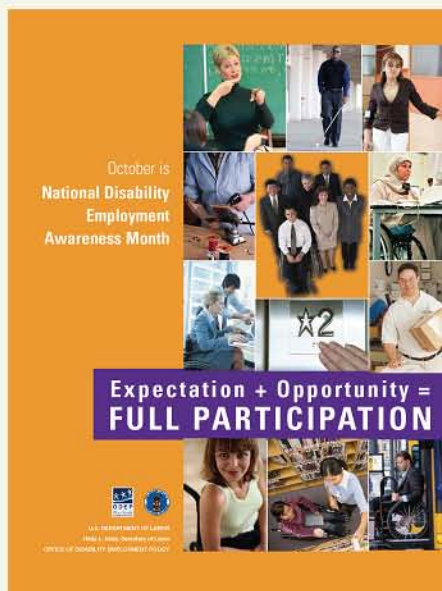


Client Assistance Program

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR September 2009

1205 Pendleton St.
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: 803-734-0285
Toll Free: 1-800-868-0040
TDD: 803-734-1147
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cap@oepp.sc.gov
www.oepp.sc.gov/cap/

- **The Client Assistance Program** advocates for persons with disabilities who are clients or applicants of Vocational Rehabilitation, Commission for the Blind, and other Independent Living Programs funded under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- **CAP can address** questions regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title I, as it relates to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- **CAP can advise** service providers and consumers having questions relating to the above, or other available community resources for person with disabilities.



National Disability Employment Awareness Month “Expectation + Opportunity = Full Participation”

The U.S. Department of Labor today announced “**Expectation + Opportunity = Full Participation**” as the official theme for October’s National Disability Employment Awareness Month. It is intended to urge employers, as they seek to fill positions, to embrace the richness of America’s diversity by considering the talents of all workers, including workers with disabilities. This year’s theme emphasizes the vision of the Labor Department’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP): a world in which people with disabilities have unlimited employment opportunities. (Source: US Department of Labor)

This is also the theme for this year’s Journalism Essay Contest, the winner receives a **four-year scholarship to the South Carolina state-supported institution of his or her choice** provided, of course, that the winner is otherwise qualified. The scholarship pays for undergraduate tuition and fees. Each institution has its own definition of tuition and fees, which may or may not include room and board. The winner must be able to verify financial need to the state-supported institution of his or her choice, which may include completion of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The scholarship may be canceled if the recipient does not maintain general scholastic and conduct standards established by the institution. **You do not have to have a disability to enter.**

If you have any questions or need more information, please call the SCVRD Public Information Office at 803-896-6833 or 803-896-6834.

This is an excellent opportunity for 2009 rising High School Juniors and Seniors.



PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND know how to orient themselves and get around. They are competent to travel unassisted, though they may use a cane or a guide dog. A person may have a visual impairment that is not obvious. Be prepared to offer assistance.

- **Identify yourself** before you make physical contact with a person who is blind.
- **If a new customer or employee is blind or visually impaired**, offer him a tour of your facility.
- **If you have changed your facility** (i.e., rearranged the furniture) notify your blind customers.
- **People who are blind** need their arms for balance, so offer your arm—don't take his, if he needs to be guided. (However, it is appropriate to guide a blind person's hand to a banister or the back of a chair to help direct him to a stairway or a seat.)
- **If the person has a guide dog**, walk on the side opposite the dog. As you are walking, describe the setting, noting any obstacles, such as stairs ("up" or "down") or a big crack in the sidewalk. Other hazards include: revolving doors, half-opened filing cabinets or doors, and objects protruding from the wall at head level such as hanging plants or lamps. If you are going to give a warning, be specific. Hollering, "Look out!" does not tell the person if he should stop, run, duck or jump.
- **If you are giving directions**, give specific, non-visual information.
- **If you need to leave a person who is blind**, inform him first and let him know where the exit is, then leave him near a wall, table, or some other landmark. The middle of a room will seem like the middle of nowhere to him.
- **Don't touch the person's cane or guide dog.** The dog is working and needs to concentrate. The cane is part of the individual's personal space.
- **Offer to read written information**—such as the menu, merchandise labels or bank statements—to customers who are blind. Count out change so that they know which bills are which.
- **If you serve food to a person who is blind**, let him know where everything is on the plate according to a clock orientation.

People with Low Vision

- **A person who has Low vision** may need written material in large print. Labels and signs should be clearly lettered in contrasting colors. It is easiest for most people with vision impairments to read bold white letters on black background.
- **Good lighting is important**, but it shouldn't be too bright. In fact, very shiny paper or walls can produce a glare that disturbs people's eyes.
- **Keep walkways clear of obstructions.** If people who are blind or are visually impaired regularly use your facility as customers or employees, inform them about any physical changes, such as rearranged furniture, equipment or other items that have been moved.

No Bones about It!

Under the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**, business and organizations that serve the public must allow people with disabilities to bring their service animals into all areas of the facility where customers are normally allowed to go. This federal law applies to all business open to the public, including restaurants, hotels, taxis and shuttles, grocery and department stores, hospitals and medical offices, theaters, health clubs, parks and zoos. The ADA defines a service animal as any animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. Here are some general guidelines to help you know what your rights are as a person with a disability:



Even if the establishment has a “no pets” policy, the ADA requires that businesses modify their policy to allow the use of a service animal by a person with a disability.

Businesses may ask what task the animal has been trained to perform, but cannot require special ID cards for the animal or ask about the person’s disability.

People with disabilities using service animals cannot be charged extra fees, isolated from other patrons, or treated less favorably than other patrons. However, if a business normally charges guests for damage that the guest caused, then the customer with the disability may be charged for any damages that are caused by the service animal.

A person with a disability can be asked to remove his service animal from the premises only if (1) the animal is out of control and/or (2) the animal poses a direct threat to the health and/or safety of others.

Business that sell or prepare food must allow service animals in public areas, even if state and local health codes prohibit animals on the premises.

Allergies and fear of animals are generally not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people with service animals.

If you have additional questions concerning the ADA and service animals, please call the Department’s ADA Information Line at (800) 514-0301 (voice) or (800) 514-0383 (TTY) or visit the ADA Business Connection at www.ada.gov

Further College Scholarship Resources

Are you a high school student or a current college student with a disability who is looking for financial aid to help you obtain your educational goals? Check out the following internet sites to help you obtain scholarships. Some scholarships require writing an essay, while others may just need an application form. Some are based on financial need and others are not. Regardless, you are guaranteed to find a wealth of information regarding scholarships for persons with disabilities on these websites.

www.disability.gov On this site choose the “Education” link, followed by the “Higher Education” link, followed by the “Financial Aid/Scholarships.” Here you will find dozens of scholarships listed as well as links to other sites.

www.disaboom.com This website references both condition-specific scholarships as well as general disability scholarships.



THE HADLEY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

The Hadley School for the Blind is the largest worldwide distance educator of blind and visually impaired people, their families and blindness service professionals. Founded in 1920 by William Hadley and Dr. E.V.L. Brown, Hadley offers courses free of charge to its blind and visually impaired students and their families and affordable tuition courses to blindness professionals. Today, the school serves

more than 10,000 students annually in all 50 states and 100 countries. Hadley relies on contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations to fund its programs.

Hadley has a course for you if you are:

- A blind or visually impaired individual 14+ years of age
- A relative of a blind or visually impaired child
- A family member of a blind or visually impaired adult
- A professional in the blindness field

The Advantages of Distance Education

Study in a location convenient to you. Course materials and teachers' comments on your assignments arrive by mail or via email.

Study at any time, at your own pace. Since you decide when to study, you can choose a time when you are least likely to be interrupted.

Receive specially-designed course materials in the medium of your choice. —Braille, large print, audio cassette and online.

Receive one-on-one attention from your instructor. Your Hadley instructor will check, grade and respond to your completed assignments individually, as if you were sitting together in a classroom.

Contact your instructor with questions. If you have a question about what you are studying, you can call our toll-free number (U.S. and Canada), write or email your instructor.

For more information about Hadley call **1-800-323-4238**

How Does Your Fall Garden Grow?

We usually think of the springtime as the idea time to plant a garden, but fall is also a great time to plant all kinds of things from cool-season veggies to turf grasses to shrubs. In the fall, the warm soil encourages root growth, so that roots continue to grow through the winter until the ground freezes. In areas with mild winters, roots may continue to grow. In early spring, roots begin new growth or continue to develop at a faster rate, and top growth begins. While the same plant planted in spring gets a slow start due to cool soils, the fall planted plants are becoming well established. Hence, the spring-planted plant on the right tags. When summer finally arrives again, the fall-planted plant is far better equipped to deal with heat and drought, largely due to its well-established root system. Other plusses to fall gardening are dependable rainfall, cooler weather and fewer pest disease problems. Plus, many plants are on sale at nurseries, which makes fall planting good for your pocket, too.

Beginning in August, we can plant many of the same warm weather vegetables that we planted in the spring, namely sweet corn, pumpkins, tomatoes, snap beans, summer squash and winter squash. Begin preparing for cool season vegetables such as broccoli, collards, onions, turnips and cauliflower. By September, we can mix in many other cool season vegetables such as lettuce, beets, cabbage and carrots.