisting people with disabilities to support

themselves and live independently."

Two states, Rhode Island and Mississippi, will be the first recipients of TWWIIA grants for the Demonstration to Maintain Independence and Employment. All states are eligible to apply for the grants, a program Congress authorized for six years at a spending level of \$250 million over the six years.

Rhode Island will receive approximately \$2 million over six years. The state plans to provide a package of services equivalent to those provided under Medicaid to individuals who have been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis but are not yet too disabled to work. The state will also include key services such as case management, personal assistance services, pharmaceutical copayments and other employment supports. Qualified individuals will be those working at least 40 hours each month. Rhode Island officials expect that many people enrolled in the demonstration will have employer-sponsored coverage. They will use the added services to "wrap around" that coverage to make it more effective in preventing deterioration of the person's condition.

Mississippi will use its \$27.5 million grant award with additional state funds to cover 500 persons with a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, who work or who PLAN to return to work. The state's program will mirror the full Medicaid benefits and services. The project will be implemented in nine counties in the Mississippi Delta where there is a relatively high rate of HIV/AIDS and limited health care resources for people with this condition.

"Our goal with these grants is to see if getting health care to people earlier than traditional Medicaid rules allow will actually lower long-term costs and increase a person's work life and the quality of that life," said Michael Hash, HCFA's acting administrator.

The second grant program announced today would assist 24 states and the District of Columbia in improving their ability to help people with disabilities hold down a job and maintain their health coverage. Congress approved the Medicaid Infrastructure Grants Program for 11 years with \$150 million appropriated for the first five years of the program. States will share about \$17 million for the first year.

The Medicaid Infrastructure Grants will help states build the systems they need to allow individuals with a disability to purchase health coverage through Medicaid. People with a disability often cite the fear of losing health coverage as one of the major barriers to a possible return to work. "Seventeen states have taken the lead to enact legislation that enables people with a disability to purchase health coverage through Medicaid at affordable rates," said Hash. "We want to help any state that wishes to improve its economy and its workforce by enlisting the talents of people who have a disability."

Grant monies will help enhance systems that provide personal assistance and supports. Such assistance can include help with bathing, dressing and other activities at home or on the job. States can also use the funds to assist employers to gain better access to this underused pool of workers, conduct outreach to people with a disability, train staff in new employment possibilities, and improve transportation or other supports upon which people with a disability rely.

States receiving this first round of awards include: Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

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Note: For other HHS Press Releases and Fact Sheets pertaining to the subject of this announcement, please visit our Press Release and Fact Sheet search engine at: <http://www.hhs.gov/search/press.html>.

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CC: Christine
From: ARL

F A X T R A N S M I S S I O N

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COMPANY: White House OPL
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FAX: 202-456-0362
FROM: Lana Krstich
TELEPHONE: 202.530.4596
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NO. OF PAGES: 5 including cover

- this is our former intention!

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The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

October 25, 2000

Dear Mr. President,

As CEOs of leading American businesses, one of our biggest challenges is recruiting and retaining workers with the skills needed for our firms to compete and win in the global marketplace. We believe that one of the ways to meet this challenge is to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities, especially since new information and communications technologies will make it even easier for people with disabilities to participate in the workforce. We are therefore proud to commit ourselves to promoting the recruitment, hiring, and promotion of candidates and employees with disabilities.

People with disabilities also represent an untapped resource that can help fill the need for qualified and highly skilled employees. A 30-year Dupont study, for example, has indicated that employees with disabilities have above average records in job performance, dependability, attendance, and safety. Today's information technologies provide an unprecedented opportunity for people with disabilities to expand the scope of their contributions -- and for our companies to meet the growing demand for workers. To make concrete progress toward increasing the employment of people with disabilities, complementing the Federal government's recent hiring commitment, and to help our businesses grow, we will work to take the following steps:

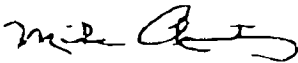
- Target disability in our diversity recruitment goals as we do for minorities and women, including, wherever appropriate, specific hiring targets;
- Promote the recruitment of youth with disabilities through summer internships, mentoring programs, "career awareness" activities, and community education programs that provide employment and leadership training;
- Create partnerships with disability organizations to identify barriers to employment for people with disabilities and to identify job candidates;
- Include disability issues as part of our company's diversity training for all employees;
- Incorporate images of disability in our company's internal and external promotional and marketing materials;
- Ensure that equal access to all company programs, including social activities, is incorporated into the early planning of those programs; and

- Develop and promote reasonable accommodations policies, including the availability of assistive technologies.

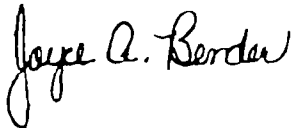
This is important both to reach the inclusion goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act and to sustain our national economy. Despite historic economic growth, people with disabilities remain unemployed at rates unacceptably high -- several times that of the general population. Becoming gainfully employed gives people the economic means to become more fully integrated into our society and enhances one's sense of dignity. By hiring people with disabilities in our companies we can help change the social attitudes that continue to stand in the way of full inclusion of people with disabilities.

Thank you for your leadership in this area; we look forward to working with you on this important issue.

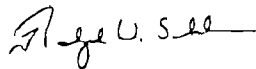
Sincerely,



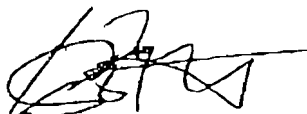
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Chairman and CEO
AT&T



Joyce Bender
CEO/President
Bender Consulting Services



Dr. Ralph Schrader
Chairman and CEO
Booz-Allen & Hamilton



Chet Burchett
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Lon A. Smith
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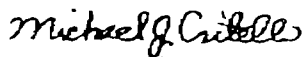
Mr. Ralph S. Larsen
Chairman and CEO
Johnson & Johnson



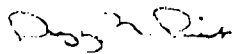
Steven A. Ballmer
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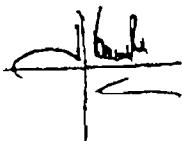
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Nickelodeon/Nick at Nite, TV Land and TNN



Michael J. Critelli
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Pitney Bowes



Greg Priest
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SmartForce



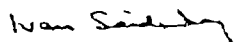
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President and CEO
US Chamber of Commerce



Ivan G. Seidenberg
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PRESIDENT CLINTON CELEBRATES NATIONAL DISABILITY MENTORING DAY THROUGH ACTIVITIES EXPANDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

October 25, 2000

Today, President Clinton will honor National Disability Mentoring Day and National Disability Employment Awareness month by applauding the mentoring activities that the federal government and public and private employers will be conducting across the nation to help expand employment opportunities for young people with disabilities. The Clinton-Gore Administration is taking several new actions to continue its efforts to help people with disabilities enter the workforce. These steps include: grants to advance the goals of the landmark Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIIA); partnerships to close the digital divide for persons with disabilities; and progress in both federal and private sector initiatives to hire more people with disabilities.

National Disability Mentoring Day. The Administration will be hosting a day-long program for more than 100 high school and college-age people with disabilities. The day's events will include a White House opening session followed by one-on-one mentoring with Administration volunteers in various federal agencies, concluding with a reception celebrating the potential of young people with disabilities. The President will also recognize the winners of a Disability Mentoring Day Essay Contest and the public and private partners responsible for organizing Mentoring Day activities in 14 states. These efforts will highlight the contributions and increase the employment opportunities of young people with disabilities, bringing us closer to achieving full inclusion of people with disabilities in our nation's historic economic growth and prosperity.

Grants Enhancing Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities. Today the Administration will announce grants to a range of states and community organizations to enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities and to carry out key aspects and goals of the TWWIIA.

- The Social Security Administration is awarding \$8 million in Benefit Planning Grants to 43 non-profit organizations and/or state agencies in 26 states and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Island for benefit planning, assistance and outreach for persons with disabilities who are attempting to return to work.
- The Department of Labor (DOL) is issuing \$20 million in Work Incentives Grants to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the full range of employment and reemployment services under the Workforce Investment Act. Grantees will be responsible for working with One-Stop Career Centers to augment their capacity to provide the full range of effective employment and training services to people with disabilities.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is releasing \$17 million in Medicaid Infrastructure Grants to help 24 states and the District of Columbia improve access to personal assistance and create Medicaid buy-in programs for employed persons with disabilities. These grants encourage states to help individuals with disabilities work without fear of losing health coverage. In addition HHS is awarding its first Medicaid grants under the Demonstration to Maintain Independence and Employment program to help working individuals with chronic or

progressive conditions remain competitively employed by giving them access to health benefits in order to prevent or delay further deterioration or relapse.

Public-Private Partnerships to Bridge the Digital Divide. Today's announcement builds on the President's recent visit to Flint, Michigan, where he highlighted the need to create digital opportunity for people with disabilities. These new public-private partnerships will help bridge the digital divide so that more individuals with disabilities can participate fully in the workforce and in the nation's public life.

- The Veterans Administration (VA) has formed a partnership with VERIZON and SAIC to ensure our nation's veterans, particularly disabled veterans, have the technology access and training to participate fully in this new digital economy where public services, including VA services, and private business are conducted online.
- DOL and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are launching a partnership with the Information Technology Association of America and the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute for increasing technology access for American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities.
- Microsoft's Accessible Technology Group is awarding \$250,000 in grants to nine programs to provide people with disabilities, especially young people, with greater access to technology, employment, and entrepreneurship. These grants include support of two newly-created High School/High Tech projects, which are sponsored by the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

Progress in Initiatives to Increase Hiring of Persons with Disabilities. Finally the President will commend both the public and private sectors for important progress in improving opportunities for persons with disabilities to be employed in the federal government or in private companies.

- CEOs of leading companies are pledging to support the recruitment, hiring, and promotion of individuals with disabilities as part of their diversity goals. In a letter to the President, a dozen CEOs of leading American businesses identify ways to move toward full inclusion of people with disabilities including the development of policies for providing reasonable accommodations, such as assistive technology.
- The Office of Personnel Management is reporting that the Administration is on track to meet the goal of President Clinton's July 25th Executive Order calling on federal agencies to hire 100,000 more people with disabilities over a 5-year period.

Building on the Clinton-Gore Record of Expanding Economic Opportunity for Individuals with Disabilities. Today's announcements continue the Clinton-Gore Administration's strong commitment to improving employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. Key accomplishments include:

- Mobilizing public and private efforts to create digital opportunity for people with disabilities and increase their ability to participate in the workforce. Initiatives to improve technological access for persons with disabilities include securing commitments from high tech companies, research firms, and non-profit organizations to help improve the accessibility and affordability of technology for persons with disabilities. On the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the President also announced a new website, www.disAbility.gov, which serves as a "one-stop" electronic link to an enormous range of useful

information available throughout the Federal government for people with disabilities and their families.

- Signing the landmark bipartisan Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 which enhances employment-related services for individuals with disabilities and enables Americans with disabilities to retain their Medicare or Medicaid coverage when they go to work.
- Working with the First Lady to create a new interagency Youth to Work Initiative to help young people with disabilities successfully make the transition from school to work through an executive order to ensure that the President's Task Force on the Employment of Adults with Disabilities focuses its efforts on starting early and reaching out to youth with disabilities. This initiative will support work such as the recent Department of Education grant to provide technical assistance to programs to help youth with disabilities improve results in high school and receive the support they need to successfully transition to post-secondary education and employment.
- Increasing the Substantial Gainful Activity level to enable more individuals with disabilities to return to work without fear of losing critical Social Security Disability benefits.
- Making the federal government a model employer by directing agencies to increase efforts to recruit and hire people with disabilities, by expanding hiring opportunities for people with psychiatric disabilities, and calling for mental health parity for federal employees.
- Creating the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities, charged with developing a coordinated and aggressive national policy to bring adults with disabilities into gainful employment at a rate that is as close as possible to that of the general adult population

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 25, 2000

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today, on National Disability Mentoring Day, I commend the members of my Administration and the public and private organizations across the nation that are conducting mentoring activities to help expand employment opportunities for young people with disabilities. I also applaud the young people participating in Mentoring Day, and extend my special congratulations to the winners of the Disability Mentoring Day Essay Contest. Each participant has helped advance the goal of today's effort to expose young people with disabilities to a variety of career options, while acquainting employers with the contributions that this future talent pool can make.

I am pleased to report that my Administration is taking specific actions to help more people with disabilities participate in the workforce. These steps include new public-private partnerships to close the digital divide for people with disabilities, and a variety of grants to advance the goals of the landmark Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act I signed last year.

I am also glad to report important progress in both federal and private sector initiatives to hire more people with disabilities. First, the federal government is on track to meet the goal I announced on the 10th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act to hire 100,000 more persons with disabilities over five years. Second, CEOs of a dozen major companies are leading the way by pledging to support the recruitment, hiring, and promotion of individuals with disabilities.

Together, these important steps represent a powerful statement about what we can accomplish when federal, state, and private sector partners work together toward the full inclusion of people with disabilities in our nation's historic economic growth and prosperity. Hiring people with disabilities is not just the right thing to do. It's good for business, it's good for communities, and it's good for all Americans.

30-30-30

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 25, 2000

EXECUTIVE ORDER

- - - - -

AMENDMENT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 13078, TO EXPAND THE ROLE
OF THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON EMPLOYMENT OF ADULTS
WITH DISABILITIES TO INCLUDE A FOCUS ON YOUTH

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, and in order to provide for improved access to employment and training for youth with disabilities, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13078 of March 13, 1998, is amended by adding to section 2 of that order the following new subsection to read as follows: "(h) To improve employment outcomes for persons with disabilities by addressing, among other things, the education, transition, employment, health and rehabilitation, and independent living issues affecting young people with disabilities, executive departments and agencies shall coordinate and cooperate with the Task Force to: (1) strengthen interagency research, demonstration, and training activities relating to young people with disabilities; (2) create a public awareness campaign focused on access to equal opportunity for young people with disabilities; (3) promote the views of young people with disabilities through collaboration with the Youth Councils authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998; (4) increase access to and utilization of health insurance and health care for young people with disabilities through the formalization of the Federal Healthy and Ready to Work Interagency Council; (5) increase participation by young people with disabilities in postsecondary education and training programs; and (6) create a nationally representative Youth Advisory Council, to be funded and chaired by the Department of Labor, to advise the Task Force in conducting these and other appropriate activities."

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
October 25, 2000.

Christina S. Ho

10/23/2000

02:59:32 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Disability Mentoring Day Announcements

----- Forwarded by Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP on 10/23/2000 02:59 PM -----

 Jonathan M. Young

Jonathan M. Young

10/23/2000 02:10:04 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Disability Mentoring Day Announcements

anything work here?

----- Forwarded by Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP on 10/23/2000 02:10 PM -----



"Browning, Laura" <Laura_Browning@ed.gov>

10/23/2000 02:03:41 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP, Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc: "Richards, Curtis" <Curtis_Richards@ed.gov>, "Heumann, Judy" <Judy_Heumann@ed.gov>, "Browning, Laura" <Laura_Browning@ed.gov>

Subject: Disability Mentoring Day Announcements

Jonathan and Christina -

Per your conversation with Judy Heumann Thursday night, here are some potential announcements for Disability Mentoring Day:

Secondary TA Center:

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services is pleased to announce a \$9.5 million award over five years to the University of Minnesota for a National Center to provide technical assistance to states, organizations, and districts. The purpose of this collaborative

center is to improve results for students in high school and to increase their successful transition to postsecondary education and employment. Through a system of four TA networks, the Center will plan and support the delivery of technical assistance and information dissemination to a broad audience, including youth and families with disabilities. The Center will also conduct two national summits which will be designed to help support systemic collaboration among multiple systems, such as education, vocational rehabilitation, workforce development health, social security, housing, and transportation. The University of Minnesota is partnering with the PACER Center (a national parent organization), the National Center on the Study of Postsecondary Education Supports (at University of Hawaii), National Association of Directors of Special Education, the Institute for Educational Leadership Center for Workforce Development, and TransCen, Inc. (a Maryland based employment training organization).

Work Incentives Handbooks:

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services is pleased to announce the development of two handbooks designed for school personnel, parents, youth with disabilities, IEP/transition team members, adult service providers, and others involved in student-focused transition planning. The first handbook is titled *Meeting the Needs of Youth with Disabilities: Handbook on Supplemental Security Income Work Incentives and Transition Students*. It is intended to serve as a resource for understanding how supplemental security income (SSI) work incentives can be included in the IEP/transition plan for students who have paid employment through a community-based vocational education program in high school and when they are beginning to work or plan for further training upon graduation. The second handbook titled *Meeting the Needs of Youth with Disabilities: Examples of Students with Disabilities Accessing SSI Work Incentives*, serves as a resource and companion piece to the first handbook. The handbooks were developed by the SSI and Transitioning Youth Project and the National Transition Network both located at the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota, in collaboration with the Study Group, Inc. in Kill Devil Hills, NC. The development of these handbooks was supported in part by U.S. Department of Education/Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services grants. Information on these and other SSI work incentives materials and training opportunities may be accessed on the web at <http://www.vcu.edu/rtrcweb/witn/ssi.htm> or by calling 612/627-4008.

Student Earned Income Exclusion:

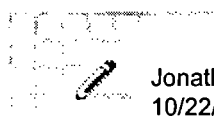
The Department of Education is coordinating a joint letter between Secretary Riley and Social Security Administration (SSA) Commissioner Kenneth Apfel to students with disabilities, parents, relevant service providers, and educators regarding changes to the Student Earned Income Exclusion. These changes will provide increased opportunities for early work experiences without threatening eligibility for important Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cash benefits. Also, students with abilities may be encouraged to stay in school, graduate, and continue their education past high school. Much research has shown that early work experiences are vitally important for students with disabilities because of they often lead to continued employment outcomes after high school. For students receiving SSI benefits, however, engaging in paid employment experiences may result in the

loss of cash assistance and key health insurance benefits and services. SSA has responded to this problem and is proud to announce new work incentive provisions for student SSI participants. After receiving much public comment, SSA will likely approve important changes to the Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE). Specifically, SSI students under the age of 22 years will be able to earn up to \$1,290 per month with an annual limit of \$5,200.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Laura

Laura K. Browning
Special Assistant to Assistant Secretary Judith E. Heumann
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
U.S. Department of Education
202-205-8432



Jonathan M. Young
10/22/2000 09:08:40 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP@EOP, Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Microsoft \$250,000

This is the Microsoft piece

----- Forwarded by Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP on 10/22/2000 09:04 PM -----



Ellen Mosner <ellenm@microsoft.com>
10/19/2000 11:47:56 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: "'einfofcom@earthlink.net'" <einfofcom@earthlink.net>, Ellen Mosner <ellenm@microsoft.com>

Subject: RE: [MD] Final List of Mentoring Day Participants

You bet. Its in draft form but I gues it'll be fine. IF this is too long,
then you can remove the recipients if you wish.

Microsoft Furthers Commitment to Employment of People with Disabilities Through \$250,000 in Grants. The latest round of grants will bring technology and training to innovative projects focused on employment issues for individuals with disabilities. The grant program, will award \$250,000 to nine organizations across the country that are working in the area of employment for people with disabilities. These organizations, which focus on employment opportunities in entrepreneurship, youth, and training, recognize that technology plays an important part in their success. The grant, awarded through Microsoft's Accessible Technology Group, in conjunction with Microsoft's Community Affairs department, has been awarded to the following programs:

1. Community Options Inc.'s Entrepreneurs with Disabilities: Technology Business Incubator
2. Colorado High School/High Tech, a project of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities -
3. Los Angeles High School/High Tech, a project of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities - LA County Office of Education & Screen Actor's Guild Foundation
4. World Institute on Disabilities' Ticket to Work/Work Incentives

Improvement Act Employment Project (TWWIIA)

5. Alliance for Technology Access

6. Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) and CPB/WGBH National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM) - Accessible Training and Education on the Web: A Path to Independence and Success -

7. National Business and Disability Council (NBDC) -

8. National Organization of Disability's Start on Success: Student Internship Program (SOS)

9. Ovation Fund, a nonprofit venture philanthropy fund investing exclusively in exceptional entrepreneurs with disabilities.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jonathan_M._Young@who.eop.gov

[mailto:Jonathan_M._Young@who.eop.gov]

Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2000 7:21 PM

To: Ellen Mosner

Subject: RE: [MD] Final List of Mentoring Day Participants

do you have a paragraph about the \$250,000?

(Embedded

image moved Ellen Mosner <ellenm@microsoft.com>

to file: 10/19/2000 09:19:13 PM

pic27243.pcx)

Record Type: Record

To: Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: "'Horne-Richard@dol.gov'" <Horne-Richard@dol.gov>,
"'einsofcom@earthlink.net'" <einsofcom@earthlink.net>, Ellen Mosner
<ellenm@microsoft.com>

Subject: RE: [MD] Final List of Mentoring Day Participants

Jonathan: It was so great to catch up with you yesterday.

During our meeting, you indicated that you would include our thumbnail that we sent you? (It was in Tari Hartman's email) So does that mean that Washington should be included as well?

Please advise. All the information that you asked for was included in the

thumbnail. BUT just in case I am sending it again.

We hope that we can be included in his important announcement.

Contact name: Mylene Padolina 425-882-8080

135 kids and will be included along with a teacher, parent, or attendant.

Here is the thumbnail including the public organization we are working with:

Microsoft Corporation recognizes their responsibility to reach out, educate and equip the community with access to technology. In a response to a need raised by the Washington State Governor's Task Force on the Employment of Adults with Disabilities, Microsoft has planned two events to encourage high school students with disabilities to pursue careers in Computer Science and other related technical fields. Microsoft will be hosting a career day for Puget Sound area high school students with disabilities on November 14, 2000. This event will include presentations on the future of accessible technology and assistive devices, a panel discussion with Microsoft employees with disabilities and keynote speeches from key directors with the organization. In addition, Microsoft has partnered with local learning institutions to provide exhibits regarding technical education programs. Shortly afterwards, a job shadow day will be held to ensure that careers in technology stay in the forefront of the students' minds. The goal of this event is to expose students up-close to the practical use of technology and better prepare them for the future.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jonathan_M._Young@who.eop.gov
[mailto:Jonathan_M._Young@who.eop.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2000 11:01 AM
To: Jonathan_M._Young@who.eop.gov; horne-richard@oa.eop.gov
Subject: [MD] Final List of Mentoring Day Participants

MEMORANDUM To all Disability Mentoring Day collaborators:

We are in the process of finalizing press releases about your participation in Disability Mentoring Day activities, and want to confirm that we accurately include everyone who has activities planned and not mistakenly announce participants that are not confirmed. It is very important that we receive the following information, TODAY if possible, so that we can complete the press releases.

So far, we believe that the following states are participating: Minnesota, New York, Illinois, Texas, Florida, Georgia, California, Missouri, and Iowa.

We are not certain that the following states are participating, although in previous calls they indicated that they were: Alaska and Tennessee

If you would like your participation mentioned in the press releases, we need the following information. Even if you have already submitted prior descriptions of your activity, please submit it again in this format to both Richard and I (Richard's email is Horne-Richard@dol.gov):

1. Contact information for person(s) coordinating the activities (e.g., name, contact information, etc.)
2. Where your activity is planned.
3. When your activity is planned (date)
4. What business or public agencies are providing mentors.
5. How many people are involved.

Once we have a draft of the press release we will send it to you. Thanks again.

Potential Announcements for National Disability Mentoring Day

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and October 25 marks the first National Disability Mentoring Day. At the White House we'll be having about 75 young folks in from the Washington Metropolitan area for a morning plenary session at the White House (9:00 - 10:30). The young people move on to participating federal agencies for lunch with high-level officials followed by one-on-one mentoring from 11:30 to 3:30. The day will conclude with an afternoon reception at the State department from 4:00 to 5:00.

In addition to announcing the winners of the Disability Mentoring Day Essay contest and recognizing the states and companies participating in National Mentoring Day, we could make the following announcements focusing on employment for persons with disabilities and the implementation of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (TTWWIIA).

1. SSA Benefits Outreach/Counseling Grants. [STATUS: READY] The Social Security Administration is about to award \$8 million in grants to about 43 non-profit organizations and/or state agencies in 26 states and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to provide benefit planning, assistance and outreach for persons with disabilities who are attempting to return to work. These grants, ranging from \$50,000 to \$300,000, are the first round to be issued under this portion of the TTWWIIA. Note: if the FY 2001 budget passes by 10/25, grants to the remaining states could be announced as well at that time.
2. DOL Work Incentive Grants. [STATUS: READY] The Department of Labor will be issuing \$20 Million in grants to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the full range of *over 23 states* employment and reemployment services in the new workforce development system established by the Workforce Investment Act. These grants, while not a part of the TTWWIIA, were designed to complement the Ticket to Work efforts. Grantees will be responsible for working with the One-Stop operators to augment their capacity to provide the full range of effective employment and training services to people with disabilities.
3. HHS Demonstration to Maintain Independence and Employment. [STATUS: READY] Under section 204 of TTWWIIA, HHS is giving grants to 5 states to establish Medicaid demonstration programs for workers with physical or mental impairments that, without medical intervention, have the potential to result in disability. This program could help prevent people from joining the disability rolls through early intervention.
4. HHS Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Program. [STATUS: READY] Under Section 203 of TTWWIIA, DHHS is releasing 27 grants (\$16 million) for the design, establishment, and operation of State infrastructures that provide items and services to support working individuals with disabilities.
5. VA Technology Access Partnership for Disabled Veterans. [STATUS: READY] VA has formed a public-private partnership with SAIC and VERIZON to ensure our Nation's disabled veterans have access to computers and the Internet and the ability to use this technology effectively to fully participate in America's economic, political and social life. This follows on the heels of VA's immensely successful private-public partnership, PT Phone Home and PT Phase II, in which VERIZON, then Bell Atlantic, equipped VA medical centers with bedside telephones and established computer labs in medical facilities across the country.

6. Technology Access Partnership for Native Americans. [STATUS: READY] DOL and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are launching a partnership with the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) and the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) for increasing technology access for Native Americans with disabilities.
7. CEO letter to increase employment of people with disabilities [STATUS: WAITING ON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE]. Currently, about a dozen CEO's have signed onto this letter agreeing to target disability as part of their diversity recruitment goals, making assistive technology available to their employees, and promoting the recruitment of youth with disabilities through internships and mentorships. OPL is currently working on getting seeing whether this effort could be done under the auspices of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
8. OPM Statistics on Federal Hiring Commitments. [STATUS: WILL BE READY] Following the Executive Order encouraging 100,000 more federal hires of persons with disabilities, OPM has some preliminary information on commitments with agency breakdown.

PostMaster

10/20/2000 11:46:57 AM

Record Type: Record

To: All EOP Users, All USTR Users

CC:

Subject: National Disability Employment Awareness Month Event

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT STAFF

FROM: MARK F. LINDSAY
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: National Disability Employment Awareness Month Event

All staff are invited to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month by attending an assistive technology demonstration and exhibition on Monday, October 23, from 12-2 PM in the first floor atrium of the New Executive Office Building. Assistive technology is innovative state-of-the-art equipment and products that help individuals with disabilities lead more independent lives and increase their access to the workplace. A short demonstration will begin at 12 PM followed by an open exhibition.

For additional information please call David Rowe at X5-3846. Individuals with disabilities, who need reasonable accommodation, please call OA's Equal Employment Opportunity Office on X5-3996.



Reynolds Susan <Reynolds-Susan@dol.gov>
10/19/2000 10:44:48 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: RE: WtW Disability Guide

I spoke with Richard Horne, who has been working on the guide here. He says that the guide is still in internal clearance while the Solicitor's office, especially the Civil Rights Division, makes changes to it. He thinks that could take another 3 weeks, but we will send you a draft as soon as those comments are incorporated. Then the draft will go into Departmental clearance.

I can tell you there are chapters on each of the disabilities (and I didn't mention that substance abuse is one of the disabilities included), as well as a chapter on Creating a Comprehensive Approach. The guide will be available on the WtW website, with hard copies for training front-line workers.

> -----
> From:
> Christina_S._Ho@opd.eop.gov[SMTP:Christina_S._Ho@opd.eop.gov]
> Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2000 4:34 PM
> To: Reynolds-Susan@dol.gov
> Cc: Andrea_Kane@opd.eop.gov
> Subject: WtW Disability Guide
>
> <<File: pic04216.pcx>>
>
>
> Hi Susan--Andrea forwarded me your email--this guide sounds super. I
> understand
> that Cheryl would be our contact but she's out now. I was wondering if
> someone
> else has a copy of the current draft and could send it to us now. Thanks
> so
> much!
> ----- Forwarded by Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP on 10/18/2000
> 04:32
> PM -----
>
>
>
>
> Andrea Kane
> 10/18/2000 04:09 PM



Reynolds Susan <Reynolds-Susan@dol.gov>

10/18/2000 03:50:48 PM

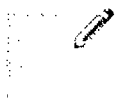
Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: WtW Disability Guide

The Disability Guide will provide information to front-line workers on hidden disabilities, concentrating on learning disabilities, mental retardation, and mental illness. This information will include resources on each of the disabilities mentioned and how to create a comprehensive approach to assist someone with these disabilities find a job and keep it. The Departments of Labor and Education worked together to create the guide with the help of many other non-profit organizations and associations. The WtW Office has estimated that the guide should be finished by the end of the month but it has not yet gone into Departmental clearance and everything about this product has taken longer than expected. Cheryl Turner is the contact for the guide--she will be able to give you more information when she returns next week.



Ann O'Leary
10/18/2000 12:40:36 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Barbara Chow/OMB/EOP@EOP

cc: Jennifer E. McGee/OPD/EOP@EOP, Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP, Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP@EOP

Subject: Follow-Up to ADA 10th Anniversary

Barbara -

In July, I worked with the Interagency Task Force on the 10th Anniversary of the ADA to ensure that a youth component was included in efforts to continue to expand opportunities for people with disabilities. At the July event, the First Lady announced that we would amend the EO on the President's Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities to include a focus on assisting youth in successfully transitioning from school to postsecondary education and work. This EO was proposed and vetted with the Interagency group and I subsequently followed-up with Mac Reed to ensure that it was vetted and circulated with the agencies. I have just learned that it has not been vetted and realized that I did not formerly submit it to Mac. He needs a memo from the Director of the DPC to Jack Lew in order to move forward. I have drafted such a memo from you to Jack Lew.

Could you please review? If you approve, I would like to get it to Mac as soon as possible so he can vet it with the agencies. The Dept. of Labor would like to announce it, once again, as soon as next week. I feel horrible about this last minute nature, but hadn't realized that Mac did not have what he needed to formally put it into clearance.

Thanks.

-Ann



ADA-Youth EO amend.d

ADAPT - WORKING ON HVCB CASE

Potential Announcements for National Disability Mentoring Day

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and October 25 marks the first National Disability Mentoring Day. At the White House we'll be having about 75 young folks from the Washington Metropolitan area for a morning plenary session at the White House (9:00 - 10:30). The young people move on to participating federal agencies for lunch with high-level officials followed by one-on-one mentoring from 11:30 to 3:30. The day will conclude with an afternoon reception at the State department 4:00 to 5:00.

In addition to announcing the winners of the Disability Mentoring Day Essay contest and recognizing the states and companies participating in National Mentoring Day, we could make the following announcements focusing on employment for persons with disabilities and the implementation of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (TTWWIIA).

Benefits Outreach/Counseling Grants. The Social Security Administration is about to award \$7.5 million in grants to about 35 non-profit organizations and/or state agencies in 25 states to provide benefit planning, assistance and outreach for persons with disabilities who are attempting to return to work. These grants, ranging from \$50,000 to \$300,000, are the first round to be issued under this portion of the Work Incentives Improvement Act. When fully implemented, grants will be awarded to organizations and/or state agencies in all 50 states in accordance with the law. Grants to the remaining states will be issued later in the fall once the Social Security Administration has its appropriation for Fiscal Year 2001.

Ticket to Work Rule. The NPRM to implement the Ticket to Work Program portion of the TTWWIIA may be ready to announce. Under this program, SSA will issue tickets enabling people with disabilities to contract for employment support services. Providers of these support services receive payments for their work with individuals with disabilities, and can receive additional payments if these individuals return to work and come off the Social Security rolls.

Work Incentive Grants. The DOL will be issuing \$20 Million in grants to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the full range of employment and reemployment services in the new workforce development system established by the Workforce Investment Act. These grants, while not a part of the TTWWIIA, were designed to complement the Ticket to Work efforts. Grantees will be responsible for working with the One-Stop operators to augment their capacity to provide the full range of effective employment and training services to people with disabilities.

Demonstration to Maintain Independence and Employment. Section 204 of TWWIA directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish a demonstration under the Medicaid Program for workers with physical or mental impairments that, without medical intervention, have the potential to result in disability. The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) is the designated DHHS agency with administrative responsibility for this grant program.

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Program. Section 203 directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish a grant program for the design, establishment, and operation of State infrastructures that provide items and services to support working individuals with disabilities. The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) is the designated DHHS agency with administrative responsibility for this grant program.

am
KT -
Tech Access for Disabled Veterans. VA has formed a public-private partnership with SAIC and VERIZON to ensure our Nation's disabled veterans have access to computers and the Internet and

the ability to use this technology effectively to fully participate in America's economic, political and social life. This follows on the heels of VA's immensely successful private-public partnership, PT Phone Home and PT Phase II, in which VERIZON, then Bell Atlantic, equipped VA medical centers with bedside telephones and established computer labs in medical facilities across the country. ready

Tech Access for Native Americans. DOL Partnership for increasing technology access for Native Americans with disabilities. Presidential TF
Schuman + team need to see if has been before

Formation of DOL Business Leadership Council. This Council would be part of the new Assistant Secretary-level Office of Disability Planning Evaluation and Training situated within DOL. EO - depends on status of budget

CEO better - Able to work - about a year - want to put it on
chamber of Commerce letterhead

EO - announced in July to TF mission to expand to include yash.

→ set it at, no announcement

KK - best for WH to do comprehensive release +
other agencies to also put at / cab sec amplify

Nov 29th - 25th
anniv of 100th

\$50m micasa in budget - used it -
the nursing home \$1 B put at the edge

Christina S. Ho

10/16/2000

07:06:19 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP, Joanne Cianci/OMB/EOP@EOP, Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP

bcc:

Subject: Re: Disability Mentoring Day -- October 25

Karin--let's meet at 1 pm in Andrea's office: the following is an email that Jonathan sent around, and I've elaborated a bit on some of the deliverables below. A large portion of the deliverables deal with implementing various aspects of the Ticket to Work and Workforce Incentives Improvement Act that the President signed a year ago.

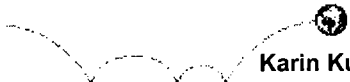
October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and October 25 marks the first National Disability Mentoring Day (last year we did it on a real small scale here at the White house, but we're trying to make it national this year -- we'll probably have 10-15 states involved). This year at the White House we'll be having about 75 young folks in from the Washington Metropolitan area for a morning plenary session at the White House (9:00 - 10:30). We'll then dispatch the mentees to participating federal agencies (for lunch with high-level officials followed by one-on-one mentoring) from 11:30 to 3:30. The day will conclude with an afternoon reception at the State department (4:00 to 5:00).

In conjunction with Mentoring Day we'd like to make a series of announcements in an official White House Press Release (last year we put out a release the following day, but there were no policy announcements). We anticipate the following announcements, focusing on follow-up to the Digital Divide trip as well as employment:

- **Benefits Outreach/Counseling Grants.** The Social Security Administration is about to award \$7.5 million in grants to about 35 non-profit organizations and/or state agencies in 25 states to provide benefit planning, assistance and outreach for persons with disabilities who are attempting to return to work. These grants are part of the Work Incentive Improvement Act. These are the first round of grants to be issued. The grants to be awarded range from \$50,000 to \$300,000. When fully implemented, grants will be awarded to organizations and/or state agencies in all 50 states in accordance with the law. Grants to the remaining states will be issued later in the fall once the Social Security Administration has its appropriation for Fiscal Year 2001.
- **Phase 1 Ticket to Work Implementation states.** 13 states that will be the first round states for national implementation of the Ticket to Work Program which is one of the central features of the Work Incentives Improvement Act. These states will begin issuing tickets which enable people with disabilities to contract for employment support services. Providers of these support services may receive milestone payments for their work with individuals with disabilities, and may receive additional payments if these individuals return to work and come off the Social Security rolls. It is a new, innovative approach for assisting people with disabilities. The 13 states will begin implementing this new program, and the Social Security Administration will use data from these states as part of an overall evaluation before rolling out the program nationally.

- **Ticket to Work Rule.** The proposed rule for the ticket to work implementation described above may be ready for announcement as well.
- **Work Incentives systems change grants.** \$20 Million in grants from DOL as part of the Work Incentives Improvement Act.
- **Demonstration to Maintain Independence and Employment.** Section 204 of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish a demonstration under the Medicaid Program for workers with physical or mental impairments that, without medical intervention, have the potential to result in disability. The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) is the designated DHHS agency with administrative responsibility for this grant program.
- **Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Program.** Section 203 of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish a grant program for the design, establishment, and operation of State infrastructures that provide items and services to support working individuals with disabilities. The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) is the designated DHHS agency with administrative responsibility for this grant program.
- **High-tech Training Grants.** DOL grants (circa \$4 million) for high-tech training of people with disabilities.
- **Disabled Veterans.** Partnership between VA, Verizon, and SAIC to provide computers to veterans with disabilities
- **Native Americans** DOL Partnership for increasing tech access for Native Americans with disabilities.
- **Formation of DOL Business Leadership Council** (part of new Asst Sec Office)
- **Winners of Disability Mentoring Day Essay contest**
- **List of states and companies participating in National Mentoring Day.**

Karin Kullman

 Karin Kullman

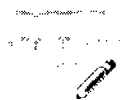
10/16/2000 05:56:24 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc:

Subject: Re: Disability Mentoring Day -- October 25 

I can meet in the early afternoon tomorrow. Just let me know when, and can you send me the list of announcements to consider? Thanks.



Jonathan M. Young
10/10/2000 09:00:27 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Christine A. Stanek/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Disability Mentoring Day -- October 25

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. October 25 marks the first National Disability Mentoring Day (last year we did it on a real small scale here at the White house, but we're trying to make it national this year -- we'll probably have 10-15 states involved). This year at the White House we'll be having about 75 young folks in from the Washington Metropolitan area for a morning plenary session at the White House (9:00 - 10:30). We'll then dispatch the mentees to participating federal agencies (for lunch with high-level officials followed by one-on-one mentoring) from 11:30 to 3:30. The day will conclude with an afternoon reception at the State department (4:00 to 5:00).

In conjunction with Mentoring Day we'd like to make a series of announcements in an official White House Press Release (last year we put out a release the following day, but there were no policy announcements). We anticipate the following announcements, focusing on follow-up to the Digital Divide trip as well as employment:

- + Letter from CEOs about hiring people with disabilities (held over from Flint Trip)
- + \$20 Million in grants from DOL for Work Incentives systems change grants (part of Work Incentives Improvement Act)
- + Partnership between VA, Verizon, and SAIC to provide computers to veterans with disabilities
- + List of states and companies participating in National Mentoring Day.
- + DOL grants (circa \$4 million) for high-tech training of people with disabilities.
- + DOL Partnership for increasing tech access for Native Americans with disabilities.
- + Release of Work Incentives Improvement Act regs (currently in OMB)
- + Formation of DOL Business Leadership council (part of new Asst Sec Office)
- + Winners of Disability Mentoring Day Essay contest

There will probably be additional announcements, and I'll prepare a more comprehensive list this week. Please advise about how to proceed in terms of getting a press release out for the 25th. Tom suggested we might even want to try to get press coverage that morning with the content of some of the announcements. FYI: we had a scheduling request into the President to make the announcements, but that's been regretted as the President is scheduled to be out of town. Thanks for your help.

Message Sent To:

Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP
Julie T. Bosland/OPD/EOP@EOP
Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP
Stephanie A. Cutter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP@EOP

Christina S. Ho

10/11/2000

03:23:51 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP, Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: 10/25 Disability Mentoring Day

Ticket to Work reg may be ready for 10/25 package of deliverables. Also, I'm checking whether these grants may be able to be held for then too.

----- Forwarded by Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP on 10/11/2000 02:50 PM -----

Andrea Kane

10/29/2000 03:31:21 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc: devorah r. adler/opd/eop@eop, anna richter/opd/eop@eop, Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP@EOP

bcc:

Subject: Re: any interest in doing something w/this? 

these look promising. we're pretty close to clearing the regulation on Ticket to Work - maybe we could package grant release and publication of rule. Christina, do you think the rule would be ready by the 12th?

Karin Kullman

 Karin Kullman

09/29/2000 03:16:17 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP, Devorah R. Adler/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP

Subject: any interest in doing something w/this?

What do you all think of these announcements?

----- Forwarded by Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP on 09/29/2000 03:16 PM -----

 Wendy Arends

09/29/2000 02:59:20 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Stephanie A. Cutter/WHO/EOP@EOP, Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: any interest in doing something w/this?

The Social Security Administration is about to award \$7.5 million in grants to about 35 non-profit organizations and/or state agencies in 25 states to provide benefit planning, assistance and outreach for persons with disabilities who are attempting to return to work. These grants are part of the Work Incentive Improvement Act which the President signed last year. These are the first round of grants to be issued. The grants to be awarded range from \$50,000 to \$300,000. When fully implemented, grants will be awarded to organizations and/or state agencies in all 50 states in accordance with the law. Grants to the remaining states will be issued later in the fall once the Social Security Administration has its appropriation for Fiscal Year 2001.

In addition to these grant awards, the Social Security Administration is about to announce the 13 states that will be the first round states for national implementation of the Ticket to Work Program which is one of the central features of the Work Incentives Improvement Act. These states will begin issuing tickets which enable people with disabilities to contract for employment support services. Providers of these support services may receive milestone payments for their work with individuals with disabilities, and may receive additional payments if these individuals return to work and come off the Social Security rolls. It is a new, innovative approach for assisting people with disabilities. The 13 states will begin implementing this new program, and the Social Security Administration will use data from these states as part of an overall evaluation before rolling out the program nationally.

I raise these items in case the White House may want to participate in the announcement of the grants or the selection of the first states to begin implementation of the new ticket program. Given that these grants are being awarded with end of year funding, it would be difficult to hold off announcing these grants past October 12th.



Jonathan M. Young
10/10/2000 09:00:27 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Christine A. Stanek/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Disability Mentoring Day -- October 25

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. October 25 marks the first National Disability Mentoring Day (last year we did it on a real small scale here at the White house, but we're trying to make it national this year -- we'll probably have 10-15 states involved). This year at the White House we'll be having about 75 young folks in from the Washington Metropolitan area for a morning plenary session at the White House (9:00 - 10:30). We'll then dispatch the mentees to participating federal agencies (for lunch with high-level officials followed by one-on-one mentoring) from 11:30 to 3:30. The day will conclude with an afternoon reception at the State department (4:00 to 5:00).

In conjunction with Mentoring Day we'd like to make a series of announcements in an official White House Press Release (last year we put out a release the following day, but there were no policy announcements). We anticipate the following announcements, focusing on follow-up to the Digital Divide trip as well as employment:

- + Letter from CEOs about hiring people with disabilities (held over from Flint Trip)
- + \$20 Million in grants from DOL for Work Incentives systems change grants (part of Work Incentives Improvement Act)
- + Partnership between VA, Verizon, and SAIC to provide computers to veterans with disabilities
- + List of states and companies participating in National Mentoring Day.
- + DOL grants (circa \$4 million) for high-tech training of people with disabilities.
- + DOL Partnership for increasing tech access for Native Americans with disabilities.
- + Release of Work Incentives Improvement Act regs (currently in OMB)
- + Formation of DOL Business Leadership council (part of new Asst Sec Office)
- + Winners of Disability Mentoring Day Essay contest

There will probably be additional announcements, and I'll prepare a more comprehensive list this week. Please advise about how to proceed in terms of getting a press release out for the 25th. Tom suggested we might even want to try to get press coverage that morning with the content of some of the announcements. FYI: we had a scheduling request into the President to make the announcements, but that's been regretted as the President is scheduled to be out of town. Thanks for your help.

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