

Working Without Limits: An Employer Summit

About the Massachusetts Disability Employment Initiative

The **Massachusetts Disability Employment Initiative (MA-DEI)** is a public/private partnership bringing together people with disabilities and their families, state policy makers across Secretariats, employment service providers, and employers to create an environment that maximizes work opportunities for people with disabilities, addresses the needs of employers and strengthens the Massachusetts workforce.

Beginning in 2008, the Center for Health Policy and Research at UMass Medical School, along with its partners the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, undertook a broad-based strategic planning effort to develop a comprehensive plan to maximize employment for people with disabilities in Massachusetts. The plan that resulted from this process proposed the creation of the MA-DEI.

Within the public sector, the MA-DEI will work to build capacity across multiple state agencies that support people with disabilities, including the state Medicaid and Vocational Rehabilitation agencies, as well as other state agencies that directly provide or purchase employment services for people with disabilities.

Within the private sector, the MA-DEI will seek to engage businesses and employers to hire, retain, and advance people with disabilities. MA-DEI will also devise new ways of empowering youth and adults with disabilities to participate in employment and to enhance the capacity of community-based employment services, and related support programs to more effectively assist people with disabilities to achieve their employment goals.

To accomplish these goals, in the coming months, the MA-DEI will be developing a comprehensive communications plan to ensure that people with disabilities and employers can Work Without Limits and that everyone can put their abilities to work in Massachusetts.

For more information about how the MA-DEI can assist your business, please contact:

Kathleen A. Petkauskos
Center for Health Policy and Research
UMass Medical School
508-856-3897
Kathy.petkauskos@umassmed.edu

Sheila Fesko
Institute for Community Inclusion
UMass Boston
617-287-4365
sheila.fesko@umb.edu

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