access

Job Corps Disability Support Newsletter

Fall 2023

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has selected the theme of **"Advancing Access and Equity"** to promote National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and to honor the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

NDEAM is observed each October to celebrate the contributions of America's workers with disabilities and to showcase supportive, inclusive policies and practices. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was the first federal legislation to address access and equity for people with disabilities. Together these two significant events help us to celebrate and honor the past and present accomplishments of Americans with disabilities in the workforce and continue to promote advancement and equity for all people with disabilities.

What Can Your Center Do To Celebrate NDEAM?

➢ **31 Days of NDEAM:** Check out ODEP's suggestions for daily ways to celebrate 31 Days of NDEAM.

➢ **Hold a discussion:** NDEAM presents an opportune time to discuss the topic of disability employment with students; one easy way to do so is to use the What Can YOU Do Campaign ideas and materials.

➢ **Create a display:** NDEAM is a great time to freshen up bulletin boards (even online boards). Start by putting up this year's NDEAM poster, which is available in both English and Spanish. Include materials with positive images featuring people with disabilities in various community and employment settings.

➢ **Organize an event:** Another option is to hold a disability-related event. Such an event might feature local disability service organizations and/or people with disabilities in various professions willing to talk about their jobs, interests, experiences, and activities for students such as a poster contest or disability awareness activities.

Building Disability Program Partnerships and Resources

Policy Requirement

The Job Corps Policy and Requirements Handbook (PRH) requires centers to develop resources and partnerships with outside agencies and programs that will assist the center in serving students with disabilities. Special focus should be given to developing resources and

Name	Purpose	Notes
Centers for Independent Living **Disabled Resources Center**	Centers for Independent Living (CILs) assist people with disabilities in becoming independent within their community. Their services include, but are not limited to housing, support groups, and training. CILs are also familiar with other disability-focused resources in the community.	**3/25/22**: The center Disability Coordinator (DC) invited staff from Disabled Resources Center (DRC), the local CIL to attend the center's Community Relations Council meeting. **8/16/22**: DC toured DRC to learn about services that could benefit students including the Assistive Technology (AT) Loan Program and Voice Option Technology program both of which offer AT for loan or purchase. **11/23/22**: DC made a student referral to the Voice Option Technology program for a student with limited mobility in their hand. **12/9/22**: Student was loaned an iPad with a voice app. Student utilizes iPad and app to assist with writing assignments.

Disability Partnership Tool Example

partnerships that can assist the center in identifying or providing accommodation support that promotes student independence and employability. Centers must document efforts to develop resources and partnerships by completing the Disability Partnership Tool available on the Job Corps Disability Website or their Customized Disability Partnership Tool available from their Regional Disability Coordinator *(PRH: 5.1, R34).* A new tool does not have to be created annually but should be updated regularly to detail efforts to develop and maintain your center's disability resources and partnerships. A copy of any Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) or other formal agreements should be maintained with this document.

Tips to Building Active Partnerships	**Types of Partnerships**

➢ Develop a relationship where both parties can benefit.
➢ Network! Get to know your partner's partners. For example, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) partners, such as Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Centers for Independent Living (CILs) have partnership requirements of their own.
➢ Invite potential partners for a tour of your center to learn about the Job Corps program.
➢ Ask your center staff or your center's Qualified Health Professionals about community resources related to mental health.
	➢ Co-Enrollment
	➢ Shared Service Delivery
	   ➢ Cross-train each other's staff
	   ➢ Share business engagement activities
	➢ Strategic Partnerships
	   ➢ Invite partners to be members of your Community Relations Council, Workforce Council, or other relevant center committees
	   ➢ Serve on State or Local Workforce Development Board
	   ➢ Host/Participate in ongoing meetings

Job Corps Disability Website Resources

➢ Review the brochures for Job Accommodation Network, Vocational Rehabilitation and Bookshare for information on services and supports offered by these organizations and how Job Corps centers can form a partnership.

Disability Partnerships and Resources (cont'd)

➢ Review partnership-related webinars:

   ➢ Developing Partnerships

   ➢ Job Accommodation Network (JAN) Overview

   ➢ Using your Statewide AT Act Program as a Resource

   ➢ Bookshare and Job Corps, Parts 1, 2 and Bookshare Recap

➢ Visit the Promising Practices section on the Job Corps Disability Website for ideas on ways to build partnerships.

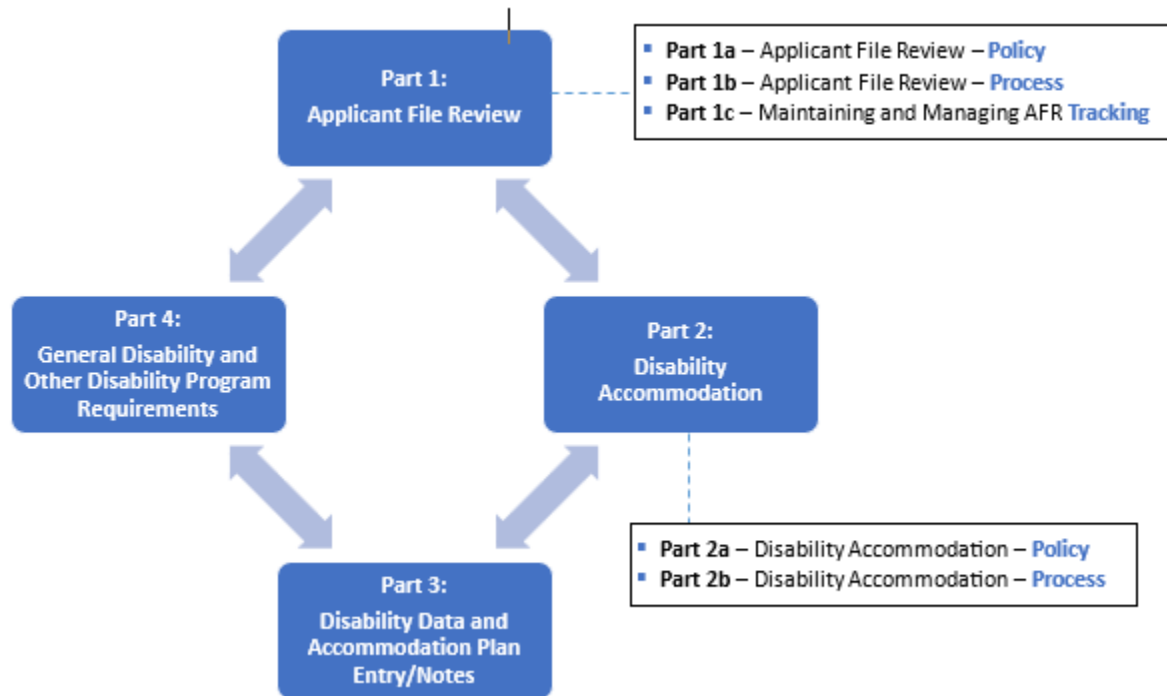**Center Disability Resources and Partnership Highlights**

➢ **Ability Works:** This organization is a member of the center's Community Relations Council and Workforce Council and provides employment assistance and workforce training for students with disabilities.

➢ **The Disability Network (CIL):** The center has an MOU with their local CIL. The Disability Coordinator refers students with disabilities to the CIL for community support after Job Corps.

➢ **Michigan Rehabilitation Services (VR):** The center has an MOU with their local VR agency. The Center Mental Health Consultant and Disability Coordinator refer students for evaluation and the evaluation results can often support the need for disability accommodations.

➢ **North Carolina Division of Services for the Blind:** This agency provides assistive technology for students with vision disabilities and technical support with using devices. The center has received magnifying devices, 1:1 support on how to use accessible features of a Chrome Book, and funds towards medically corrective lenses.

➢ **Texas Workforce Solutions:** The center uses this partnership to connect students with disabilities with vocational readiness services and for work-based learning opportunities for students.

Regional Disability Coordinators

   ▪ Boston: Kristen Philbrook (philbrook.kristen@jobcorps.org)
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New Disability Coordinator Orientation Series

The Disability Coordinator Orientation Series is now a 4-part Disability Coordinator Orientation webinar series (7 individual webinars). Each part of the webinar series is held live via WebEx several times throughout the year. The individual webinars can be attended in ANY order and routine attendance is strongly encouraged as content is updated on a regular basis.

Part 1: Applicant File Review
- Part 1a – Applicant File Review – Policy
- Part 1b – Applicant File Review – Process
- Part 1c – Maintaining and Managing AFR Tracking

Part 2: Disability Accommodation
- Part 2a – Disability Accommodation – Policy
- Part 2b – Disability Accommodation – Process

Part 3: Disability Data and Accommodation Plan Entry/Notes

Part 4: General Disability and Other Disability Program Requirements

Spotlight on Assistive Technology

Google's Chrome New Reading Mode

This new feature allows a reader to read an article without ads and other distractions. It takes a site's primary content and puts it into the sidebar to reduce clutter. This feature also gives you the option to customize font, color, spacing, and size of text. It is available on any computer running the Chrome browser.

Lookout – Assisted Vision by Google

This app uses your phone's camera to help identify objects and read information to be more accessible for all. It has 6 main modes. It can describe the contents of an image, it can quickly skim the text and read it aloud, it can identify packaged foods by their label, it can capture a whole page of text, it can identify banknotes, and it can identify objects in your surroundings.