

Employment and physical disability

Employment for people who experience significant disability has increased dramatically over the past years. Throughout the country, literally thousands of people are going to work each day. Yet, this number represents little more than 1/3 of the people with disabilities who are of working age and want to work. For people who experience physical disabilities, this number is even less. The authors whose articles appear in this special edition travel around the country providing training and technical assistance in areas that effect employment. The people we train tell us frequently why people who experience physical disability are not working: people need to be in negotiated jobs rather than competing for existing jobs based on a job description; staff don't know how to negotiate with employers; it takes longer to assist someone in finding a job, thus it requires more funding; employers are reluctant to hire

someone with physical disabilities; too much technology is required; employers won't pay for accommodations; physical disability is a significant disability and it is just too difficult – the reasons go on and on.

Innovation by a few practitioners has made a great difference in the lives of people with physical disabilities. Hopefully this edition will provide information that will assist others in their efforts to include people with physical disabilities in the world of work.

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