

## Web site links disabled with employment

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A new Web site wants to be the online gathering spot for disabled job seekers.

AccessibleEmployment.org is a national job board that matches disabled workers with employers looking to diversify their staffs.

"The disabled community represents the largest minority group in the country," said AccessibleEmployment President Dana Egreczky. "This is a great place for employers to tap into a large pool of talented and qualified workers."

Finding a job ranks high among the hurdles disabled people face.

Statewide, just 33.5% of working-age people with disabilities were employed in 2006, compared to 77.9% of people without disabilities, according to research from Cornell University. Nearly 70,000 disabled people statewide are looking for jobs.

Fear of discrimination lawsuits if a disabled worker is fired, as well as the added costs of accommodating disabled employees, have kept some firms from hiring them.

But according to the U.S. Department of Labor, employers spend an average of less than \$600 in workplace accommodations for a disabled worker. They can also get a \$2,100 tax credit for each disabled worker they hire.

"It's absolutely good business," Egreczky said.

Job seekers can post their résumés and search the site for free.

Employers pay anywhere from \$200 to post a job to \$7,500 for an annual package that includes banner ads and unlimited job postings.

The site, started by the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation, has 350 job listings and more than 500 résumés.

Several other sites post job listings for the disabled, but AccessibleEmployment offers additional services such as live support for people who need help drafting and posting their résumés.

Egreczky is hoping for more.

"We need the landscape to change," she said. "These folks need jobs."