

Business Leadership Network

The Pennsylvania Business Leadership Network (BLN) is a statewide, employer-driven program designed for business leaders to promote hiring practices that enable qualified people with disabilities to enter and succeed in the workplace. The Pennsylvania Business Leadership Network offers employers:

- access to pertinent disability hiring information
- a network of employers who share information on common disability employment issues
- exposure to qualified job applicants with disabilities
- opportunities to provide training and work experience for job seekers with disabilities
- improved access to customers with disabilities

Business Leadership Networks have been established in many states as part of a national initiative started by the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and supported by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Pennsylvania Business Leadership Network is an employer-driven program designed to engage employers in a leadership role to communicate their human resources needs and to actively participate in the community to ensure that providers serving individuals with disabilities are able to meet those needs.

In [Pennsylvania, the Developmental Disabilities Council](#) (PDDC) made funds available for the development of a BLN starting January 2000. The PDDC selected AHEDD, a private non-profit specialized human resource organization, to coordinate the BLN in Pennsylvania. AHEDD works with the business community within Pennsylvania to promote the ongoing implementation of the Business Leadership Network.

The business community needs qualified workers to fill its changing job requirements. Many employers today are unable to find qualified job applicants through their normal channels of recruitment. Employers participating in the Business Leadership Network are responding to this need by exploring methods to more effectively recruit, market and hire the talents of job applicants with disabilities.

The main goal of the Pennsylvania Business Leadership Network (BLN) is to provide employment opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities. Employers are encouraged to talk with members of the business community that have already been successful in hiring employees with disabilities. This peer-to-peer interaction will assist employers in learning more about where they can recruit job seekers with a disability and more about the community resources that are available to provide support.

Employer participation in the Pennsylvania BLN makes good business sense. Participation will enhance your ability to fill job openings with qualified employees and create a diverse workforce. For more information, contact Ms. Stacy Liddick, Project Coordinator at (717) 763-0968, ext. 115.