



Take Your Legislator To Work

Support Packet

Welcome to the

Take your Legislator to Work Campaign!

An invitation to Utah Lawmakers to visit constituents on the job showcasing the employability of workers with disabilities.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Utah Developmental Disabilities Council (UDDC) wants to raise awareness that adults with disabilities can participate in gainful employment and have a meaningful job in the community. It is time to showcase how the skills and talents of people with disabilities contribute to Utah's economic success.

We want Legislators to know that individualized, integrated community employment is a high priority, and that individuals, including those with the most significant disabilities, can be employed with appropriate supports.

Your participation is vitally important and appreciated so that the Legislator's visit to the workplace is a positive experience for everyone. You will have the full support of the UDDC staff throughout the planning process. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Thank you!

UDDC Staff
uddc@utah.gov
801-245-7350

The Support's Role

In collaboration with the UDDC staff, we are asking you to contact individuals with disabilities in your community who are working in an **integrated community job at a local business for at least minimum wage and with peers without disabilities.**

Please contact that individual, explain the project, and ask if they would like to have their Legislator visit the workplace. Once an individual has agreed to a visit, help them fill out the **Participant Information Form**. This form is available on www.uddc.utah.gov or by contacting the UDDC office at 801-245-7350. Instructions for submitting the form can be found on the form.

Next, talk with the employee about communication with the employer and co-workers. It is very important that the employer give full permission for the visit. Once permission is granted and the Participant Information Form has been submitted, the participant (employee) will be issued the Participant Packet.

Be sure to review the Participant Packet with Participants before calling their Legislator. It contains information about how to find their Legislators and important things to consider before calling and inviting them to visit.

Getting Started

Please ask each participant how you can best assist them. We want to empower everyone to participate as independently as possible.

Preparation Checklist:

- Employer has been contacted and has agreed to the visit
- Local Legislators are researched and contact information is obtained

Help make the call:

- Ideally, the visit will occur in October, but any time of the year is fine.
- Encourage the participant to make the call and extend the invite to the legislator. Assist if the individual has barriers to communication on the telephone.
- Try not to take “no” for an answer. Tell officials, “We’d love for you to visit in October, but if that is not convenient for you, let’s pick a time that fits into your schedule.”

Inviting others:

- If the individual receives coaching or support, please include that person in the conversation with the legislator. We would also like the employer to share his or her perspective.

Examples and details are provided in the Participant Packet

Coordination Checklist

- Participant contacted the Legislator, and a date has been set.
- The UDDC has been notified of the date, time and location of the visit.
- Help plan and coordinate the visit. Make sure everyone knows all the details.
- Talk about what to say- some participants may even want to prepare notes about what to say during the meeting. Help prepare that information.

After the visit

- Help the participant send a "Thank you" letter to the Legislator, and their employer would be appreciated too.
- Send pictures to the UDDC. We will make sure the Legislator receives a copy. We will also use the pictures on our website and other program publicity.



Press Release

The UDDC staff will work with you and others to send out a press release telling local news media about visit. If possible, we will arrange for them to attend the visit.

Follow Up

After October, we will make the stories about the participants available to share with all the Legislators and the Governor. More details will be available as we wrap up the visits.

The Utah Developmental Disabilities Council thanks you for your participation in this very important project. People with Disabilities in Utah deserve the same opportunities for employment as any other group. Many people with disabilities want to work. Our goal is to move our state in the direction of community, integrated employment for a living wage.

