

Opening Doors Newsletter

A publication to promote the inclusion of individuals with disabilities within AmeriCorps programs.

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Disability Inclusion Train the Trainers

Hello Everyone. I wanted to share with you a successful training event I attended in Rhode Island recently. The training was sponsored by the National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP). It was a 3 day intensive training where State Commission Disability Coordinators and UCED (University Centers on Disabilities) personnel participated to:

- deepen their understanding of inclusion concepts.
- develop their capacity to understand disability law and legal responsibilities.
- strengthen their ability to address complex questions regarding access and accommodations.
- understand and be able to use curriculum's multi-module tool and evaluation instruments.

The experience invited those committed to the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in service and volunteerism to improve their skills and utilize knowledgeable resources. I'm super excited about the resources this office has attained and I certainly plan on sharing this educational information with all of you.

Emergency Preparedness Initiative

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security in consultation with the National Organization on Disability, AARP and the American Red Cross developed a variety of materials to prepare people with disabilities and special needs for disasters and or emergencies. Scott Peterson, Citizen Corps Program Manager for the Office of Community Service, provides training, educational materials and networking opportunities to partner with the Disability Coordinator's position. I encourage you to check out the web page www.ready.gov . To access the people with disabilities link click on <http://www.ready.gov/america/index.html> . The measures outlined are commonsense yet caregivers can take part in preparing before an emergency may happen. If anyone is interested in receiving materials to promote awareness of this program, please contact Kathy Bean or Scott Peterson at 444- 9077.



The dynamics of inclusion are present in our work-our lives-our world. Thank you for your efforts toward promoting disability inclusion. Call or email with any questions or concerns; 406- 444-5547 or kbean@mt.gov.