

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant is Now Connect-Ability

The Medicaid Infrastructure Grant has a new name! Now known as Connect-Ability, the initiative has a new look and personality that will be more inviting to employers, people with disabilities, service providers, and the general public. This four-year, multi-million dollar federal grant to the Connecticut Department of Social Services focuses on reducing barriers to employment for people with disabilities. Much thought and consideration went into selecting Connect-Ability as its new name.

The initiative is all about connections. Connecting employers and people with disabilities is critical, but that is only one level the needs to be addressed. Businesses, Chambers of Commerce, high schools, colleges, vocational/technical schools, agency programs and initiatives, federal, state, and local initiatives, nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, and ordinary citizens all hold a part of the answer to increasing the employment of people with disabilities. Connect-Ability seeks to increase communication and collaboration between the many distinct efforts in order to maximize the effectiveness of the whole.

Connect-Ability is also about seeing the ability and not the disability. The initiative's comprehensive marketing campaign is intended to have an impact on people's perceptions of one another. The more it becomes clear that people with disabilities have skills and talents that are needed by Connecticut businesses, the less disability will be an employment issue in the future.

The new name and logo were unveiled at the Second Annual Employment Summit, held at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford on June 27. Nearly 250 employers, people with disabilities, service providers, and state agency staff met to learn about the initiative's progress and to get a first look at television, radio, and print advertisements which began to blanket the state that week.

For more information about this exciting initiative, visit www.connect-ability.com, or contact Amy Porter at amy.porter@ct.gov or 1-800-773-4636.