

Economic Development  
For Employment of Persons with Disabilities  
*Employment Incentives Project*

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TTWWIIA) features an ambitious array of programs and strategies to address the unemployment of persons with disabilities. Under TTWWIIA, Congress mandated a GAO Report ([Incentives to Employ Workers With Disabilities Receive Limited Use and Have an Uncertain Impact](#), GAO-03-39) to study the utilization of financial incentives used by business in hiring persons with disabilities. According to the report, information on the effectiveness of these incentives is limited and inconclusive. Data provided by the PA Department of Labor (March 2004) indicates that among businesses using the Work Opportunities Tax Credit (WOTC), less than 12% are for hiring persons with disabilities

AHEDD's Project entitled the "Economic Development for Employment of Persons with Disabilities" is designed to incorporate the perspectives and values of the national agenda as reflected within the TTWWIIA as well as Pennsylvania's interests as expressed by the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council. Through its strategic initiatives, the Council serves as the prime sponsor for the Employment Incentives Project, specifically "to increase awareness and use of both federal and state work incentive programs through Pennsylvania Chambers of Commerce."

AHEDD is a private, non-profit organization with a mission to serve the community as a catalyst in the employment and development of persons with disabilities. In the addition to the delivery of employment services and benefits counseling under agreements with federal, state, county agencies and schools, AHEDD is an integral participant and/or coordinator of a number of statewide initiatives including the Business Leadership Network, the Advisory Committee on Employment (PA Department of Public Welfare), and the Governor's Committee on Employment of Persons with Disabilities (PA Department of Labor & Industry- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation).

AHEDD will work with representatives from business in order to promote, educate, and assess the utilization or financial work incentives as elements of economic development to promote the employment and retention of persons with disabilities. For further information, contact John J. Miller, Project Director at (717) 763-0968, ext. 118 [john.miller@ahedd.org](mailto:john.miller@ahedd.org) or Penni Baker, Project Coordinator ( 717) 597-7665 [penni.baker@ahedd.org](mailto:penni.baker@ahedd.org)