

March 6, 2012

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 11-54
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: EDNA PRIMROSE
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Disability Program Partners

1. Purpose. To provide the Job Corps center staff with information about agencies and programs that will assist the center in serving students with disabilities.

2. Background. Each center is required to develop and maintain partnerships with outside agencies and programs that will assist the center in serving students with disabilities (PRH Chapter 6, Section 6.11, R7[f]). Disability agencies and organizations can provide information, services, and/or referrals for Job Corps students with disabilities. Potential partner benefits include screening/assessment services, accommodation assistance, student and staff training (including technology training), career development assistance, and career transition services (including assistance with placement). Staff at the center who currently work with the local community (e.g., Business Community Liaison, Career Transition Coordinator) and the Disability Coordinators should assume a primary role in establishing these partnerships.

3. Resources.

Disability Program Partnership Tool

A Disability Program Partnership Tool is available on the Job Corps Disability website. The partnership tool provides information about disability organizations that exist in most communities, and can be used to begin developing partnerships. This tool can be maintained by the Disability Coordinators and presented during center reviews to document efforts to establish partnerships. A copy of any formal agreements should be kept with this document. Disability Coordinators may add to this list depending on the partnership opportunities that exist at their particular centers.

Regional Disability Coordinators will provide each center with a partnership tool that has been customized to identify potential partnerships in the local area. *A webinar on disability*

partners was presented February 22, 2012, and will be available to download from Job Corps Disability website.

The following resources can be used to develop and maintain partnerships with outside agencies and programs.

Centers for Independent Living (CIL)

CILs are private, non-profit consumer controlled community-based organizations. They provide services and advocacy by and for persons with all types of disabilities. Core services include information and referral assistance, independent-living skills training and counseling.

Additional services are provided as needed, and may include assistance securing housing/shelter, training (e.g., life skills, community living), the provision of personal assistive services, assistance with supported living, transportation, and individual/group recreation activities.

CILs are nationwide with at least one in every state, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. For CILs locations, visit <http://www.ilru.org/html/publications/directory/index.html>.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental-health organization dedicated to building better lives for those affected by mental illness. NAMI advocates for access to services, treatment, support and research. NAMI affiliates and volunteers are focused on educating and raising awareness in local communities across the county. This organization provides free education, advocacy, and support-group programs for people living with mental illness and their loved ones.

For more information about NAMI and its affiliates, visit <http://www.nami.org/>.

Business Leadership Network (USBLN)

The USBLN is a national business-to-business non-profit promoting workplaces, marketplaces, and supply chains where people with disabilities are included. There are more than 60 Business Leadership Network affiliates across North America, representing more than 5,000 employers. The USBLN helps ensure that people with disabilities are respected for their talents, while it supports the development and expansion of its BLN affiliates.

The USBLN embraces the full inclusion of people with disabilities into the labor force and marketplace; it assists with career preparation and the employment of people with disabilities. USBLN improves customer experiences for people with disabilities, and promotes the certification and growth of business owned by disabled people.

To learn more about the USBLN including affiliate information, visit <http://www.usbln.org/about-us.html>.

State Tech Act Programs

State Technology Act programs are statewide, technology-related assistance for individuals of all ages with disabilities. These programs provide training and technical assistance, assistive technology loans, provide advocacy and increase awareness.

There are 56 projects, one in each state, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories. For a list of state programs, visit <http://resnaprojects.org/allcontacts/statewidecontacts.html>.

Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (VR)

VR agencies are in each state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories. VR agencies provide counseling, education, training, and job placement for people with disabilities. At the national level, Job Corps and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (the agency under which VR operates) have a cooperative agreement detailing how the agencies will work together to help people with disabilities obtain employment and live independently.

For a list of state rehabilitation providers, visit <http://www.ssa.gov/work/ServiceProviders/rehabproviders.html>.

Regional Disability Coordinators

Contact your Regional Disability Coordinators for any assistance needed with your customized Disability Program Partnership Tool, or with other questions related to developing disability partners/resources.

Region	Regional Disability Coordinator	Contact Information
Region 1 – Boston	Lisa Kosh	lisa.kosh@humanitas.com 301-608-3290 ext. 602
Region 2 – Philadelphia and Region 3 – Atlanta	Nikki Jackson	nikki.jackson@humanitas.com 301-608-3290 ext. 603
Region 4 – Dallas	Laura Kuhn	laura.kuhn@humanitas.com 602-403-9998
Region 5 – Chicago and Region 6 – San Francisco	Kim Jones	kim.jones@humanitas.com 301-608-3290 ext. 607

4. Action. Addresses are to ensure that this Information Notice is distributed to appropriate staff.
5. Expiration Date. Until superseded.
6. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to Carol Abnathy at (202) 693-3283 or abnathy.carol@dol.gov, or Johnetta Davis at (202) 693-8010 or davis.johnetta@dol.gov.