

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Q: What types of machinery and equipment are eligible?**

A: Any machinery and equipment (new or used) can be considered eligible as long as it will be used at the site predominantly by workers with disabilities.

**Q: Who qualifies as a person with a disability?**

A: Determination is made by OVR.

**Q: What are the employment requirements?**

A: There is no minimum or maximum number to be hired. However, one job for every \$10,000 of grant funds is desirable. Circumstances will be reviewed on an individual basis by OVR. Each worker with a disability must be full time and receive a minimum wage of \$8.50 per hour plus benefits. Likewise, the persons with disabilities using the machinery and equipment provided by the program must be new employees hired by the company (as opposed to being existing employees reassigned.)

**Q: What happens if the company does not maintain the respective worker hired in connection with the grant program?**

A: OVR will work with the company to find replacements from its pool. If a company still fails to comply with the hiring requirements, the situation will be reviewed on an individual basis. The penalty for non-compliance will be repayment of the unforgiven part of the grant, plus legal costs if necessary.



For more information on the  
Employer Outreach Program, contact:

**Northeastern Pennsylvania  
Alliance (NEPA)**

1151 Oak Street  
Pittston, PA 18640  
570.655.5581  
info@nepa-alliance.org

**Schuylkill  
Chamber of Commerce**

91 S. Progress Avenue  
Pottsville, PA 17901  
570.622.1942 - 1.800.755.1942  
Fax - 570.622.1638  
info@schuylkillchamber.com

**Wilkes-Barre OVR Office**

300 G Laird Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702  
570.826.2011 - 1.800.634.2060

**Reading OVR Office**

1090 Commons Blvd.  
Reading, PA 19605-3332  
610.916.2316 - 1.800.442.0949

# OVR

## EMPLOYER OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM

*Bringing People  
and Jobs Together*



*A cooperative effort of the  
Pennsylvania Office of Vocational  
Rehabilitation (OVR),  
Pennsylvania Department  
of Labor and Industry  
and local community  
partners.*

## UNITING FORCES

The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) initiated the Employer Outreach Program to unite the forces of business and government. The program provides local companies with grants to expand their employment and increase their revenue. It also puts qualified citizens with disabilities into the workforce and bolsters the state and local economies.



OVR's aim is to bridge the gap between the business community and people with disabilities and to promote economic growth throughout Pennsylvania.

The goal of the local community partners is to deliver services that are competitive with and exceed services available in other communities. In addition, encouraging employment opportunities for our neighbors with disabilities is a sound business practice.

We're helping local entrepreneurs get the kind of capital and tax incentives they need for their businesses to flourish in today's competitive marketplace. We're opening new avenues of opportunity for people with disabilities, creating jobs for those with the desire to learn and earn, while assisting local employers with capital investment capacity.



## BACKGROUND

The OVR has authorized establishment of grant programs to allow businesses to receive assistance in hiring workers with disabilities. The programs are a cooperative venture between OVR, the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce and local community partners.



The OVR is the state agency providing training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. OVR primarily works with job placement. The local community partners conduct financial reviews and disburses funds and coordinates activities.

The object of this program is to create new jobs for companies in Northeastern Pennsylvania by assisting in the acquisition of machinery and equipment that will be used primarily by workers with disabilities.

Experience gained in similar programs found that employees with disabilities are excellent workers. Employers who participated in previous programs expanded production capacity, became more competitive and assisted in their responsibility as good corporate citizens.



## GRANT PROGRAM

**Amount:** The lesser of \$20,000 or 90% of all machinery and equipment costs.\*

**Grant Forgiveness:** The machinery and equipment purchased remain under a lien to OVR for five years with 20% of the funds forgiven each year in which workers with disabilities are employed and utilize the equipment purchased with the grant funding.

\*Additional nominal legal fees may be charged.

## EMPLOYER TAX CREDITS

Employers participating in the OVR Employer Outreach program are potentially eligible for Work Opportunity Tax Credits. Eligible employers will need to check specific tax credit payment opportunities with the OVR representative. Vocational Rehabilitation referrals are eligible for the WOTC tax credit.

## O J T C R E D I T S

New hires referred by OVR to a participating employer are potentially eligible for On the Job (OJT) Training Programs that can reimburse up to 50% of wages for a new hire for an approved period of time, not to exceed 24 weeks. For additional information concerning OJT Programs contact your OVR service representative or your local Team PACareerLink representative.