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Disabilities--Digital Divide Trip

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Initiatives for Disabled Unveiled

Clinton Announces Grants, Other Plans for Technology Access

By EDWARD WALSH
Washington Post Staff Writer

FLINT, Mich., Sept. 21—President Clinton toured a high-tech training center for the disabled here today and announced a series of initiatives to improve access for the disabled to the rapidly changing technologies of the 21st century.

Speaking in a small gymnasium at Mott Community College, Clinton said the goal of giving every citizen the opportunity to live a productive life cannot be achieved "if we leave any American stranded on the other side of the now famous digital divide."

"There are truly amazing possibilities," he said in recounting his tour of the center.

The initiatives the president announced included \$16 million in grants from the Education Department's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research for measures to improve Internet access for the disabled.

He said the Americorps volunteer program will provide \$9 million in grants to support 1,200 volunteers to train disabled children and adults in the use of the latest technology.

In addition, Clinton announced, the chief executive officers of more than 45 high-tech companies have pledged to adopt practices to ensure their products are accessible to the disabled, while the presidents of 25 major research universities have agreed to expand research and education on technology access for people with disabilities.

Taking steps to make sure the disabled can use the Internet and other innovations "is not just the morally right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do," Clinton said.

"If we want to keep the rest of the economy growing, we have to make information technology more accessible," he said. "It's responsible for about 30 percent of the economic growth we've enjoyed over these last eight years."

"We have to bring more people into the circle of opportunity to work in information fields. That means people with disabilities have to be able to enter the 21st century workforce, not only for your own benefit but for the rest of America as well."

Clinton included in his remarks a plug for Vice President Gore, saying they had worked together "to break down barriers that hold people back." But, he said, "breaking down barriers is not enough. People actually have to have the tools they need to take advantage of this remarkable moment of opportunity, especially the tools they need in cyberspace."

Clinton's first stop here was at the Assisted Technology Access Center, where he viewed demonstrations of devices designed to assist the disabled. Clinton watched a demonstration of the Eyegaze System,



BY PAUL SANCTA—ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Clinton talks to Karla Hudson, a rehabilitation counselor at the Michigan Commission for the Blind.

which enables people with severe motor and speech disabilities to operate a computer, control household appliances, access the Internet and send e-mail by moving their eyes across a screen. It was developed by LC Technologies Inc., a Fairfax-based company.

"I love it," Clinton said. Invited to try it himself, Clinton sat in front of the screen while Nancy R. Cleveland, medical and technical coordinator for the firm, directed him. At one point, Cleveland placed her hands on Clinton's head to keep it from moving.

The president did not immediately master the system. "Oh, I screwed it up again," he said at one point. "Dad gumit," he said a few minutes later.

Finally, Clinton succeeded in using his eyes to type "GoodMorning," without a space between the words, on the screen of a laptop computer attached to the Eyegaze device. When the computer's audio system spoke the words, a small group of people in the room applauded.

Asked how difficult it was to operate the system, Clinton said, "Pretty hard, but if you're trained you can get it down. It's amazing."

From here, Clinton flew to Detroit, where tonight he spoke at the annual meeting of the Michigan State Bar Association and at a reception for the Michigan Democratic Party.

NEXT STOP ON PRESIDENT CLINTON'S "DIGITAL DIVIDE" TRIP: DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

September 21, 2000

TODAY, PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL CONTINUE HIS "DIGITAL DIVIDE" TRIP IN FLINT MICHIGAN, WITH A FOCUS ON CREATING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES: President Clinton will visit Flint, Michigan as part of his ongoing initiative to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity for all Americans. The President will visit a Community Technology Center that will offer access to cutting-edge technology for people with disabilities and other members of the community. He will see demonstrations of advanced technologies such as an "Eyegaze System" that allows people with disabilities to operate a computer and send e-mail using only their eyes, and an online physics course that is accessible to people with disabilities, and electronic talking books that are accessible to people with disabilities.

PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS AS PART OF 5 KEY GOALS TO EMPOWER AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE INFORMATION AGE: At a speech at Mott Community College, the President will announce concrete actions by the Administration, companies, universities and non-profits to help ensure that people with disabilities are full participants in the Information Age by:

1. Increasing the accessibility and usability of existing information and communication products and services for people with disabilities;
2. Improving the state-of-the-art of assistive technology;
3. Ensuring that existing efforts to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity are accessible to people with disabilities;
4. Using information technologies to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities; and
5. Increasing access to technologies for people with disabilities who cannot currently afford it.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGIES:

Ensuring that information and communications technologies are usable by the 54 million Americans with disabilities is critical, since it can increase their ability to participate in the workforce, allow them to gain new skills using online learning, and improve their quality of life:

- Only 23.9 percent of people with disabilities had access to a computer at home, compared to 51.7 percent of those without disabilities (Department of Education, July 2000)
- Only 31 percent of Americans with so-called "severe" disabilities are working (Census Bureau, June 2000)
- 48 percent of adults with disabilities believe that the Internet has significantly improved their quality of life, compared to just 27 percent of adults without disabilities (Harris Poll, June 2000)

PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL ANNOUNCE COMMITMENTS BY GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR TO CREATE "DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY" FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

- Over 45 high-tech CEOs will pledge to adopt "best practices" on accessibility, such as training their workers to develop accessible products and services, and identifying and fixing accessibility problems in new versions of their hardware and software.
- Presidents of 25 of the nation's top research universities will agree to expand research and education on accessibility.
- SmartForce, an e-learning company, will provide \$20 million worth of free access to its online training material to at least 5,000 people with disabilities per year for the next three years.
- President Clinton will create a task force to examine Medicare/Medicaid coverage of assistive technology.
- Americorps will provide \$9 million in grants to support 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers to help close the digital divide, including projects that help people with disabilities.
- The President will call on Congress to reauthorize AmeriCorps and include an "E-Corps" dedicated to bridging the digital divide.
- The Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) will provide over \$16 million in grants to promote the accessible information technology through research and loan programs:
 - \$2.5 million, 5-year grant to the Web Accessibility Initiative to help ensure that the Web is accessible to people with disabilities;
 - \$7.5 million, 5-year grant to Georgia Tech for a new center on universal design;

- \$3.8 million to expand or create loan programs for assistive technology in six states;
- \$2.8 million, 4-year grant for a University of Kentucky institute to conduct research on assistive technology for children
- The Department of Education will provide \$1.8 million for an initiative by the National Center for Accessible Media and industry to develop standards for accessible online learning.
- The Mott Foundation will help establish a blue-ribbon commission to develop additional policy recommendations for expanding access to assistive technologies.
- Microsoft, Community Options, and other partners will create a New Jersey-based business incubator with an emphasis on the needs of entrepreneurs with disabilities.
- Sun Microsystems will create a lab to make free, "open source" desktop software accessible for people with disabilities.
- The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will expand their High School High Tech program to 4 new cities and 3 new states, including Michigan. This program allows students with disabilities to explore high-tech careers through site visits, mentoring and internships.
- The Department of Commerce's Technology Opportunity Program will award a grant that will help small community-based organizations provide Web-based services to people with disabilities.
- CompTIA will partner with Compaq and the National Cristina Foundation to provide scholarships and training for certification, with some resources targeted to people with disabilities.

A LIST OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INITIATIVES TO CREATE DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- **Leading high-tech CEOs pledge to develop a corporate-wide policy on accessibility:** In a letter to President Clinton, the CEOs of leading high-tech companies, including 3Com, Adobe, AOL, AT&T, Bell South, Compaq, eBay, Global Crossing, Handspring, Hewlett-Packard, Macromedia, Microsoft, NCR, PeoplePC, Qualcomm, Red Hat, and Sun Microsystems, have committed to develop a corporate-wide policy on accessibility within six months. Currently, very few high-tech companies have such a policy. These policies will include "best practices" such as:
 - Training their workers to develop accessible products and services;
 - Giving their developers adequate resources to design accessible products and services;
 - Identifying and fixing accessibility problems in new versions of their hardware and software; and
 - Supporting research and development to improve the state-of-the-art of assistive technology.
- **Presidents of 25 of the nation's top research universities agree to expand research and education on accessibility:** In a letter to President Clinton, the presidents of 25 of the nation's top research universities including University of California, University of Michigan, and MIT, have agreed to take a number of important steps to expand research and education on accessibility, including: ensuring that computer scientists and engineers receive training on accessibility; expanding the number of faculty who conduct research on accessibility; and ensuring that university online resources are accessible to people with disabilities. For example, the College of Engineering of the University of Wisconsin will create a new educational program on design and human disability that will involve the creation of additional tenure track faculty positions.
- **SmartForce, an e-learning company, will provide \$20 million worth of free access to its online training material to at least 5,000 people with disabilities:** SmartForce will donate \$20 million worth of "e-scholarships" to people with disabilities, working in partnership with the Association of Rehabilitation Programs in Computer Technology at Western Michigan University. At least 5,000 people per year for the next three years will be able to get free access to on-line training in areas such as information technology and financial management. An online support center will provide e-testing and mentoring during the learning process.
- **President Clinton will direct his Cabinet to create a task force on Medicare/Medicaid coverage of assistive technology:** President Clinton will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services and other members of his Cabinet to form an interagency Task Force on Health Care Coverage of Assistive Technologies. Currently, the Medicare and Medicaid programs provide essential health coverage to nearly 12 million people with disabilities. The task force will be charged with examining existing Medicare and Medicaid coverage of assistive technologies, and making recommendations on how to best enhance such coverage in order to support independent living and employment for people with disabilities. This review is particularly important and timely because the historic Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act signed by President Clinton allows people with disabilities to maintain their Medicare and Medicaid coverage even after they return to work.
- **President Clinton will call on Congress to reauthorize AmeriCorps and will announce that AmeriCorps will today award \$9 million in grants to support 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers to help close the digital divide, including people with disabilities:** AmeriCorps grants will support efforts by 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers to help close the digital divide. AmeriCorps volunteers will be helping teachers learn how to use technology, staffing Community Technology Centers, and giving at-risk youth

the skills they need to become technologically literate. Several of the projects focus on the needs of people with disabilities, such as a project in North Carolina that will give 300 blind and visually impaired students of all ages computer and Internet skills. This example of the work that AmeriCorps can do to close the digital divide will be cited by the President as a reason to reauthorize AmeriCorps and include an "E-Corps" component in the reauthorization. E-Corps will encourage the training of AmeriCorps volunteers in computers and technology in communities to help bridge the digital divide.

- **National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research will invest \$2.5 million to expand partnership with industry to make World Wide Web accessible for people with disabilities:** The Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) will provide \$2.5 million in funding over the next 5 years to the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Accessibility Initiative at MIT. This initiative will develop guidelines to ensure that Web content and Web software is accessible for people with disabilities, and will educate developers about the importance of implementing these guidelines. This work is critical because the Web now provides access to over 2 billion pages of information, and is becoming increasingly important in the workplace, for electronic commerce, and for government services.
- **Department of Education will fund new partnership to make online learning accessible to people with disabilities:** The Department of Education will provide a \$1.8 million grant under the Administration's Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnership to a new initiative that will help make online learning accessible for people with disabilities. The project will be led by the WGBH National Center for Accessible Media and the IMS Global Learning Consortium. Industry partners include Blackboard, Inc., Educational Testing Service, Pearson Education, Sun Microsystems, PeopleSoft, and Saba Software. The project will impact the accessibility of online resources in all learning environments, including K-12 education, post-secondary education, and workplace training.
- **Department of Education will provide a \$7.5 million grant to the Georgia Institute of Technology to increase the accessibility of electronic and information technology:** The Department of Education will provide a 5-year, \$7.5 million grant to the Georgia Institute of Technology's Center for Rehabilitation Technology. This grant will provide training and technical assistance on universal design to technology manufacturers, product designers, and purchasers of information technology. It will also help improve the implementation of federal laws such as Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- **The C.S. Mott Foundation will fund a "Task Force on Equal Access to Technology and Opportunity."** With funding from the Mott Foundation, the Disability Network of Flint, Michigan, will create a one-year blue-ribbon commission that will bring together diverse sectors of society to address long-term challenges in the accessibility of information technologies. First, the Task Force will address the problem of affordability. Many people with disabilities are unable to afford basic computer technology and Internet access, let alone high-end and costly specialized assistive devices. The Task Force will explore financing mechanisms and strategies for building on the foundation of the Tech Act Projects. Second, the Task Force will focus on education and outreach to colleges and universities to help with improve the integration of accessibility and usability into academic curricula and university services. The Task Force will consist of 15-20 members representing industry, colleges and universities, technology experts, disability advocates, and government. It will meet four times over the coming year, issue a report, and develop model action plans for dissemination to different sectors of society.
- **Microsoft, Community Options, and other public and private partners will create a business incubator - with special emphasis on entrepreneurs with disabilities:** Microsoft, Community Options, the New

Jersey Community Loan Fund, the New Jersey Technology Council, the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners and other partners will create a business incubator targeted to low-income individuals, with priority given to people with disabilities. The New Jersey-based incubator will provide low-cost office space, customized technology support, and business planning expertise.

- **Sun Microsystems will partner with GNOME Foundation to make open source desktop software accessible for people with disabilities:** Sun Microsystems will create a new accessibility lab that will make GNOME software accessible for people with disabilities. Sun is also committed to establishing a fund that will be able to accept contributions from companies and individuals to make open source software accessible for people with disabilities. GNOME is a free, open-source desktop environment that makes it easier for people to use Linux and other similar operating systems. Open source software may be freely distributed and modified by end-users.
- **President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will announce expansion of High School/High Tech program to 4 new cities and 3 new states:** The High School/High Tech provides opportunity for students with disabilities to explore exciting careers in science and technology. The program uses site visits, mentoring, shadowing, and paid summer internships to allow students to prepare for careers in scientific, engineering and technology-related fields. The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities has identified local partners that will expand High School/High Tech in 4 urban areas (Atlanta, Los Angeles, Orlando, Chicago) and 3 states (Col., Wisc., and Michigan).
- **CompTIA will partner with Compaq and National Cristina Foundation to provide scholarships and training for certification in IT jobs, with some resources targeted to people with disabilities:** CompTIA, the Computing Technology Industry Association, will dedicate \$1 million to create scholarships for the general population, including people with disabilities, to provide training for IT service and support positions. Compaq will match this commitment with \$100,000 for scholarships targeted specifically to people with disabilities. In conjunction with these commitments, CompTIA is partnering with the National Cristina Foundation to develop a National Computer Re-Utilization Network to provide training organizations that serve teens, veterans, people with disabilities, and other underserved communities with re-furnished technology.
- **Department of Education will award a \$2 million grant to strengthen Community Technology Centers, make them more accessible for people with disabilities:** The Department of Education will award a \$2 million grant to the "America Connects Consortium" to help create, improve and sustain Community Technology Centers through technical assistance. These centers provide access to technology and the skills needed to use it, typically to low-income families that do not have computers and Internet access. One of the consortium partners, the Alliance for Technology Access, will help the centers ensure that they are accessible to people with disabilities and are meeting their needs. The Department of Education is already supporting or expanding 595 CTCs; President Clinton has proposed a \$100 million budget initiative in FY2001 to create an additional 1,000 centers.
- **National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research will award \$6.6 million in grants to create or expand state loan programs for assistive technology, bridge the digital divide for children:** The Department of Education's NIDRR will award \$3.8 million to six states to expand loan programs in 6 states: Virginia, Kansas, Missouri, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Utah. This program will increase the ability of people with disabilities to purchase assistive technology devices and services. NIDRR will also award a 4-year, \$2.8 million grant to create the University of Kentucky Assistive Technology Research Institute to conduct research on assistive technology that has potential to help bridge the digital divide for children with disabilities.

- **NCR will provide free training on benefits of accessibility from a business perspective:**
NCR is partnering with IDEAL at NCR and EASI (Equal Access to Software and Information) to create a workshop, "The Global Business Benefits of Designing Accessible and Usable Electronic and Information Technology." This workshop will be offered on-line to 400 participants free of charge.
- **Department of Commerce will help small community-based organizations provide Web-based services to people with disabilities:** The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Technology Opportunities Program will provide a grant to the Pangea Foundation, based in San Diego, California. The foundation will create Web-based templates that will make it easy for organizations to enter information in a format that is accessible to people with disabilities. People with disabilities will be able to find information on local services through a central clearinghouse on the Web in a format that they can use. The Administration has proposed tripling the budget for the Technology Opportunities Program from \$15 million to \$45 million so that the government can support creative uses of information technology for underserved communities.
- **Center for Applied Special Technology will develop improved version of Web accessibility tool with private sector support:** CAST will upgrade its freely available tool for improving the accessibility of Web sites. The new version will have an improved ability to analyze the accessibility of web sites, and the ability to interactively repair problems that are found. Current sponsors include IBM, Microsoft, Mitsubishi Electric Foundation, Sun Microsystems, and HalfthePlanet.com.
- **The Colorado Computer Training Institute will sponsor the first annual Rocky Mountain Accessibility Internet Rally:** CCTI will provide training to Web site developers to make them accessible to individuals with hearing, visual, learning or physical impairments. On December 2, web developers from participating companies will unveil those parts of their web sites that have been redesigned. On the same day, web designers will compete to develop accessible web sites for local non-profit groups. This replicated a successful Accessible Internet Rally organized by the Austin-based nonprofit, Knowbility.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CREATING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Access to computers, the Internet, and other information and communications technologies are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, political, and social life. If technology is designed to be usable by people with disabilities, it can increase their ability to participate in the workforce and lead independent lives. Examples of technologies that empower people with disabilities include:

- "Screen readers" for people who are blind;
- Voice recognition for people who cannot readily use a keyboard due to physical disabilities;
- Web sites that follow the guidelines of the Web Accessibility Initiative;
- Captioning of audio and video for people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing;
- Video description for people who are blind and visually-impaired; and
- Computers that can be operated by eye movement for people who are unable to speak.

Unfortunately, people with disabilities are often on the wrong side of the "digital divide," as reflected in rates of computer ownership and access to the Internet. When information and communications technologies are not designed to be accessible to and usable by people with disabilities, isolation from the economic and social mainstream is intensified. The following statistics illustrate the magnitude of the challenge.

There are 54 million Americans with disabilities

- According to 1994-95 Census data, 54 million Americans had some level of disability and 26 million have a disability identified as "severe." [Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, "Americans with Disabilities: 1994-95," August 1997.]

People with disabilities are half as likely to have a computer as people without disabilities

- December 1998 Census data found that 23.9 percent of people with disabilities had access to a computer at home, compared to 51.7 percent of those without disabilities. [Department of Education, Disability Statistics Abstract, "Disability and the Digital Divide," H. Stephen Kaye, July 2000.]

The Internet is more likely to improve the quality of life for adults with disabilities than adults without disabilities

- According to a recent poll, 48 percent of adults with disabilities believe that the Internet has significantly improved their quality of life, compared to just 27 percent of adults without disabilities. People with disabilities report that the Internet allows them to be better informed and more connected to the world around them, and that it puts them in touch with people who have similar interests and experiences. [The Harris Poll #30, "How the Internet is Improving the Lives of Americans With Disabilities," June 7, 2000.]

Only 31 percent of Americans with "severe" disabilities are working

- In 1997, 50.2 percent of the estimated 27.7 million Americans ages 21-64 with disabilities were employed. Of those 17.3 million Americans in this age group with severe disabilities, employment reached only 31.1 percent. Nationally, 78.3 percent of all Americans 21-64 were employed. ["Employment, Earnings, and Disability – 1991/92, 1993/94, 1994/95 and 1997 Data From the Survey of Income and Program Participation", John M. McNeil, Census Bureau, June 2000.]

Roughly half of those with work disabilities earn less than \$25,000 annually

- 51.0 percent of households with a disabled family member 15 years old and over, have family incomes of below \$25,000 per year, as compared to only 26.9 percent of households with no disabilities. [Census Bureau, 1997 Data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation.]

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION RECORD TO HELP CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

September 21, 2000

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have a strong record of working to bridge the digital divide by ensuring that every child is technologically literate. In 1994, President Clinton and Vice President Gore set the goal of connecting every classroom and library to the Internet. In 1996, President Clinton unveiled his Technology Literacy Challenge -- and has made a major commitment of resources to connect every classroom to the Internet, expand access to modern, multimedia computers; make high-quality educational software an integral part of the curriculum; and enable teachers to effectively integrate technology into their instruction

President Clinton succeeded in increasing educational technology funding by over 3,000 Percent -- from \$23 million in FY94 to \$766 million in FY2000. This includes:

- \$425 million for the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund which helps states and local communities meet all four "pillars" of the President's educational technology initiative (computers, Internet access, teacher training, educational software).
- \$197 million for partnerships between local school districts and the private sector to develop innovative approaches to using technology in the classroom.
- \$75 million to help train all new teachers to use technology.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore also fought for the \$2.25 billion "E-rate" to connect schools and libraries to the Internet.

- The e-rate is providing 20 percent -- 90 percent discounts to connect schools and libraries to the Internet, with the deepest discounts going to the poorest schools that need it most.
- By the end of 2000, the e-rate will have funded \$6.25 billion of telecommunications infrastructure and services to schools and libraries. In 1999, 82 percent of public schools (over 78,000) and 51 percent of public libraries received public funding.

Major progress has been made in reaching the goals of the President's Educational Technology Initiative.

- The number of classrooms connected to the Internet has increased from 3 percent in 1994 to 63 percent in 1999.
- The number of schools connected to the Internet has increased from 35 percent in 1994 to 95 percent in 1999.
- Grants supported by the Department of Education are training 400,000 new teachers to use technology effectively in the classroom.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are building on their past achievements through a number of new and expanded proposals this year. In February 2000, the President and Vice President announced specific proposals in their FY2001 budget to help create digital opportunity for more Americans, including:

- \$2 billion over 10 years in tax incentives to encourage private sector donation of computers, sponsorship of community technology centers, and technology training for workers.

- \$150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce to use technology effectively.
- \$100 million to create 1,000 Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods.
- \$50 million for a public/private partnership to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families.
- \$45 million to promote innovative applications of information and communications technology for underserved communities.
- \$25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in underserved urban and rural communities.
- \$10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in Information Technology and other technical fields.

President Clinton successfully mobilized major public and private efforts bridge the digital divide in his April 2000 trip to East Palo Alto, California; Shiprock, New Mexico; Chicago, Illinois; and Rural North Carolina

- Over 400 companies and non-profit organizations signed a "National Call To Action" to bring digital opportunity to youth, families, and communities. The call to action set goals such as ensuring that every child is technologically literate, and making home access to the Internet as ubiquitous as the telephone.
- Companies such as AOL, HP, Qualcomm and Gateway invested over \$100 million in new initiatives to bridge the digital divide.
- The Kaiser Family Foundation committed to a media campaign to motivate young people to "get connected," with Public Service Announcements starring Magic Johnson and Rebecca Lobo.
- The Federal Communications Commission agreed to expand the Lifeline program so that members of Indian tribes could get phone service for as little as \$1 per month.
- The deans of over 200 hundred colleges of education pledged to meet the President's goal of ensuring that all new teachers will be able to use technology effectively in the classroom, and to benchmark their progress using a self-assessment tool developed by the CEO Forum.
- Telecommunications companies agreed to provide high-speed Internet access to all businesses and citizens of North Carolina within 3 years.
- The Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service committed to expand its \$670 million telecommunications loan program to companies that provide high-speed Internet access to rural America.

Clinton – Gore Administration Accomplishments in Creating Digital Opportunity for People with Disabilities September 21, 2000

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked to ensure that people with disabilities will be full participants in the Information Age. Creating digital opportunity for people with disabilities is particularly important, since it increases their ability to work, gain new skills using online learning, tap in to the rapidly growing universe of electronic information, and improve their quality of life by exchanging e-mail with people with shared interests. Below are just some of the steps that President Clinton and Vice President Gore have taken to help create digital opportunity for Americans with disabilities.

- **Ensuring that the Telecommunications Revolution Benefits All.** President Clinton and Vice President Gore fought for the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which requires that telecommunications equipment and services be accessible to individuals with disabilities. In 1999, the Federal Communications Commission adopted rules implementing Section 255 of the Telecom Act, which will ensure that people with disabilities have access to telephones, cell phones, pagers, call waiting, and operator services.
- **Ensuring the Federal Government Provides Accessible Technology and Information.** In August 1998, the President signed into law the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which included in the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. The revised "Section 508" requires that when Federal agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology, they must ensure that it is accessible to people with disabilities. Because the federal government is a large purchaser of information technology, this law will accelerate the development of accessible technologies.
- **Signing the Assistive Technology Act.** With the support of the Clinton-Gore Administration, Congress passed the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (ATA). The ATA supports state efforts such as training, technical assistance, alternative loan programs, demonstration centers, information and referral hotlines, web sites, technology expos, and the development of informational materials.
- **Proposing a More Than Seventeen-Percent Increase in Assistive Technology Initiatives for FY 2001.** The Administration's FY 2001 budget includes \$100 million (a \$13.5 million increase) for disability and technology research at the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) and \$41 million (a \$7 million increase) for Assistive Technology Act funds to States:
 - NIDRR would launch a comprehensive technology initiative that includes technical assistance and training to elementary and secondary schools adopt accessible technology for students with disabilities.
 - The Administration's request also includes \$15 million to support grants that establish or maintain alternative loan financing programs. Many people with disabilities do not have the private financial resources to purchase the assistive technologies they need. If approved, this increase would significantly enhance opportunities for individuals with disabilities to take advantage of assistive technology.
- **Developing a Strategy for the Development and Transfer of Assistive Technology and Universal Design.** In July 2000, President Clinton directed the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) to work with the disability and research communities to identify priority areas for the advancement of assistive technologies and universal design capabilities, and to publish this information within 120 days. Following issuance of the report, each major research agency must develop a strategy for enhancing the transfer of technology that can contribute to the needs and requirements identified by the ICDR.
- **Creating the Access America for People with Disabilities Website.** On the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the President announced a new website, Access America for People with Disabilities -- www.disAbility.gov -- which will serve 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.
- **Advancing the state-of-the-art of assistive technology:** As part of the Administration's proposed increase for the National Science Foundation, the Administration has proposed increases in R&D that will benefit people with

disabilities, such as a "seeing eye" computer that could help people who are blind, or technologies that could automatically turn speech into text for people who are deaf.



Lisa Dawe <Ldawe@welfaretowork.org>
09/18/2000 11:47:02 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Julie T. Bosland/OPD/EOP
cc: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP, Tiffany Westover <Twestover@welfaretowork.org>, Eric Evans
<Eevans@welfaretowork.org>
Subject: RE: Welfare to Work Partnership Talking Points

Julie -

This 2nd paragraph incorporates several points from the first two bullets of the letter.

With the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years, businesses are struggling to find new entry-level employees. Over the last three and half years more than 20,000 companies have learned that welfare to work is a smart solution for business. We recognize that Americans with disabilities represent a significant source of untapped labor for companies looking to bolster their workforce needs and for individuals who want the dignity that comes from earning a paycheck. In addition to our continued commitment to helping those on welfare, The Partnership will explore opportunities for helping those with disabilities and others to connect with the business community.

To support this initiative, The Welfare to Work Partnership will:

- (a) Educate our Business Partners by sharing the best practices of companies who have already hired people with disabilities;
- (b) Direct companies interested in hiring and retaining from this population to appropriate organizations; and
- (c) Explore partnerships with these organizations to promote the hiring of people with disabilities through summer internships, mentoring programs, "career awareness" activities, and community education programs that provide employment and leadership training.

I'm around most of the afternoon, although I'll be in meetings on and off.
The best time to catch me will be after 2pm.

Lisa

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

From: Julie_T._Bosland@opd.eop.gov
[SMTP:Julie_T._Bosland@opd.eop.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2000 8:18 AM
To: Ldawe@welfaretowork.org
Cc: Andrea_Kane@opd.eop.gov
Subject: RE: Welfare to Work Partnership Talking Points

Lisa:

Any chance that you could incorporate some of the bullets from the proposed CEO letter (attached below) into the wording of your statement as examples of what the Partnership might work with companies on in this area? Also, when are you around today in case we need to talk later? Thanks again for all of your work on this. We're excited about the Partnerships interest in expanding its mission.

Julie

----- Forwarded by Julie T. Bosland/OPD/EOP on
09/18/2000
08:11 AM -----

Jonathan M. Young
09/16/2000 08:40:51 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Julie T. Bosland/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: thomas a. kalil/opd/eop@eop, andrea kane/opd/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: RE: Welfare to Work Partnership Talking Points (Document
link not converted)

I think this is better and stronger. Do you think it would be appropriate/possible to incorporate some of the bullet points (or a version thereof) from the CEO employment letter? I've attached it again for your review.

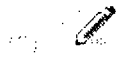
(See attached file: 0905-ceo-employment.doc)

Julie T. Bosland
09/15/2000 05:43:53 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP, Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP

09/18/2000 08:11:50 AM



Julie T. Bosland
09/18/2000 08:11:50 AM

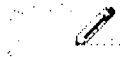
Record Type: Record

To: Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: thomas a. kalil/opd/eop@eop, andrea kane/opd/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: RE: Welfare to Work Partnership Talking Points 

I'll check in with the Partnership on that. Also, what were your thoughts on what format this should take. Can we just include whatever they agree to in our announcement, or do they need to do a separate press release? They indicated that they normally wouldn't do a press release this early in an initiative (committing to the idea, rather than rolling out the actual initiative). I'm out at a meeting till 11:30ish, but you can either page me or talk to Andrea if we need to get this finalized right away. Otherwise, we can talk mid-day.

Jonathan M. Young

09/16/2000 08:40:51 PM



Jonathan M. Young
09/16/2000 08:40:51 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Julie T. Bosland/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: thomas a. kalil/opd/eop@eop, andrea kane/opd/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: RE: Welfare to Work Partnership Talking Points 

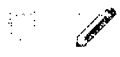
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0905-ceo-employment.

Julie T. Bosland

09/15/2000 05:43:53 PM



Julie T. Bosland
09/15/2000 05:43:53 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP, Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: RE: Welfare to Work Partnership Talking Points

See additions to Lisa's message below. How do you all envision incorporating their announcement and what else would you need from the Partnership at this point? If you want to talk about this, give me a call at 62948. Thanks.

----- Forwarded by Julie T. Bosland/OPD/EOP on 09/15/2000 05:39 PM -----



Lisa Dawe <Ldawe@welfaretowork.org>
09/15/2000 05:17:55 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP, Julie T. Bosland/OPD/EOP
cc: Tiffany Westover <Twestover@welfaretowork.org>
Subject: RE: Welfare to Work Partnership Talking Points

Andrea & Julie -

We inserted several sentences with a few more specifics at the end of the paragraph. I'm out of the office after 5:30 tonight - if you have other questions, I'm happy to discuss on Monday. This is what we are comfortable saying, in light of the fact that we have not gone public with any of our Phase 3 thinking and have not sealed the deal to move forward with LISC at this point.

Thanks,
Lisa

* With the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years, businesses are struggling to find new entry-level employees. Over the last three and half years more than 20,000 companies have learned that welfare to work is a smart solution for business. We recognize that Americans with disabilities represent a significant source of untapped labor for companies looking to bolster their workforce needs and for individuals who want the dignity that comes from earning a paycheck. In addition to our continued commitment to helping those on welfare, The Partnership will explore opportunities for helping those with disabilities and others to connect with the business community. For example, we will share with our Business Partners the best practices of companies who have already hired people with

disabilities. We will also direct companies interested in hiring and retaining from this population to the organizations who can help them do this.

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

From: Andrea_Kane@opd.eop.gov [SMTP:Andrea_Kane@opd.eop.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2000 5:06 PM
To: Lisa Dawe
Cc: Julie_T._Bosland@opd.eop.gov
Subject: Re: Welfare to Work Partnership Talking Points

Lisa - just a housekeeping thing...pls delete Christy Quigley from the email list (I had her on there by mistake). If at all possible, I think you need to be a bit more specific about what you'll be doing in the future re: individuals with disabilities. Can you add another sentence at the end of the 1st bullet that spells this out?

(Embedded
image moved Lisa Dawe <Ldawe@welfaretowork.org>
to file: 09/15/2000 04:52:46 PM
PIC21614.PCX)

Record Type: Record

To: Julie T. Bosland/OPD/EOP

cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

Subject: Welfare to Work Partnership Talking Points

Julie -

Here is the language The Welfare to Work Partnership to use for the upcoming New Markets Tour. Is this what you're looking for?

* With the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years, businesses are struggling to find new entry-level employees. Over the last three and half years more than 20,000 companies have learned that welfare to work is a

smart solution for business. We recognize that Americans with disabilities represent a significant source of untapped labor for companies looking to bolster their workforce needs and for individuals who want the dignity that comes from earning a paycheck. In addition to our continued commitment to helping those on welfare, The Partnership will explore opportunities for helping those with disabilities and others to connect with the business community.

Also - Although I should be able to forward information from the disability hiring initiatives of several of our companies by early next week, none of them are willing to sign the letter to-date. We can discuss further if you'd like more information on their thoughts.
Thanks,
Lisa

Message Copied

To: _____

Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP
"cquigle1@os.dhhs.gov" <cquigle1@os.dhhs.gov>
Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP
Tiffany Westover <Twestover@welfaretowork.org>
Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP
<< File: PIC21614.PCX >>



Lisa Dawe <Ldawe@welfaretowork.org>
09/15/2000 04:52:46 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Julie T. Bosland/OPD/EOP
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
Subject: Welfare to Work Partnership Talking Points

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Also - Although I should be able to forward information from the disability hiring initiatives of several of our companies by early next week, none of them are willing to sign the letter to-date. We can discuss further if you'd like more information on their thoughts.

Thanks,
Lisa

Message Copied To:

Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP
"cquigle1@os.dhhs.gov" <cquigle1@os.dhhs.gov>
Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP
Tiffany Westover <Twestover@welfaretowork.org>
Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP



Julie T. Bosland
09/15/2000 04:29:41 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: thomas a. kalil/opd/eop@eop, Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP
bcc:
Subject: Re: Digital Divide 

Looks like there's not much likely to come out of the letter, although there is one employer who's interested in sharing their activities in this area, but can't get the information together tonight -- can they still send it Monday?

Lisa is working on 3-4 lines announcing the Partnership's commitment to moving in this direction and will email those in the next half hour. Do you all have feelings about what form their "announcement" should take? Does it need to be an actual press release for us to reference it or could it be more a short statement of commitment or quote from Eli? Why don't I forward it when it comes and then maybe we can all get on the phone to talk out how this will work and what else is needed. Thanks.

Jonathan M. Young



Jonathan M. Young
09/15/2000 05:27:59 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Julie T. Bosland/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: Re: Digital Divide 

Can you let us know today if you find out anything more about a possible deliverable by the Partnership? Things we'll fly by real quickly once we hit next week, so it'd be nice to get an idea today.

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.

Draft September 14, 2000

Background for September 21st trip - Creating Digital Opportunity for People with Disabilities

I. MESSAGE: With the right commitments from government and the private sector, information technology can be a powerful tool for improving the quality of life and expanding employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

II. GOALS: In cooperation with the disability community, the Administration has developed the following 5 goals that will help bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity for Americans with disabilities:

1. **Existing IT products and services should be designed from the beginning to be more accessible for people with disabilities:** Currently, not all IT products and services are accessible for people with disabilities. For example, someone who is blind can't use the Web if a Web page uses graphics without also including text.
2. **We should improve the state-of-the-art of assistive technology:** Through research and development, we can make it even easier for people to use IT - through technologies such as voice recognition for people who can't use a keyboard.
3. **Employers should take advantage of IT to expand employment for people with disabilities:** The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is much higher than the general population. Accessible IT could make it easier for employers to hire people with disabilities and allow more people with disabilities to work from their home.
4. **Our existing "digital divide" initiatives should be designed so that people with disabilities can take advantage of them:** For example, our national network of Community Technology Centers should be designed to be accessible to people with disabilities.
5. **We should address inequities in access to assistive technology:** There are amazing technologies (e.g., people who are paralyzed can operate computers through the use of eye-gaze or brain waves) that are simply too expensive for low or moderate-income households.

III. PROPOSED SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1. **President sees demonstration of technology that is accessible to people with disabilities**
(30 minutes)

Recommended Location: Disability Network/Technology Access Center

Examples of technology:

- An “eye-gaze” system that enables people without motor function or speech to operate a computer and use the Internet, solely through the movement of their eyes.
- Electronic books that allow people who are blind to have access to a universe of knowledge.
- Voice recognition systems that allow people who can't use a keyboard to use computers.
- An online MIT physics course that has been designed to be accessible for people with all types disabilities, through the use of captioning and descriptive video.

2. President conducts roundtable discussion with CEOs, disability community representatives, technology experts, elected officials (45 minutes - 1 hr)

Recommended Location: Disability Network or Career Alliance

Possible Topics:

- Why accessible IT matters to people with disabilities
- Role of companies, government and universities in making IT accessible
- Strategies to increase employment of people with disabilities
- Improving affordability of technology

3. Speaking program (30 minutes)

Recommended Location: Career Alliance

Possible Program:

- Someone from technology community (e.g. Tim Berners-Lee, Inventor of World Wide Web)
- Someone with a disability who can talk about the impact of technology
- President gives speech -- announces deliverables

IV. BACKGROUND ON SITES

Technology Access Center:

- Provides access to computers and assistive technology for people with disabilities and others in the community
- Has the "latest and greatest" assistive technology -- eyegaze, screen reader software, voice recognition
- Linked to the Mott Community College for distance learning through the Internet and video-conferencing
- Plans to offer a certification program for experts in assistive technology.
- This center is located at a Center for Independent Living called the Disability Network, which is staffed by people with disabilities, including Americorps volunteers with disabilities

Career Alliance One-Stop Service Center:

- "One-Stop" center for workforce development created under Workforce Investment Act of 1998 -- a major accomplishment of the Clinton Administration.
- A person with a disability serves as the Chairman of the local Workforce Investment Board, as well as the Chairman of the association of all Michigan Workforce Investment Boards (he's also the Director of the Disability Network independent living center.)
- Service Center is fully accessible and has state-of-the-art technology.
- Workforce Investment Board has created a Disability Council to increase employment with disabilities.
- Workforce Investment Board is working to implement the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999.

IV. EXAMPLES OF DELIVERABLES

Private sector

1. **High-tech CEOs adopt a company-wide accessibility policy:** Currently, very few high-tech companies have adopted an explicit corporate policy on accessibility. A number of high-tech CEOs (HP, Compaq, AOL, eBay, Bell South, Adobe, Applied Materials, etc.) have committed to implement "best practices" such as:

- Training their workers to develop accessible products and services;
- Giving their developers adequate resources to design accessible products and services;
- Identify and fix accessibility problems in new versions of their hardware and software; and
- Supporting research and development to improve the state-of-the-art of assistive technology.

2. **University presidents commit to expanding research and education on accessibility:**

Presidents of a number of leading research universities have committed to:

15-20

- Ensuring that computer scientists and engineers receive training on accessibility;
- Expanding the number of faculty who conduct research on accessibility; and
- Ensuring that university online resources are accessible to people with disabilities.

3. **Companies agree to increase employment of people with disabilities:** Employers would agree to:

- Target disability as part of their diversity recruitment goals;
- Make assistive technology available to their employees; and
- Promote the recruitment of youth with disabilities through summer internships and mentorships.

[Note: We do not have a critical mass of employers on this letter yet.]

4. **Commission on Assistive Technology:** The Mott Foundation, based in Flint, has agreed to support a blue-ribbon commission of experts in industry and the disability community to develop policy recommendations in some key areas on assistive technology. The host of the commission will be the Disability Network in Flint.

Government

1. **Making the Web accessible:** The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research will expand its funding for a joint project with industry to make the Web more accessible for people with disabilities called the Web Accessibility Initiative.
2. **Making educational content and distance learning accessible:** The Department of Education will provide a grant to industry and the National Center for Accessible Media to make educational software and distance learning accessible for people with disabilities.

- in advance depends when it's done*
3. **Ensuring that our Community Technology Centers are accessible for people with disabilities:** The Department of Education will give a grant called the "America Connects Consortium" to provide technical assistance to our community technology centers. As part of this grant, CTCs will be given technical assistance on how to ensure that they are accessible for people with disabilities. *\$7.5M?*
 4. **Executive Memorandum on Assistive Technology:** This Executive Memorandum directs HHS and other relevant agencies to create a task force on the issue of Medicare and Medicaid coverage on assistive technology.
 5. **Increasing high-tech employment for people with disabilities:** The Department of Labor is considering targeting some of their "H1-B" money to increase high-tech training for people with disabilities. [Note: No final decision has been made on this.]
 6. **Expanding the High-School/High-Tech program:** The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will expand its High School/High Tech program to several new cities and states. These programs provide high-school students with disabilities internships and other experiences in high-tech businesses.
- in advance*

V. PAPER

- 1-page summary/overview
- Detailed description of deliverables
- 1-page on background, why this is important
- 1-page on Clinton record *on assisted technology*
↳ Dig. Divide, disabilities

*ANNOUNCE - city tomorrow
location Mon.*

*UNIVERSITY PIECE IN ADV. (Wed - local/nat'l)
USA Today*

 Karin Kullman

09/13/2000 09:38:27 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP, Barbara Chow/OMB/EOP@EOP
cc: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: Political Notification Calls - MI 9/21

fyi -- looks like we're going to Flint, MI for the Digital Divide Disabilities event.

----- Forwarded by Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP on 09/13/2000 09:38 AM -----

Laura A. Graham
09/13/2000 08:59:57 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP, Stephen S. Lamb/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Political Notification Calls - MI 9/21

The President will travel to Flint, MI for digital divide disability events (official) and possibly to Detroit, MI for political \$ events on 9/21. Please make your notification calls **by no later than COB today, 9/13** and advise me when calls have been completed. The press office would like to announce this trip asap, so please adhere to this deadline. Thanks for your help!

Message Sent To:

Nancy McFadden/OVP/EOP@EOP
Mary E. Cahill/WHO/EOP@EOP
Christine A. Stanek/WHO/EOP@EOP
Kay Casstevens/WHO/EOP@EOP
Marty J. Hoffmann/WHO/EOP@EOP
Seth J. Applebaum/WHO/EOP@EOP
Scott Beale/WHO/EOP@EOP
Orson C. Porter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Cheri L. Stockham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sarah E. Gegenheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
William T. Glunz/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP
Denise M. Diorio/WHO/EOP@EOP
Brian A. Alcorn/WHO/EOP@EOP
Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP
Stephanie A. Cutter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Irene Bueno/WHO/EOP@EOP



Lisa Dawe <Ldawe@welfaretowork.org>

09/13/2000 06:57:35 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
Subject: RE: Follow-up with Welfare to Work

To give you a brief update -

Of our 25 board companies, I've heard back from 3 companies. (We asked them to get back to me if they had questions or were interested.) One is fairly 'warm' to the idea, another is unavailable to talk again until Friday and the last one will probably opt not to sign the letter - feeling that going public in that way is premature for them.

One logistical question: The board surrogate who was 'warm' to the idea said they were more likely to show support if they could use the company name as opposed to their CEO's name. If you did want their name on the letter, she asked what you were looking for - whether you wanted the CEO's actual signature, whether you wanted it on letterhead, etc. If you could clarify, that would be great.

I'll keep you posted as we get more feedback.

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

From: Andrea_Kane@opd.eop.gov [SMTP:Andrea_Kane@opd.eop.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 2:42 PM
To: Ldawe@welfaretowork.org
Cc: Julie_T._Bosland@opd.eop.gov; Christina_S._Ho@opd.eop.gov;
Jonathan_M._Young@who.eop.gov; Thomas_A._Kalil@opd.eop.gov
Subject: Follow-up with Welfare to Work

Hi Lisa. Can you let us know the status of getting signatures for the CEO

Employment Letter for the Digital Divide event? thanks a lot

Message Copied To:

Julie T. Bosland/OPD/EOP
Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP
Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP
Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP
Tiffany Westover <Twestover@welfaretowork.org>



Thomas A. Kalil

09/07/2000 03:04:47 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Lisa Dawe <Ldawe@welfareto.org>
cc: Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP, cquigle1@os.dhhs.gov, Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP, tiffany westover <twestover@welfareto.org>
bcc:
Subject: Re: Disability - Digital Divide 

Lisa Dawe <Ldawe@welfareto.org>



0415epaeventpaper--Final



Lisa Dawe <Ldawe@welfareto.org>

09/07/2000 12:16:29 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP, Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP
cc: cquigle1@os.dhhs.gov, Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP, Tiffany Westover <Twestover@welfareto.org>
Subject: Disability - Digital Divide

Tom and Jonathan -

I wanted to make sure we have all of the necessary information before we communicate with our board companies today.

- When would you need to have the approved signatures and how would that process work? Is the plan to release the letter in conjunction with the New Markets tour?

Our plan is to release the letter on September 21st, so we would need approval by the end of next week (15th)

- If board companies have stories to share about disability initiatives and technology in their workforce, when do you need those? Are there opportunities for them to be involved on the 21st if they do have initiatives to share?

As in past trips, we are announcing new commitments that companies are making. See the attached East Palo Alto paper as an example.

Depending on what companies are announcing, we involve some companies in the event.

It would be great if you could draft a few sentences we could include in our e-mail that outlines exactly what you need and when you need it. Any background information or new updates on the proposed tour or the impetus behind it would be helpful as well. Is that workable for you?

Thanks,
Lisa



Jonathan M. Young
09/07/2000 11:49:45 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP, Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Great Booz Allen Deliverables

1. "Emerging Leaders" Program -- will be rolled out on October 10 in a reception at the McLean campus, but is ready for announcement by POTUS. The program will be chaired by Justin Dart, and involve two-month paid internships with sponsor companies and paid two-week internships with a national disability-related (or similar) organization. They are targeting 5 emerging leaders in the first year and 10 in the second.

2. Disability Dimensions of the Digital Divide Roundtable. Booz-Allen is offering to host a half-day working session to flesh out the issues, create an action plan, and sign up volunteers for each action item. A follow-up meeting and some type of product could also be included. If we were to do a CEO roundtable on the 21st, this could be a great follow-up. I suggested they try to flesh this out a bit more. Perhaps it would be possible to announce participating companies. Would be a great way to build on the CEO employment letter.

3. Universal Design and Assistive Technology Demonstration Center. This is being built within Booz Allen's Systems Resources Center, located in the McLean campus. It will support involvement and leadership in the Business LEadership Network, Section 508 consulting assignments and, potentially, the NIDRR IT Center (one of the competitors for that grant), but the Center will open up regardless.

I think 1 and 2 would be fabulous links to the DEO employment letter deliverable, by getting CEOs to participate in the Leaders program and doing a follow-up roundtable to implement the bullet-points.

 Jonathan M. Young
09/04/2000 10:30:38 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Mary E. Cahill/WHO/EOP@EOP, Gene B. Sperling/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP, Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: Importance of Employment in Digital Divide trip

We've talked about this before, but the message of Labor Day underscored again the importance of ensuring that we use the Digital Divide trip as an opportunity to promote increased hiring of people with disabilities.

In the Disability Accomplishments document we deliberately left out the general economic record because it draws too much attention to the conspicuous absence of employment gains for people with disabilities. This past week I distributed White House materials relating to Labor Day and the Welfare to Work Partnership. Highlighting historically low unemployment for African Americans, Latinos, and women, and the lowest welfare rolls in 35 years, sparks questions: "what about people with disabilities?"

Part of the problem is a numbers issue: Tom and I have talked about how best to document statistics about people with disabilities generally, people with "significant" disabilities, and rates of unemployment or not working. Because disability is largely self-reported and we have structural and cultural linkages between disability and the inability to work (i.e. unable to perform "any substantial gainful activity"), it's difficult to get a good grasp on progress -- though I suspect it's there. In other words, as people with disabilities become employed they may be less likely to identify as disabled because they're working, thereby weighting statistics toward unemployment of people with disabilities -- a self-reinforcing cycle. Unfortunately, recent usage of the number "70% unemployment of people with 'significant' disabilities" gets translated into a perceived notion that more than 70% of ALL people with disabilities are unemployed (which is not true).

All of this leads to this point: Amidst otherwise compelling (astonishingly so) data on the American economy, we have yet to demonstrate solid gains in putting people with disabilities to work and getting them off the rolls. As discussed from the beginning, information technology has arguably more potential than any other structural social change to level the playing field and translate into concrete employment gains. We're on the right track -- with the Work Incentives Improvement Act, the Workforce Investment Act, this summer's federal hiring announcement, the employment- and income-related Digital Divide goals, and other steps we're taking. To the extent this trip can help focus attention on public and private efforts to mobilize the use of technology to increase employment of people with disabilities, it can further help in achieving President Clinton's commitment to empower those who are not benefiting equally from our historic economic growth, and identify untapped resources to sustain that growth.

Last Updated: September 4

Summary of Potential Deliverables

High-tech CEOs adopt a company-wide accessibility policy: Currently, very few high-tech companies have adopted an explicit corporate policy on accessibility. High-tech CEOs would commit to implement "best practices" such as: Training their workers to develop accessible products and services; Giving their developers adequate resources to design accessible products and services; Identifying and fixing accessibility problems in new versions of their hardware and software; and, Supporting research and development to improve the state-of-the-art of assistive technology.

- Status: Several CEOs have already "signed" on to the letter; working with associations and individual companies to secure additional commitments. *Tam checking*

ITAA -

University presidents commit to expanding research and education on accessibility:

Presidents of the leading research universities would commit to: Ensuring that computer scientists and engineers receive training on accessibility; Expanding the number of faculty who conduct research on accessibility; and, Ensuring that university online resources are accessible to people with disabilities.

- Status: Several Presidents have already "signed" on to the letter; working to secure additional commitments. *up to 15 know to produce Tam working on*

Companies agree to increase employment of people with disabilities: Employers would agree to: Targeting disability as part of their diversity recruitment goals; Making assistive technology available to their employees; and, Promoting the recruitment of youth with disabilities through summer internships and mentorships.

Status: Several have already "signed" on to the letter; working to secure additional commitments.

ABLE TO WORK to produce

★ WZWP to get cos to sign on

Commission on Assistive Technology: We would announce that foundations are supporting a blue-ribbon commission of experts in industry and the disability community to develop policy recommendations in some key areas, such as financing assistive technology for people who may not be able to afford it and working with colleges and universities to improve education and outreach about accessible technology.

Jonathan

- Status: Equal Access to Software and Information (EASI) will likely be the "home" of this commission. Norm Coombs and Larry Scadden are working to develop the focus of the commission. We are working to identify possible members. Several foundations have indicated an interest in financially supporting the commission.

Making educational content accessible: The Department of Education will provide a grant to industry and the National Center for Accessible Media to make educational software and distance learning accessible for people with disabilities. *Pretty much done*

- Status: Ready

*get draft to PR
re: accessibility
commission*

Making the Web accessible: The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research will expand its funding for a joint project with industry to make the Web more accessible for people with disabilities.

TOM

- Status: Ready?

Education and outreach about benefits of accessible design. NCR is partnering with IDEAL at NCR and EASI (Equal Access to Software and Information) to create a workshop, "The Global Business Benefits of Designing Accessible and Usable Electronic and Information Technology," offered on-line to 400 participants free of charge (i.e. educators and industry experts).

TOM

- Status: Ready

Support of computer labs in minority schools of Atlanta. NCR, in partnership with the Alliance of Black NCR Employees, will provide roughly 100 PCs to continue its efforts to setup computer labs in the Atlanta City School district.

- Status: Ready, but as proposed doesn't have a direct connection to people with disabilities (part of an existing initiative), but there may be a way the proposal could be designed to help meet the needs of minority students with disabilities.

valued
at
\$1m

Supporting New Jersey Entrepreneurs with disabilities. Microsoft, Community Options, the New Jersey Community Loan Fund, the New Jersey Technology Council, the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners and other public and private sector partners in New Jersey, are preparing to announce the establishment of the first-in-the-nation business incubator targeted to low income individuals including, as a priority, those with disabilities. It will provide low-cost office space, customized technology support, business planning expertise, and other support services to entrepreneurs with and without disabilities.

- Status: The 14,000 square-foot facility has not yet opened, but could be ready within a few weeks. Waiting on additional information from Community Options

Financial Lending Opportunities for People with Disabilities. Microsoft, Business Loan Center, Inc (BLC) one of the nation's leading SBA guaranteed lenders, the National Cooperative Bank Development Corporation (NCBDC), and Community Options, Inc. are sponsoring the first nationwide community developer and financial lending institution targeted exclusively to the advancement of the social and economic independence of Americans with disabilities. The Abilities Fund will help start, strengthen or grow small businesses to be owned by Americans with disabilities nationwide.

- Status:

Expanding Employment in IT Careers through PASS IT ON. Microsoft, the Information Technology Association of America, and Community Options plan to expand to several new states the highly successful PASS IT ON program which trains individuals with disabilities to be

placed with IT companies as web developers, network administrators, programmers, and customer support specialists. *upto 4 states TX, CO, NJ, VA*

- Status:

DOL also has proposal for Part 11 am

Helping NGOs and corporations with implementing digital divide initiatives. The Narragansett Group (based in TX) is dedicated to aiding other groups in meeting their missions. It has offered \$100,000 in in-kind contributions of management, marketing, and public affairs assistance to support increased digital opportunities for people with disabilities.

- Status: We have the offer in writing, but it's unclear how this would exactly fit into the initiative.

Developing academic programs to further accessible design research. The College of Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has made a commitment to create a new educational program within the College of Engineering on design and human disability, with emphasis on Universal Design of electronic and information technologies. This commitment includes transfer of existing faculty FTE and the addition of two new tenure track positions.

- Status: Ready

Providing Internet and other communications capabilities to people with disabilities.

TeleServices International Grouping in partnership with UCP has offered to provide free internet access for life, including email, fax, voicemail, and integrated messaging for people with disabilities (not necessarily restricted). This would also include distribution outreach and on-going customer service, and is estimated at \$250 per person per year. The business model is based on bringing people to an internet portal, presumably sustained with advertising.

- Status: TSIG and UCP are ready to launch this effort, and welcomes input from the White House.

Creation of Disability Business Development Board. DOL has proposed a presidentially-appointed nine-member Board of CEOs to promote public-private partnerships to increase employment of people with disabilities.

- Status: DOL has drafted an E.O. to create the Board. It's unclear how this might interact with an expanded mission of the Welfare to Work Partnership focusing on employment of people with disabilities.

Training people with disabilities for IT jobs. DOL proposes a partnership with the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) and CompTIA (the Computer Technology Industry Association) to provide IT related training for people with disabilities, coupled with seeking funding from the H1-B program to supports grants to pilot projects in sites across the country.

- Status:

*Set aside - need to develop a
do they mean by 9/21 + they would give grants, and
did they announce they will be setting aside 4
that they will be providing*

Tailoring government information according to locality. DOL's www.disability.gov web site will utilize new technologies to seamlessly and "invisibly" deliver government information tailored to individuals' geographic location. This will support, for example, people with disabilities in finding local employment opportunities.

- Status:

Increasing High-tech opportunities for high school students with disabilities. The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will expand its High School/High Tech program to several new cities and states. These programs provide high school students with internships and other experiences with are high-tech businesses and government agencies.

- Status: Wisconsin and Colorado are ready for announcement. West Virginia, Michigan, and New York are in progress. Atlanta, Los Angeles, Orlando, and Chicago are ready for announcement. New York City is in progress.

Supporting Assistive Technology Act projects. An Amendment to the Labor/HHS appropriations bill includes an amendment that would guarantee continued funding for the state tech act projects, some of which could lose their funding as early as 2001. The conference agreement did not include the Senate amendment.

- Status:

Webcasting of Digital Divide Trip. IDEAL at NCR has proposed providing web casting for elements of the President's trip, perhaps including closed-captioning and description. This could result in a product that could be used in future settings, i.e. classroom instruction.

- Status: Ready to be put in place if desired.

EM on medicare/medicaid coverage



Clifton G. Kellogg
09/05/2000 01:20:51 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP, Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: SBA MOU w/ SSA

Finally heard back from SBA on the status of this MOU. Bottom line: not much here that should affect your planning for the upcoming Dig Divide event.

Since the MOU was signed in 10/99, SBA and SSA have held 8 workshops around the country, attended by 75-220 people per session. SBA says most of the discussion was about making fed agencies aware of each other's programs and how one agency's program affects the other agencies. SBA is working on a summary report from these workshops for internal use.

SBA characterized the MOU as "very loose" and it was not clear to the SBA staffer I spoke to what SBA and SSA were going to do next. She said they were watching to see how their work might be connected to DOL's efforts with the disabled.

Let me know if you'd like to dig more, but I did not leave with a strong impression that a lot of practical work was going on.

Cliff



Jonathan M. Young
09/04/2000 02:09:12 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP, Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: RE: Webcasting the President's roundtable DD Discussion

Please see an email below for what I think would be a great idea: doing a live (and subsequently archived) webcast of the President's trip -- whatever portions of it we find suitable. If we did a CEO roundtable discussion, for example, I could imagine packaging it in such a way that it could be used as a future reference in a classroom or other settings. In this way, the trip would not only be talking about accessible technology, but also using accessible IT in the course of the trip. And not only that, we'd also be creating an accessible product that could be used to instruct about accessibility in the future. What do you think? If we go in this direction, it sounds like we'd need to give Steve and others a pretty quick indication so they could begin planning.

----- Forwarded by Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP on 09/04/2000 02:05 PM -----



"Jacobs, Steve I" <sj131264@exchange.DAYTONOH.NCR.com>

09/04/2000 01:59:35 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: RE: Webcasting the President's roundtable DD Discussion

Great Johathan! We will look forward to hearing from you.

Please make sure that everyone understands that it was our suggestion to fund and organize a webcast [live webcast with captioning]. We do not want anyone thinking that we are doing a webcast as a result of feeling pressure to do so or that anyone asked us to do one. Our offer to [try to] fund and do a webcast was completely of our own volition.

Steve

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

From: Jonathan_M._Young@who.eop.gov

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

Sent: Monday, September 04, 2000 1:49 PM

To: Jacobs, Steve I

Subject: Re: Webcasting the President's roundtable DD Discussion

Thanks; this sounds great! Let me touch base with Tom Kalil about it tomorrow. I'll forward your email for his review.

(Embedded
image moved "Jacobs, Steve I"
to file: <sj131264@exchange.DAYTONOH.NCR.com>
PIC20814.PCX) 09/04/2000 01:34:37 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Webcasting the President's roundtable DD Discussion

Jonathan,

Per our brief discussion regarding web casting... I made the contacts, I said I would, regarding "Webcapturing" of the "President's roundtable DD discussion with CEOs."

As I am sure you can appreciate... we need to know if the DD trip planners DEFINITELY support the idea of us having the roundtable webcapt. It would really be cool to be on the plane, also [not a requirement - just a thought].

We are about to move forward to fund and plan this effort. We have little time to spare. While we realize that there is a chance that the trip will need to be cancelled/postponed, and accept this fact as a business risk, we do not want to move forward if someone is going to say, last minute, that they changed their mind about permitting the roundtable to be webcapted." Please let me know ASAP if there is DEFINITE agreement that we should move forward with a webcapt. I very strongly support doing a webcapt and are anxious to move forward with this effort. Of course... there will be no cost to the White House or DD planning staff to do the webcapt.

We look forward to capturing this event in a manner that extols the virtues of accessible communications over via web!

Also, it might be in everyone's best DD interests for us to prepare several questions for the president to ask regarding the webcapt. We need the go-ahead to do this also.

Sincerely,
Steve

Steve Jacobs, President

IDEAL at NCR
NCR Corporation
1529 Brown Street EMD-5
Dayton, Ohio 45479
Voice: (937) 445-6396
Fax: (212) 618-0205
TTY: (800) 855-2880
E-Mail: steve.jacobs@ncr.com
URL: <http://www.ncr.com>

IDEAL at NCR is an NCR business resource group whose mission is to support NCR associates with disabilities and the development of Information Technologies that are accessible to, and usable by, persons with disabilities.

► **Margy Waller**
08/30/2000 05:26:29 PM
.....

Record Type: Record

To: Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP, Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP, Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP
Subject: digital divide/disabilities

Tom and Jonathan:

Both Christina and I were on the call today. It sounded to us like a follow-up call with HHS would be really helpful. I think you were planning on doing that anyway. Just wanted to remind you that we'd be happy to participate if that would help - tho it's surely not necessary. Andrea and I are both out tomorrow; Andrea will be here Friday. And we're both back for the duration on Tuesday.

- Margy

----- Forwarded by Margy Waller/OPD/EOP on 08/30/2000 05:22 PM -----

Andrea Kane

Record Type: Record

To: esummy@os.dhhs.gov @ inet, dsobelma@os.dhhs.gov @ inet
cc: Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP, Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP@EOP, Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP, Margy Waller/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: digital divide/disabilities

Liz, as you may know, the President is tentatively scheduled to do an event on Sept 21st related to helping individuals bridge the digital divide by ensuring that information technology products and services are accessible for people with disabilities. Such technology will help individuals with disabilities transition to work and ensure they are not left on the other side of the digital divide. This event grows out of the President's New Markets and Digital Divide events, and also builds on the many activities HHS and other agencies are undertaking to help individuals with disabilities go to work. There's an obvious connection with Ticket to Work. There may also be connections to Medicaid, to IDAs (since individuals with disabilities who are working could use them to save to start a business), and other initiatives within HHS. Tom Kalil at NEC is the lead on the event, working closely with Jonathan Young in OPL. We think it would be really helpful to do a quick conference call with you sooner rather than later to explain the plans and see how HHS can get involved.

Are you free between 1 and 2 pm tomorrow (Tuesday) for about 30 minutes for an initial discussion and to help Tom identify the right contacts in HHS for subsequent discussions??

 Jonathan M. Young
08/30/2000 01:41:03 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: Jackson T. Dunn/WHO/EOP@EOP, Christine A. Stanek/WHO/EOP@EOP, Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: More on Eli Segal

Tony Coelho described Eli as being "very pleased" with the idea of incorporating disability into the Welfare-to-Work partnership and being able to do something in conjunction with September 21. He asked me to speak with Tiffany Westover at the Partnership to relay Eli's interest. Tony also said that Eli suggested two CEOs that might be good to play a central role of some kind:

- Gerry Greenwald, former CEO of United Airlines, who apparently was a leader in hiring people who were blind and visually-impaired. Not sure what he's doing now.
- Hank Greenberg, head of AIG, an insurance company, which apparently has an office in New Jersey that hires people with disabilities exclusively (? or at least extensively).

I'll touch base with Tiffany again per Tony/Eli's suggestion.



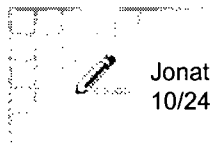
Jonathan M. Young
08/29/2000 10:25:41 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Clifton G. Kellogg/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP, Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: VP Gore Attends Disability Community Briefing

Here's info about the MOU

----- Forwarded by Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP on 08/29/2000 10:24 AM -----



Jonathan M. Young
10/24/99 05:41:16 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: VP Gore Attends Disability Community Briefing

In an earlier email I invited all of you to attend a Clinton-Gore Administration Briefing on Disability Issues on Wednesday, October 20. We were honored to have the added participation of Vice President Al Gore, who wanted to join the briefing, speak about disability policy, and witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Small Business Administration and Social Security Administration. Below please find a press release about the MOU, an agenda from the briefing, Vice President Gore's prepared remarks, and SBA Administrator Alvarez's prepared remarks.

Congratulations and thank you to SBA Administrator Alvarez and SSA Commissioner Apfel on their efforts to promote the employment of people with disabilities, including entrepreneurial opportunities. Thanks also to all the speakers for providing updates on their agencies' activities, and for being flexible as we adjusted the program to welcome Vice President Gore. Special thanks to Michelle Kreiss, of the Small Business Administration, for helping to make the event such a success.

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U.S. Small Business Administration

**NEWS RELEASE
PRESS OFFICE**

Release Date: October 20, 1999
Release Number: 99-87

Contact: Patricia L. Young (202) 205-6740
Internet Address: www.sba.gov/news/

**U.S. Small Business Administration and Social Security Administration Join
Forces to Help Americans with Disabilities**

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) have joined forces to help improve employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for Americans with disabilities.

As part of President Clinton's Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities, the two federal agencies signed a partnership agreement to coordinate the efforts of SBA's Welfare-to-Work initiative and the SSA's Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income programs to help adults with disabilities find gainful employment or become entrepreneurs. Vice President Al Gore witnessed the signing ceremony today in the Indian Treaty Room of the Old Executive Office Building.

"When the President created the Employment of Adults with Disabilities Task Force, the SBA became an enthusiastic and committed member," SBA Administrator Aída Alvarez said. **"We have undertaken an aggressive outreach campaign to inform people with disabilities about SBA programs and services. The partnership with Social Security is another step forward to link small businesses seeking workers with Americans with disabilities."**

"As a nation, we are best served when all of our citizens have the opportunity to contribute their talent, ideas and energy to the workforce," Commissioner of Social Security Kenneth S. Apfel said. **"President Clinton and Vice President Gore have made employment of persons with disabilities one of their highest priorities."**

As part of the agreement the SBA and SSA plan to advise their respective field offices of the important role each agency can play by coordinating the efforts of SBA's Welfare-to-Work initiative and the SSA's Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income programs. Each agency will encourage its field offices to cooperate at the local level, share information about businesses and non-profit organizations that train beneficiaries with disabilities, and work together on job fairs and other community outreach activities.

The partnership agreement is the result of a presidential executive order, which created the President's Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities in 1998. The SBA and 10 other federal agencies are working together to develop small business and entrepreneurial activities for adults with disabilities and to increase the employment rates as close as possible to that of the general adult population.

For more information on these and other SBA programs, call the SBA Answer Desk at
1-800-U-ASK-SBA, or visit the SBA's extensive website at www.sba.gov.

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DISABILITY COMMUNITY BRIEFING
Old Executive Office Building, Room 474
Wednesday, October 20, 1999, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

AGENDA

WELCOME

Laura Efurd

Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director, White House Office of Public Liaison

SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Vice President Gore

Aida Alvarez

Administrator, Small Business Administration

Kenneth S. Apfel

Commissioner, Social Security Administration

PRESENTATIONS

Judith E. Heumann

Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, DOED

Becky Ogle

Executive Director, President's Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities, DOL

Liz Savage

Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, DOJ

Susan Daniels
Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs, SSA

Pam Gregory
Director of Disability Issues Task Force, FCC

Michael Winter
Associate Administrator for Budget and Policy, DOT

Robert Williams
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Disability, Aging, and Long-Term Care Policy, HHS

=====

REMARKS AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE
NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH BRIEFING
Wednesday, October 20, 1999

I'm delighted to be here today, to help celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Let me tell you why I wanted to be with you today:

I see on the horizon an America where people with disabilities are fully respected for the abilities they have, everywhere in this land. And this I believe with all my heart: no physical or mental disability can limit the human potential to work, create, and contribute to our national life.

Some of you may know that my aunt Thelma was blind; my mother took her to college with her, paying her way, and taking notes and reading assignments for the both of them. But what she lacked in sight, she more than made up with a dedicated mind and a loving spirit. All my life, she was one of the most able people I knew.

And I have dedicated myself to fighting for Americans with disabilities for much of my career. I'm proud that I was an original Senate co-sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As we approach a new century, I'm committed to ensuring that all Americans -- including the 30 million working-age adults with disabilities -- have the chance to become full partners in the American Dream.

Our Task Force on the Employment of Adults with Disabilities has given us powerful ideas to break down the barriers that remain. I was proud to accept the report's recommendations last December -- and we've acted on every single one of them.

As many of you know, I asked our Office of Personnel Management to develop a plan to increase the federal government's hiring of people with disabilities, and the President formally released that plan on Saturday. We're now asking agencies to act on it right away. I believe our government should be a model employer -- and that's why I'm working to make it one.

We are fighting to pass an ambitious, \$2 billion initiative to improve health care and remove barriers to work for those with disabilities -- including a new \$1,000 tax credit for work-related expenses. And I call on Congress to send us the Kennedy-Jeffords bill, so the President can sign it into law.

We have proposed more than doubling our investment in information technologies that can remove the barriers to employment and full participation.

And today, I am proud to make a brand new announcement. As some of you know, we've been trying to improve disability policy by connecting our federal agencies with each other. Today, our Social Security Administration and our Small Business Administration are signing a special Memorandum of Understanding, to create an important new partnership.

Social Security works closely with many people with disabilities who want to find jobs and succeed in the workforce. SBA works with small businesses who are looking for talented employees. By connecting these two agencies, we will help countless people with disabilities enter the workforce -- and succeed in it.

I believe this should just be the beginning. We need we need to do even more to expand employment opportunities; expand educational opportunities; invest in new technologies to make our society more accessible; and enforce our civil rights laws -- so discrimination on the basis of disability becomes an ugly relic of the past.

All over our country, there are individuals right now who have potential that is unrecognized. They can make vast contributions -- but only if they are connected to our society.

Working together, I know we will make it so. Thank you -- and keep up the great work.

=====

Remarks prepared for
SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez
Partnership Signing with SSA
Washington DC
October 20, 1999

I am proud to be here today with the Vice President and the Commissioner of Social Security.

The President and Vice President have emphasized that some people haven't fully shared in the record prosperity we enjoy today. Among them are Americans with disabilities. Nearly 70 percent of them are unemployed -- when the overall unemployment rate is at a record low!

The Vice President has outlined steps he is taking to improve the jobs picture for Americans with disabilities, starting with the federal workforce. The government should serve as a model for the private sector.

Yesterday the House of Representatives took a giant first step by passing the Work Incentives Improvement Act. That act ensures that people with disabilities do not lose health care when they take a job. Workers with disabilities could buy into Medicaid and could receive Medicare coverage when they return to work. Certain Social Security disability beneficiaries could also go to public or private providers of vocational rehabilitation.

That legislation and other government action will help bring more new jobs to the private sector. When the President and Vice President created the Task Force on Employment of People with Disabilities, SBA became an enthusiastic and committed member.

We started an aggressive outreach campaign to inform people with disabilities about SBA programs and services. We've also formed partnerships with other Task Force agencies, like HUD, to help Americans with disabilities find jobs.

With SBA leadership, the task force will hold workshops across the country to link local public and private small businesses with Americans with disabilities who want jobs.

We know that this kind of partnership can work. SBA's Welfare to Work initiative is a good example.

We know that the number one issue for small businesses today is finding qualified workers. That's why SBA got involved in the President's Welfare to Work effort. We could serve as a link between people on welfare who wanted to work, and small businesses that needed workers.

Through SBA's Welfare to Work initiative, by this time next year, there will be 200,000 new workers who used to be called welfare recipients. That's our goal, and, actually, we're on track to exceed it.

I'm proud to join forces today with Commissioner Apfel and the Social Security Administration. We are signing an agreement that commits us to action -- immediate action -- to provide job seekers with disabilities with better services, and with links to small business owners.

This agreement will:

- + Connect our vast national networks. SBA has 70 district offices, and scores of resource partners in every city and state.
- + SBA will link small business owners who are seeking qualified workers with SSA clients who are ready to work.
- + We will use our successful Welfare to Work model to increase job opportunities for adults with disabilities.
- + SSA will call upon SBA to provide training to their clients who may want to start their own business.
- + SBA and SSA will work together on public outreach to make sure that Americans with disabilities know about the resources we have available.

The SBA has already taken steps to help people with disabilities succeed at work and in small business.

- + This year in Clawson, Michigan, Dennis Figiel (FEE-gel), the president of National Millwork, became the first business owner with disabilities to receive SBA 8(a) Program and Small Disadvantaged Business status in that state. Mr. Figiel manufactures millwork, fixtures, and signage products. Now, he has an edge in competing federal contracts.
- + In San Diego, the SBA District Director meets regularly with the Disabled Businesspersons Association to make sure they are meeting the needs of entrepreneurs with disabilities.
- + The Small Business Development Center at Towson State University in Baltimore sponsors special training classes for aspiring entrepreneurs with disabilities.

We at the SBA look forward to working with the Social Security Administration and all of our federal partners to make sure the doors of opportunity are open for all Americans -- including Americans with disabilities. Thank you.

New Funding for Low-Income Taxpayer Clinics

In 1998 Congress authorized up to \$6 million annually to support low-income taxpayer clinics (LITC). Such grants support two activities: (1) representation and/or referral of low-income taxpayers in controversies with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or with state revenue departments and (2) informing taxpayers for whom English is a second language about their rights and responsibilities (activities for such taxpayers include tax-preparation assistance).

For the first year's funding in federal fiscal year 1999, Congress appropriated only \$2 million. The IRS

awarded 34 grants totaling \$1.5 million. For the second year, Congress appropriated a full \$6 million. The IRS issued a request for proposal in late October, with proposals due at the end of November. In addition to renewal of funding for current LITCs, up to 40 new grants are likely to be issued for LITCs in January.

Direct inquiries about local LITC programs to the taxpayer education coordinator of the IRS District Office or to the LITC Grant Program manager, 202.283.0181.

students and 18–24 years old.²⁷ A substantial number of those full-time students live with a parent who has qualifying income for EITC. Often the young adult student, even though still living in the parent's home, is considered irrelevant to the parent's tax return because the young adult is working and going to school and may no longer be listed as a dependent.

D. Disabled Adult Child

A disabled adult, if living with a parent, grandparent, or foster parent, can be a qualifying child for EITC purposes. Nationally 3.6 million adults are receiving Supplemental Security Income based on a disability.²⁸ Some 4.4 million disabled adults are receiving social security, and many thousands of other disabled adults receive workers' compensation, railroad retirement, black lung, or veterans' benefits.²⁹ A not uncommon living arrangement for lower-income persons with severe disabilities is to stay at home with a parent. As many as one million disabled adults are likely to be qualifying children living with a parent who has qualifying income.

V. IRS Compliance Initiatives

EITC is unusual for antipoverty programs in that it is designed to be administered through the tax system. This approach results in lower administrative costs and higher participation rates. However, EITC has been under attack because of high "noncompliance" by taxpayers who erroneously, negligently, or fraudulently claim EITC benefits.³⁰ A 1995 study by the IRS estimated that \$4.3 billion in EITC payments were made to taxpayers who were not eligible or were eligible and claimed an EITC benefit higher than the amount they were entitled to receive.³¹ In response to concerns expressed in Congress, the IRS has developed a major campaign to improve EITC compliance. Elements of that campaign include the following:

- Some \$716 million will be spent on EITC compliance over a five-year period beginning in 1998.
- Some 1.3 million EITC returns will be screened each year.

²⁷ U.S. Dep't of Educ., Digest of Education Statistics ch. 3 (1997) <www.nces.ed.gov/pubs/digest97/d970003.html>.

²⁸ Social Sec. Admin., 61 SOC. SEC. BULL. tbl. 2.A4 (1998).

²⁹ GREEN BOOK, *supra* note 2, at 17.

³⁰ ROBERT GREENSTEIN, CENTER ON BUDGET & POLICY PRIORITIES, THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT AND ERROR RATES (Feb. 25, 1998).

³¹ U.S. GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, GAO/GGD-98-150, EARNED INCOME CREDIT: IRS TAX YEAR 1994 COMPLIANCE STUDY AND RECENT EFFORTS TO REDUCE NONCOMPLIANCE 9 (July 1998).