Employment and People with Disabilities

LDS Employment Services

Carol Ruddell, Work Ability Utah February 6, 2008



What do you most identify with?

- Your hair color or your lack of hair?
- Your height? Your weight?
- What car you drive?
- Your children? Grandchildren?

What characteristic would you like to be known for?

A Person First

- An individual with blonde hair
- The woman with the purple scarf
- A man who has five grandchildren
- The family in West Valley
- The kids with red hair
- The man with the lowest golf score





What we're not...

- That bald man
- A plump woman
- The guy in the chair
- A special spirit
- A retarded child
- That crazy person
- The blind man



Respect and Dignity

- A woman who uses a wheelchair
- The man who has learning difficulties
- A child with crutches
- The boy who has cerebral palsy
- The teen with mental illness
- A person with a disability







Resources

- State Office of Rehabilitation: Serves people with disabilities who are eligible
 - Restoration
 - Training for employment
- Department of Workforce Services
 - General Assistance
 - Health Care
 - Child Care
 - Short Courses: Resume, interviewing, etc.



Resources

- Choose To Work
 - Placement for people with disabilities who are work ready
- Benefits Planning Assistance & Outreach
 - For SSA recipients to learn about how working effects all benefits (SSA checks, Medicaid, food stamps, etc.)

PWDNET







PWDNET (People With Disabilities Network) is a resource available for employers to post job openings and for job seekers to find those job openings. The purpose of this network is to link employers and job seekers who have disabilities.

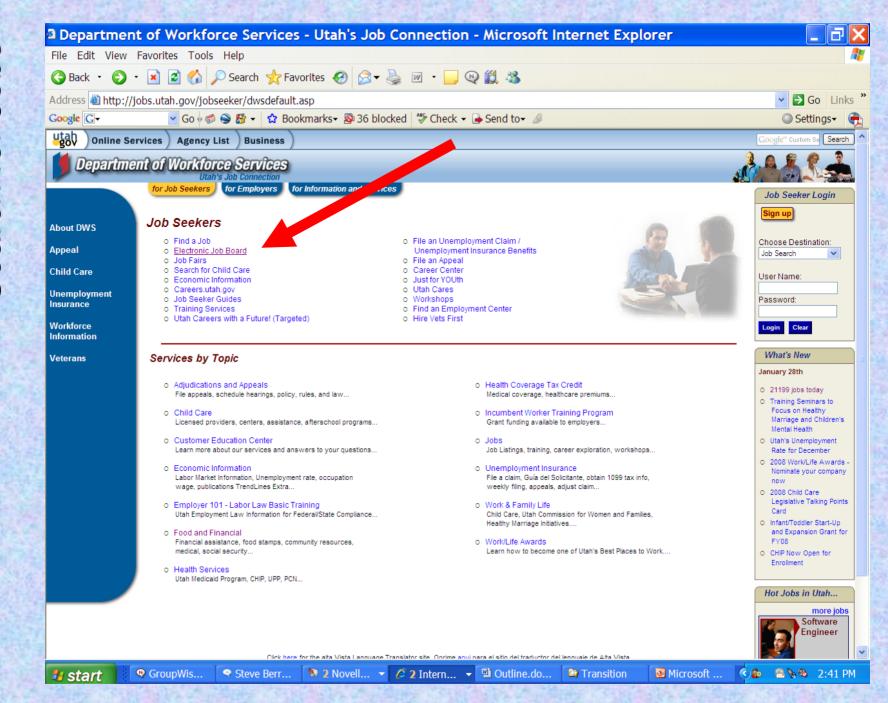
PWDNET

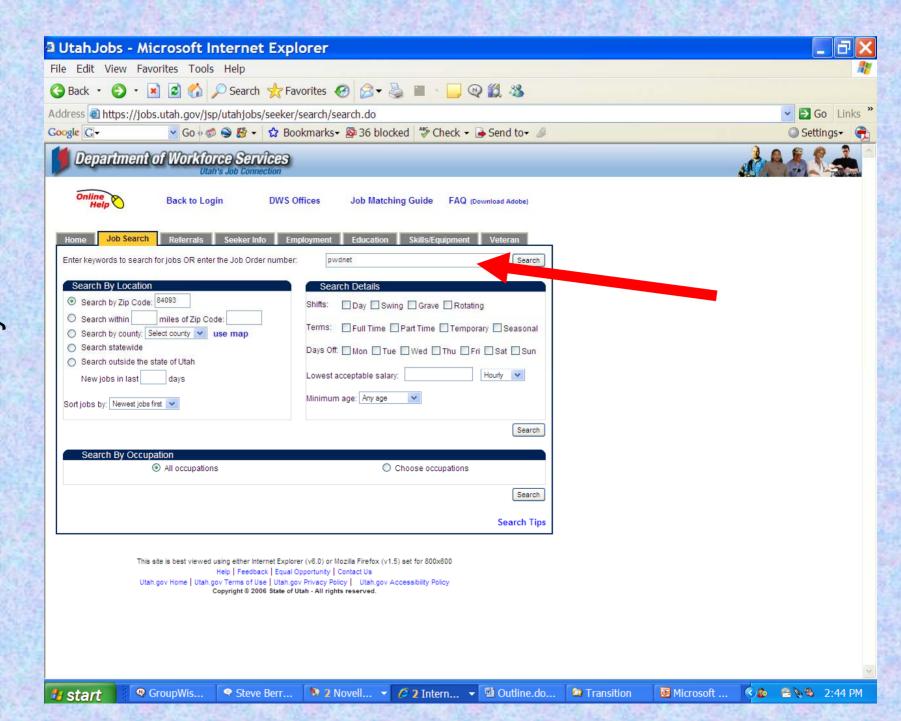


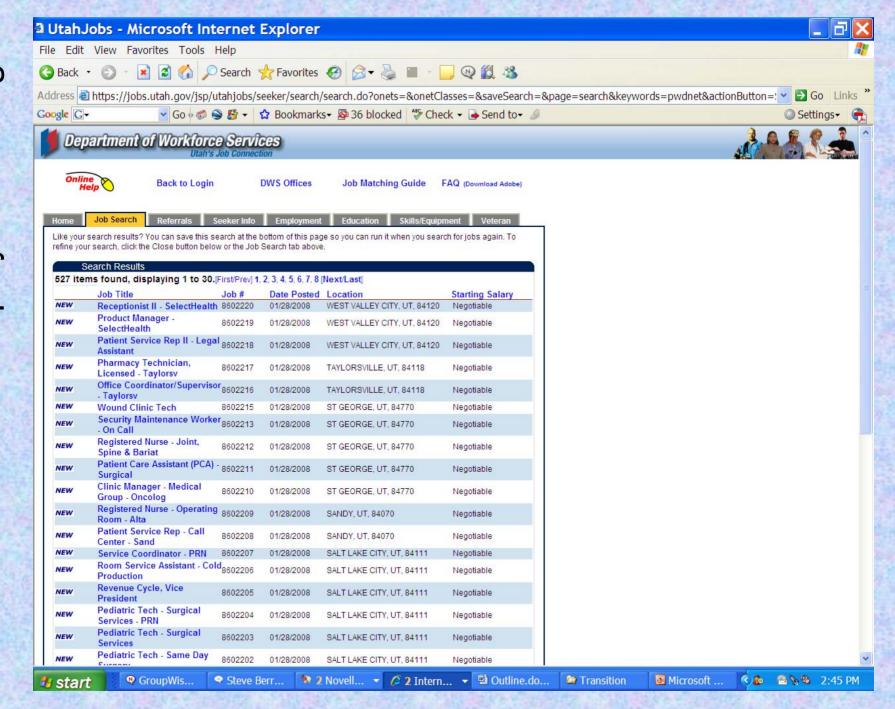


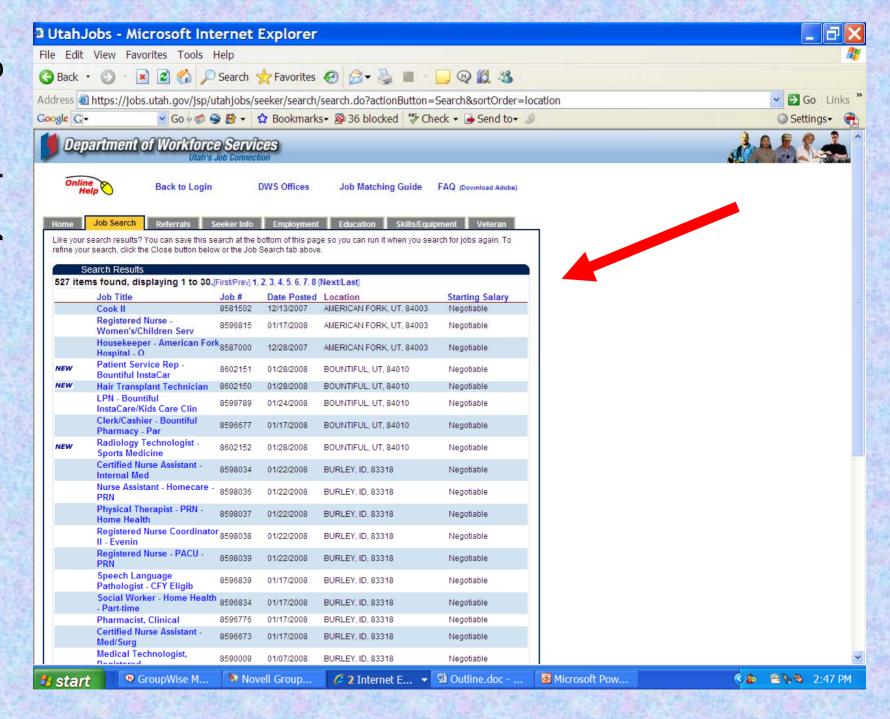


Network employers have training and supports to understand how to recruit, hire and retain individuals with disabilities. They are dedicated to this qualified workforce. Job Seekers can be confident the employers have knowledge about disability issues and understand accommodations within the entire employment process.

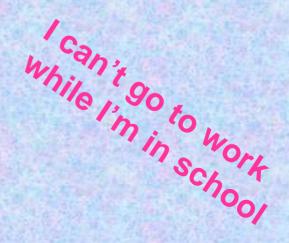








Employers don't like with to hire people with disabilities.



Some Myths Around Working

What about Medicaid?

What happens to my social security?

Employers' Myths

- Higher turnover
- Excessive absence
- Less productive
- Safety risk
- Too costly or demanding
- Won't fit in

Employer Realities

- More likely to stay on the job
- 81-93% rated above average in performance
- Attendance same to better than people without disabilities
- Safety rates significantly lower
- No effect to cost reported by 90%+ of employers
- Represent an enormous market niche

Job Seeker Myth

Having accurate information empowers the individual

Decisions are made when one is fully informed

Social Security

MYTH: If I go to work, I'll lose my SS REALITY:

- Which is it? SSI or SSDI?
 - Supplemental Security Income
 - Social Security Disability Insurance
- Over 40 work incentives
 - Talk with a Benefits Specialist

Health Care Coverage

MYTH: If I go to work, I'll lose my health coverage

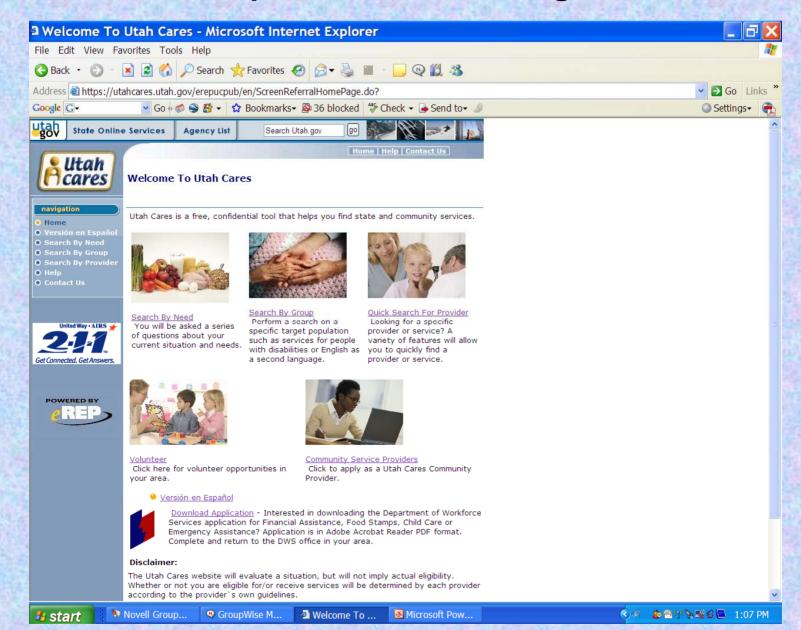
REALITY: Health care may be available

- Based on the company's overall risk and employee pool, not the individual's health
- Medicaid through 1619(b)
- Medicaid Work Incentive

Resources

- Benefits Planning, Assistance and Outreach
- State Office of Rehabilitation
- Choose To Work
- Work Ability Utah
- Department of Workforce Services
- Disability Law Center
- Access Utah (www.accessut.org)
- Utah Cares (www.utahcares.utah.gov)

https://utahcares.utah.gov/



http://www.accessut.org/



THANK YOU!!



Work Ability Utah
Utah's Medicaid Infrastructure Grant
CMS #11-P-92406-8/04