



## PLAN NOW TO PARTICIPATE

### TIMELINE

- **February:** Federal Register Announcement
- **May:** Application Deadline
- **October:** Award Event

The Secretary of Labor's

# New Freedom Initiative Award

### *For more information*

Call **(202) 693-7880**

Visit **[www.dol.gov/odep/newfreedom](http://www.dol.gov/odep/newfreedom)**

to learn employers' best practices in raising the bar in the disability employment arena

### RECOGNITION FOR EXEMPLARY DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

Given annually to small businesses, corporations, non-profits and individuals that have demonstrated exemplary and innovative efforts in furthering the employment and workplace environment for workers with disabilities.





Secretary of Labor's

## New Freedom Initiative Award

Established in 2002, the **Secretary of Labor's New Freedom Initiative Award** annually recognizes non-profits, small businesses, corporations and individuals that have demonstrated exemplary and innovative efforts in furthering the employment and workplace environment for people with disabilities, a goal of President Bush's New Freedom Initiative.

This award encourages the use of public-private partnerships to develop and implement strategies that enhance employment opportunities and career advancement for individuals with disabilities. Such strategies include increasing access to assistive technologies and utilizing innovative training, hiring and retention strategies.

## The President's New Freedom Initiative (NFI)

On February 1, 2001, President George W. Bush announced the **New Freedom Initiative**. Reinforcing the Administration's commitment to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the **New Freedom Initiative** represents a comprehensive set of proposals designed to ensure that Americans with disabilities have the opportunity to learn and develop skills, engage in productive work, make choices about their daily lives, and participate fully in their communities.



## The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)

**T**he Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) is uniquely charged with providing a national focus on enhancing the employment of people with disabilities. As such, ODEP has the key responsibility for implementing the employment-related aspects of the **President's New Freedom Initiative**.