



SEED

*State Exchange on Employment & Disability
Advancing Policy for a More Inclusive Workforce*

Partnering with State and Local Governments to Promote **RETAIN**

September 22, 2022

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Introducing SEED

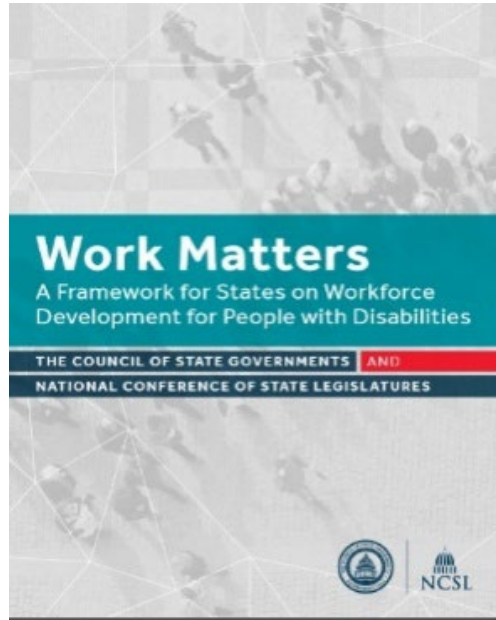
- ✓ Initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy
- ✓ Goal: Foster a nationwide workforce more inclusive of people with disabilities
- ✓ Readies organizations that represent state and local policymakers to respond to disability employment and workforce development requests and inquiries



SEED as a Resource

- ✓ Disability employment policy and subject-matter expertise
- ✓ Targeted policy analysis and assistance to state and local policymakers (research, state gap analyses, draft legislation)
- ✓ Tools and resources designed to assist state policymakers in crafting and sponsoring effective policies
- ✓ Sample policy options that states can customize and advance within their own legislatures
- ✓ Access to meaningful data on disability employment and related issues
- ✓ Connections to federal agencies, as well as national community, advocacy and business organizations

Work Matters Policy Framework



- ✓ Developed by National Task Force on Workforce Development for People with Disabilities.
- ✓ Offers state policymakers five broad policy themes:
 - ❖ Laying the Groundwork
 - ❖ Preparing for Work
 - ❖ Getting to and Accessing Work Opportunities
 - ❖ Staying at Work
 - ❖ Supporting Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship
- ✓ Provides hundreds of real-life examples of innovative programs and policies that states have successfully implemented to build strong, inclusive workforces.
- ✓ Policy examples are updated monthly by the SEED Team.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/state-policy/work-matters>

Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work Toolkit



- ✓ Developed in collaboration with the Council of State Governments
- ✓ Provides states with policy options, best practices and implementation strategies to increase the retention of employees who become ill or injured while in the workforce

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/state-policy/reports-and-policy-briefs>

COVID-19 Policy Collaborative for an Inclusive Recovery



- ✓ **SEED COVID-19 Policy Collaborative: Frameworks for a Disability-Inclusive Recovery, Policy Checklist and Convenings Report**
 - ❖ <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/state-policy/reports-and-policy-briefs/covid-19-resources-policymakers>
- ✓ **COVID-19 Federal Disability-Specific and Other Related Guidance**
 - ❖ <https://seed.csg.org/covid-19-federal-disability-specific-and-other-related-guidance/>
- ✓ **COVID-19 and Employment for People With Disabilities Report Series**
 - ❖ <https://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/covid-19-and-employment-for-people-with-disabilities.aspx>

Mental Health Policy Collaborative

- ✓ Designed to highlight and explore policy options for addressing major workforce challenges and barriers to employment for people with mental health conditions
 - ❖ Mental Health in the Workplace Policy Discovery & Research Exchange
 - ❖ Mental Health Matters: A National Task Force on Workforce Mental Health Policy
 - ❖ U.S. Conference of Mayors Working Group on Mental Health & Employment

Policy Framework

- ✓ Return to Work Programs
- ✓ Disability Benefits Programs
- ✓ Employer Actions
 - ❖ Subsidies, incentives and Grants
 - ❖ Job Modifications

Policy Framework (continued)

- ✓ Public Sector
 - ❖ Programs for State Employees
 - ❖ Programs Operated by State Vocational Rehabilitation
- ✓ Private Sector Employer Subsidy, Incentive and Grant Programs
- ✓ Employee Incentive Programs
- ✓ Wellness And Injury Prevention Programs

RETAIN State Exchange on Disability Employment Policy

- ✓ Collaboration with the Council of State Governments
- ✓ State team participants:
 - ❖ RETAIN representatives from each participating state
 - ❖ Subject matter experts and other key stakeholders
 - ❖ Policymakers (legislative and administrative)
- ✓ State team action plans with policy options and implementation strategies support the effectiveness and sustainability of their state RETAIN initiative

Contact SEED

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