

Acknowledgments

This employment planning guide was developed jointly by:

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) is committed to improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities. In implementing President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the New Freedom Initiative, OSERS administers programs that educate and provide vocational rehabilitation services for youth and adults with disabilities and funds research to improve the lives of people with disabilities. OSERS comprises the Office of the Assistant Secretary and three program components: the Office of Special Education Programs, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

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Center for Workforce Preparation

The Center for Workforce Preparation (CWP) is a grant-based nonprofit affiliate of the U.S Chamber of Commerce that focuses on workforce development and quality education. It assists chambers of commerce in the development of workforce strategies so that their members can hire, train, retain and advance workers with skills to compete in the 21st century. CWP builds leadership in local chambers for workforce development and helps chambers recognize the value and importance of this leadership role. In addition, it provides the tools, knowledge and strategic relationships for local chambers, businesses and communities to become successful.

CWP's partnerships with local chambers, other workforce development organizations and funders have been instrumental in defining and demonstrating the important, unique role of local chambers in workforce development and education. Together, CWP and local chambers excel at reaching small and medium-sized businesses, where the majority of job growth occurs.

Workforce development is about more than hiring and training the right workers. It is also about identifying and addressing other critical factors, such as transportation, health care and childcare, that enable people to work and advance in their careers. CWP promotes lessons and promising practices from successful communities to encourage chambers and employers to build resources that support productive workplaces.

Center for Workforce Preparation

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