



CHOICES CEO:

Gaining Input from Job Seekers and Workers with Disabilities



The Muskie School of Public Service is seeking input from job seekers and workers with disabilities **to identify current challenges they face in finding and keeping a job.** There are some resources in place to help job seekers but we would like to hear from individuals with disabilities about some of their challenges, successes and resources that may have helped.

Conversations with individuals will be started in **job fairs** and other similar **public events.** These conversations will continue and perhaps be done in more depth through follow-up meetings. We will explore how such meetings could be combined or carried out over time in order to create regional work groups that continue to focus on exploring ongoing needs, successes, and opportunities.

This information may:

- Create an opportunity for job seekers & workers with disabilities to be more active in state and local employment planning
- Help guide state and local leaders to develop policy targeting current needs, improving systems and services
- Enhance or lead to new outreach materials to address identified barriers and needs
- Create better access to employment programs, services and supports
- Create new partnerships with organizations that help individuals with disability related employment challenges (Veterans Associations, Area Agencies on Aging, learning disability organizations, etc.)

Collaborating with project partners, CHOICES CEO staff **will recruit job seekers and workers with various disabilities in two regions (Lewiston and Bangor)** through job fairs, transition fairs, posted flyers, and collaboration with service providers. This activity will take place during **February and March 2009, and then pick up again in the fall.**

If you are interested in helping project staff recruit job seekers and workers with disabilities, please contact:

CHOICES CEO staff at the Muskie School of Public Service

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