



Bob Riley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



Cary F. Boswell
COMMISSIONER

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathleen McGehee
334-293-7500 or 1-800-441-7607

Alabama conference helps federal agencies employ people with disabilities

Federal recruiters will soon be better prepared to hire consumers from the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS).

ADRS is partnering with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to present its first federal recruitment conference on June 22 and 23 at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center in Birmingham. ADRS is sponsoring the conference with stimulus funds received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The conference is for federal contractors, federal recruiters, hiring managers, and selective placement coordinators. The theme is "Employing People With Disabilities: Ready and Able to Work for US."

"The purpose of the conference is to help federal agencies respond to President Obama's charge to increase the number of persons with disabilities in the federal workforce," said Peggy Anderson, administrator of the ADRS Business Relations Program. "This conference will link federal agencies to resources tied to disability and qualified job candidates and will also address misperceptions about people with disabilities in the workplace."

Delner Franklin-Thomas, district office director of the EEOC office in Birmingham, said that EEOC is pleased to be involved in the conference. "It provides an excellent opportunity for federal managers and administrators to receive training that will assist them in meeting the special needs of individuals with disabilities and truly become equal employment opportunity employers."

EEOC is responsible for enforcing Sections 501 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 505 prohibits employment discrimination against individuals in the federal sector.

Conference planners include the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the Department of Labor VETS program, the Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) and the Alabama Industry Liaison Group (ALILG).

National and regional leaders will discuss topics such as employee accommodations, Schedule A, the LEAD (Leadership for the Employment of Americans with Disabilities) initiative, disability etiquette, national and state best practices, and resources for recruiting. There will also be demonstrations of workplace assistive technology.

There is no registration fee to attend, and conference participants can take advantage of special conference rates at area hotels and shuttle service to and from the conference center.

For more details about the conference, visit www.vrregion4.org. Those interested in attending should contact Becky Parker at (205) 290-4446 or Peggy Anderson at peggy.anderson@rehab.alabama.gov

The mission of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential. The EEOC enforces federal law prohibiting employment discrimination. Additional information about EEOC is available at www.eeoc.gov.