

**PRESIDENT CLINTON CELEBRATES NATIONAL DISABILITY
MENTORING DAY THROUGH ACTIVITIES EXPANDING EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
October 25, 2000**

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

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

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

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

Employment program to help working individuals with chronic or progressive conditions remain competitively employed by giving them access to health benefits in order to prevent or delay further deterioration or relapse.

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

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

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

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

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

- Mobilizing public and private efforts to create digital opportunity for people with disabilities and increase their ability to participate in the workforce. Initiatives to improve technological access for persons with disabilities include securing commitments from high tech companies, research firms, and non-profit organizations to help improve the accessibility and affordability of technology for persons with disabilities. On the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the

President also announced a new website, www.disAbility.gov, which serves as a “one-stop” electronic link to an enormous range of useful information available throughout the Federal government for people with disabilities and their families.

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

**STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT ON NATIONAL DISABILITY
MENTORING DAY
October 25, 2000**

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

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

I am also glad to report important progress in both federal and private sector initiatives to hire more people with disabilities. First, the federal government is on track to meet the goal I announced on the 10th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act to hire 100,000 more persons with disabilities over a 5-year period. Second, CEOs of a dozen major companies are leading the way by pledging to support the recruitment, hiring, and promotion of individuals with disabilities.

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



Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP, Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: disability deliverables for Wednesday

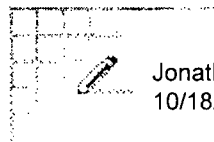
Thus far, we are still on for releasing the disability deliverables on Wednesday. Is this still the current list of announcements to be released?

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

6. Technology Access Partnership for Native Americans. [STATUS: READY] DOL and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are launching a partnership with the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) and the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) for increasing technology access for Native Americans with disabilities.

7. CEO letter to increase employment of people with disabilities [STATUS: WAITING ON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE]. Currently, about a dozen CEO's have signed onto this letter agreeing to target disability as part of their diversity recruitment goals, making assistive technology available to their employees, and promoting the recruitment of youth with disabilities through internships and mentorships. OPL is currently working on getting seeing whether this effort could be done under the auspices of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

8. OPM Statistics on Federal Hiring Commitments. [STATUS: WILL BE READY] Following the Executive Order encouraging 100,000 more federal hires of persons with disabilities, OPM has some preliminary information on commitments with agency breakdown.



Jonathan M. Young
10/18/2000 02:56:50 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
bcc:
Subject: Re: LABOR GRANTS 

A little context on Mentoring Day:

We started this last year on a very small scale, with about three dozen young people coming to the White House and then having mentoring experiences at federal agencies. This year we have over 100 mentees. About 25 of this group are older and we are inviting them to participate in an alternative program (described below). Here's the schedule for the main Mentoring event:

9:00 AM to 10:30 Plenary Session in Indian Treaty Room. We have Janice Lachance confirmed as keynote speaker, and will have Tony Coelho as Chair of the President's Committee and Becky Ogle as Executive Director of the Presidential Task Force deliver remarks. In addition, we plan to have federal employees with disabilities talk about the experience of being a person with a disability in the federal government. We could use this morning session as an opportunity for announcements.

11:30 AM to 3:30 PM Lunch and individual mentoring. We have 18 federal agencies participating in Mentoring Day. Mentees will have lunch at the agencies, ideally with Secretaries and high-level officials if possible, and then are being matched with mentors for the rest of the time. Through the Task Force, we invited students to submit "applications" specifying their subject/career interests and agency interests. We are now in the process of finalizing the matches with agency mentors.

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM State Department Reception. All the mentees and mentors are invited to a reception hosted by the State Department. We have not yet decided on a speaking program, but plan to focus the event on interaction rather than a long program.

We are inviting some of the older folks to participate in a program at OPM that will be more targeted to their interest-level, specifically about how to obtain jobs in the federal government and what may be available. Although this group won't attend the White House morning event, they will be invited to join the State Department reception.

In addition to the activities at the White House and federal agencies, we are trying to make this a truly national initiative. Accordingly, the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities, and the American Association of People with Disabilities are the National Sponsors. We expect about 15 states to participate in this year's mentoring day with their own local activities, including: GA, TX, NY, IL, CA, TN, KS, AK, WA.

Disability Mentoring Day could be a great opportunity to make announcements relating to youth and employment, which would be an effective follow-up to the Flint trip. There is already considerable media interest being generated by folks in the community. Press releases by the White House would greatly expand attention to efforts throughout the country as well as here in the federal government.

Karin Kullman


Karin Kullman

10/18/2000 02:31:04 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
bcc:
Subject: Re: LABOR GRANTS 

Wednesday is the first National Disability Mentoring Day and October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Jonathon Young has been working on a day of activities for approximately 75 mentees, including an opening program here in the OEOB. There are several grant announcements that could be done on this day, including the Work Incentives Grants. We are in the process of determining how best to roll these grants, as well as the others out -- ie, does it make sense to do it on Wednesday (taking into consideration factors regarding the President's scheduled meeting with disability group representatives later that week); should the agencies/Cabinet secretaries do all of the rollout or should something come from the WH as well, etc. If anyone has any input please feel free to give me a call.
Sean P. O'Shea

 Sean P. O'Shea
10/18/2000 01:14:33 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
Subject: LABOR GRANTS

The Department of Labor will be ready to announce - by the end of this week - H1B Grants and Work Incentive Grants. there appears to be an event here on Wednesday to announce the nearly \$22 million in Work Incentive Grants. The H1B and Minority Colleges and University (MCU) Grants total nearly \$68 million, combined (\$54M for H1B and \$14M for MCU). Do we have further interest in these?

Message Sent To:

Loretta M. Ucelli/WHO/EOP@EOP
Stephanie A. Cutter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP
Elliot J. Diringer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jenni R. Engebretsen/WHO/EOP@EOP
Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP

Message Copied To:

loretta m. ucelli/who/eop@eop
stephanie a. cutter/who/eop@eop
elliott j. diringer/who/eop@eop
jenni r. engebretsen/who/eop@eop
kris m balderston/who/eop@eop
Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP
Christina S. Ho/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP
Christine A. Stanek/WHO/EOP@EOP

Message Copied To:

sean p. o'shea/who/eop@eop
loretta m. ucelli/who/eop@eop
stephanie a. cutter/who/eop@eop
elliott j. diringer/who/eop@eop
jenni r. engebretsen/who/eop@eop
kris m balderston/who/eop@eop
anna richter/opd/eop@eop
andrea kane/opd/eop@eop
christina s. ho/opd/eop@eop
christine a. stanek/who/eop@eop

Janice Lachance
Becky Ogle
Tony Coello

* Nov 29th 25th Anniversary HBO, Nickelodeon
of IDEA
* Developmental Disabilities Act - Ready for WH signature -

Potential Announcements for National Disability Mentoring Day

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

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

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

if Budget complete, it would be gr release - grants to all 50 states.

Not what groups are expecting to see -
probably won't be published next week -

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

An earlier version was leaked - one that's ready to be pub. is not what they are expecting - concern w/ age 18 issue.

✓
DOL wants all out before Nov 1 -

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

can hold for 25th - not beyond Oct

✓ have 5 grants

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

← Release on 25th - not tied to 27th -

✓
\$7 million available b/c of poor applications - HCFA getting blame b/c gave quick turn around

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

[Approved 27 grants - ready to go out on]

want out ASAP - ready to go

VERIZON -
run by Karen
Tramontano

Tech Access for Disabled Veterans. VA has formed a public-private partnership with SAIC and VERIZON to ensure our Nation's disabled veterans have access to computers and the Internet and the ability to use this technology effectively to fully participate in America's economic, political and social life. This follows on the heels of VA's immensely successful private-public partnership, PT Phone Home and PT Phase II, in which VERIZON, then Bell Atlantic, equipped VA medical centers with bedside telephones and established computer labs in medical facilities across the country.

weak?

← **Tech Access for Native Americans.** DOL Partnership for increasing technology access for Native Americans with disabilities. *Coordinating a taskforce to address barriers to native Americans*

Formation of DOL Business Leadership Council. This Council would be part of the new Assistant Secretary-level Office of Disability Planning Evaluation and Training situated within DOL. *Executive Order - the Sec-level Office is created in budget*

CEO Letter - CEOs committing to hire people w/ disabilities

① → Deliverable to consider for Disabilities Day from HCFA - 1902
CHKW/Deborah? OR Christina will find out through OMB.

② → Interagency TaskForce of Medicare + Medicaid *Coverage* review of *technology* treatments
ASK? → HCFA Directive from Digital Divide Tour - HCFA could announce 1st meeting.

★ should have a discussion w/Chris about meeting on 27th
So we can figure out if any of these deliverables will help or hurt meeting on 27th if released on the 25th.

③ E.O. Amendment to TaskForce E.O.

→ Close loop on this

★ ★ ★
★ - Vet this ★

want The chamber to
Put letter on their
letterhead -

④ CEO Letter - The Able to Work Coercion -
Hold letter - Microsoft
Commits to hire people w/ disabilities → ex of a few Johnson & Johnson
AT&T

Benefits Outreach Grants

Cu Coello
Goetho

A. CEO Letter - CEOs committing to hire people w/disabilities

B. DOL

18 fd agencies

9-10:30

Tony ~~Ch~~ Cuella
Janice Lachance
Becky Ogile