



AHEDD is a private non-profit organization with a mission to serve the community as a catalyst in the employment and development of persons with a disability. This organization has been meeting the employment needs of people with disabilities and the business community since 1977.

SERVICES-

AHEDD offers a variety of individualized services to both individuals with disabilities and employers. Those seeking employment can receive assistance with:

- resume preparation
- appropriate completion of job applications
- job interviews
- career exploration
- training assistance at the job site
- counseling for job related concerns
- transportation training
- follow up services to ensure that the individual is satisfied with their job and meeting the expectations of the employer

The intensity and duration of all the services provided depends upon the needs and interests of both the individual and the employer. Training assistance at the job site could entail only a couple of hours for a few days or could require some degree of training for several months.

AHEDD also provides many services directly for employers. For instance, training assistance at the job site helps employers who may not have the time or experience necessary to train individuals with disabilities. In addition, AHEDD can provide assistance with the recruitment/screening of suitable applicants, job accommodations, financial incentives, and training on such topics as The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) , Disability Awareness and Sensitivity , and other related topics.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

AHEDD's services for employers have been enhanced by its coordination of the PA Business Leadership Network (PA BLN) since 2000. The PA BLN is an employer driven program designed for business leaders to promote hiring practices that enable qualified people with disabilities to enter and succeed in the workplace. The emphasis of the PA BLN is to create opportunities where employers can communicate, peer-to-peer, to provide candid and frank assessments of hiring successes and challenges.

As of 2001, AHEDD has also been providing work incentive counseling to Social Security beneficiaries in Western PA. This service is designed for beneficiaries, 14-64, who are planning for employment or who are working and what to understand how earned income impacts their Social Security and related benefits (e.g. Medicare, Medicaid). The service also helps beneficiaries to assess specific work incentives that can help increase earnings, savings or expand career planning options. In 2008, AHEDD expanded this work incentive counseling for youth in SE PA under a grant from The PEW Foundation.

AHEDD is an approved Employment Network (EN) that contracts with SSA under the Ticket to Work Program. As an EN, AHEDD is another option that Social Security beneficiaries can choose for assistance with employment.