

Client Assistance Program

O F F I C E O F T H E G O V E R N O R

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The **Client Assistance Program (CAP)** is the federally mandated program that advocates for persons with disabilities in South Carolina who are seeking or receiving services through the **Vocational Rehabilitation Department (VR)**, **Commission for the Blind (CB)**, and all **Independent Living (IL)** programs and projects funded under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

CAP assists consumers with questions regarding **Title I** of the **Americans with Disabilities Act**.



Get out and Vote! It is our fundamental right to vote, and our duty and responsibility to exercise that right.

There is not a length of residency requirement in South Carolina in order to register to vote. You must be registered at least thirty days prior to any election in order to vote in that election. If registration is completed by mail, applications must be postmarked at least thirty days prior to the upcoming election. **You must be registered to vote by October 2, 2010 in order to vote on Tuesday, November 2, 2010.**

To be eligible to vote in South Carolina, you must:

- Be a US citizen at least eighteen years or older on or before the next election
- Be a resident of South Carolina, county and precinct in which you reside
- Not under a court order declaring you mentally incompetent
- Not be confined to any public prison resulting from a conviction of a crime
- Not have been convicted of a felony, or an offense against election laws, you must have served your entire sentence (including probation or parole) or you must be pardoned before you can vote again.

<http://scvotes.org>

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

South Carolina residents can register in person or by mail. You can print an online Voter Registration Application at www.scvotes.org and mail or take it in person to your county's Board of Voter Registration office. You must attach a copy of your current driver's license or photo ID. Voter registration can also be completed through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Assistance At Polls

Assistance in marking a ballot is allowed only if the voter is blind, illiterate or physically handicapped. A voter entitled to receive assistance may choose anyone to assist except his employer, agent of his employer, or an officer or agent of his union.

Curbside Voting

Any voter who, because of physical handicap or age (65 or older), cannot enter the polling place in which he is registered to vote, or is unable to stand in line to vote, may vote outside that polling place in the closest available parking area utilizing the vehicle in which he has driven or has been driven to the polls.

Deaf or Hard of Hearing Voters

Poll workers will have a form on Election Day to hand to voters who are either deaf or hard of hearing to explain the process that should occur at the registration table. American Sign Language (ASL) does not translate to the spoken word as we know it, and this form was developed with that in mind. A copy of this can be found at http://scvotes.org/voters_with_disabilities/instructions_for_voters_who_are_deaf. Poll workers should also have a paper and pens/pencils at precincts in case voters need to ask questions in writing.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Any registered voter who, for the following reasons, is eligible to vote by way of an absentee ballot:

- Students, their spouses and dependents residing with them
- Members of the Armed Forces, Merchant Marines, Red Cross, USO, Coast Guard, government employees, their spouses and dependents residing with them
- Overseas U.S. citizens
- For reasons of employment and will not be able to vote on election day
- Physically disabled persons
- Persons on vacation
- Persons age 65 or older
- Persons admitted to the hospital as emergency patients on day of election or at least four days prior to the election
- Voters with a death or funeral within three days before the election
- Persons confined to a jail or pre-trial facility who has not been convicted of a crime
- Persons attending to sick or physically disabled persons
- Persons serving as jurors in a state or federal court on election day
- Certified poll watchers and poll managers

For more information on how to obtain and apply for an absentee ballot, contact your local county voter registration office.

www.scvotes.org

The Help America Vote Act

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was signed into law on October 29, 2002. One of the goals of HAVA is to provide all American voters, including those who are blind or visually impaired, with the opportunity to vote both privately and independently. Therefore, HAVA requires that by January 1, 2006, all voting jurisdictions must provide at least one accessible voting machine per polling place and that any voting machines purchased with federal funds provided under HAVA on or after January 1, 2007, must be accessible.

<http://www.justice.gov/crt/voting/hava/hava.php>

Local County Voter Registration Boards

Abbeville

(864) 366-5312, Ext 108

Aiken

(803) 642-1528

Allendale

(803) 584-4178

Anderson

(864) 260-4035

Bamberg

(803) 245-3028

Barnwell

(803) 541-1060

Beaufort

(843) 470-3759

Berkeley

(843) 719-4056

Calhoun

(803) 874-2929

Charleston

(843) 744-8683

Cherokee

(864) 487-2563

Chester

(803) 385-2562

Chesterfield

(843) 623-2265

Clarendon

(803) 435-8215

Colleton

(843) 549-2842

Darlington

(843) 398-4900

Dillon

(843) 774-1403

Dorchester

(843) 563-0132 or

(843) 832-0132

Edgefield

(803) 637-4072

Fairfield

(803) 635-6255

Florence

(843) 665-3094

Georgetown

(843) 545-3339

Greenville

(864) 467-7250

Greenwood

(864) 942-8585

Hampton

(803) 943-7536

Horry

(843) 915-5440

Jasper

(843) 726-7709

Kershaw

(803) 424-4016

Lancaster

(803) 285-2969

Laurens

(864) 984-4431

Lee

(803) 484-5341, Ext. 324

Lexington

(803) 785-8361

Marion

(843) 423-8268

Marlboro

(843) 479-5612

McCormick

(864) 852-2089

Newberry

(803) 321-2121

Oconee

(864) 638-4196

Orangeburg

(803) 533-6213

Pickens

(864) 898-5949

Richland

(803) 576-2240

Saluda

(864) 445-4500, ext. 2200

Spartanburg

(864) 596-2549

Sumter

(803) 436-2313

Union

(864) 429-1616

Williamsburg

(843) 355-6044

York

(803) 684-1242

US Labor Department Office of Disability Employment Policy announces National Disability Employment Awareness Month theme

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy today unveiled the official theme for October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month: **"Talent Has No Boundaries: Workforce Diversity INCLUDES Workers With Disabilities."** The theme serves to inform the public that workers with disabilities represent a diverse and vibrant talent pool for hire, and epitomizes Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis' commitment to "good jobs for everyone."

Early announcement of the theme helps communities nationwide plan a series of events, some of which will continue throughout the year beginning in October, such as proclamations, public awareness programs and job fairs that showcase the skills and talents of workers with disabilities.

"The solutions and innovations applicable to the successful employment of workers with disabilities impact the entire workforce, including aging workers, injured workers, at-risk youth, women, people of color, and unemployed and underemployed workers," said Kathleen Martinez, assistant secretary of labor for disability employment policy.

As background, Public Law 176, enacted by the Congress in 1945, designated the first week in October each year as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." President Harry S. Truman designated the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities to carry out the Act. In 1962, the word "physically" was removed from the week's name to acknowledge the employment needs of all Americans with disabilities. Congress expanded the week to a month in 1988 and changed its name to "National Disability Awareness Month," which eventually evolved to its current name. The Labor Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy took over responsibility for National Disability Employment Awareness Month in 2001.

Source: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20100630.htm>



2011 Journalism Contest

Sponsored by the SC Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities

2011 Theme:

"Talent Has No Boundaries: Workforce Diversity INCLUDES Workers With Disabilities."

The winner of the **Annual Journalism Essay Contest** will receive a **four-year scholarship to any South Carolina state-supported institution of his or her choice** provided, of course, that the winner is otherwise qualified. The scholarship pays for undergraduate tuition and fees. Each institution has its own definition of tuition and fees, which may or may not include room and board. The scholarship may be cancelled if the recipient does not maintain general scholastic and conduct standards established by the institution. You do not have to have a disability to enter.

For more information on the Journalism Essay Contest, call the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department Public Information Office at (803) 896-6833 or 896-6834, or visit the website at

www.scvrd.net/g_journal_contest.html