

READI-Net: ADRS Business Relations Program

For 25 years, businesses throughout Alabama have partnered with the ADRS Business Relations Program staff to identify and improve the department's products and services for Alabama employers.

Businesses taking the lead

Staying tuned in to employers' needs, the Business Relations program has engaged employers in product design or upgrade in a number of ways throughout fiscal year 2009 through formal and informal communication and feedback from specific business groups.

In-state

- ADRS Employer Ad Hoc Advisory Committee
- ABLE (Alabama Business Leadership Employment) Network

Regionally

- Vocational Rehabilitation's (VR) southeast regional "BAG" (Business Advisory Group)

Nationally

- VR-business network, The NET (National Employment Team)

In Alabama, the ADRS Employer Ad Hoc Advisory Committee and ABLE Network are long-term, newly created business partners with ADRS. They continue to use the no-cost products and services from ADRS while advising the department on emerging needs and relevant business trends. These advisory businesses include:

- Alabama Power – A Southern Company
- Baptist Hospital
- Barfield Healthcare
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield - Alabama
- Client Logic
- Home Instead
- Jefferson County Personnel Board
- Lyons Human Resources
- Manpower Inc.
- St. Vincent's Hospital
- The West Corporation
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Wachovia Bank
- Wal-Mart
- Westervelt

TOP 10

Employment-Related Services

1. Job search assistance (23%)
2. Job referral (20%)
3. Employment counseling & guidance (12%)
4. Customized job development (10%)
5. Career exploration (8%)
6. Follow-up after referral/hire (6%)
7. Job interviewing assistance (4%)
8. Job applications assistance (4%)
9. Resume preparation (4%)
10. Job retention assistance (1%)

What's in a name?

The business advisers to ADRS approved the "naming" of the Business Relations program in FY 2009, now referred to as READI-Net (Resources for Employment And Disability Information Network). With the new name, the program now has an easily recognizable "brand identity."

TOP 10

Services to Business

1. Recruitment services
2. Support after hire
3. Employee-retention services
4. Jobsite disability-related accommodations
5. Wage reimbursements for on-the-job training
6. Business "tryouts" of potential candidates
7. Staff development/training
8. Consultations on ADA issues
9. Job description updates/analysis
10. Building accessibility reviews