



Creating Employment  
Opportunities  
For People With  
Severe Disabilities

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

July 20, 2009

CRP Agency  
CRP Address

Dear CRP Executive:

Late in 2008, LMI Government Consulting, McLean, Virginia, conducted an Economic Benefits Study to assess the economic benefit of employment for people with disabilities within the AbilityOne Program. Almost 800 AbilityOne employees with severe disabilities employed by 77 Community Rehabilitation Programs across the country participated in this confidential study. The results are found in the enclosed brochures.

Individuals with severe disabilities employed in four distinct lines of business – Public Buildings Service- custodial, administrative services, food service, and grounds maintenance – completed a survey regarding their use of government entitlements both prior to and during AbilityOne employment. The results demonstrate the positive impact the AbilityOne Program has on government entitlement program usage.

The Economic Benefits Study demonstrates that when people with severe disabilities go to work on AbilityOne contracts, America wins. As AbilityOne employees become more financially independent, government balance sheets realize increased taxpayer contributions and reduced dependence upon entitlement programs.

The study examined seven entitlement programs: Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), food stamps, welfare, and public housing. The study also assessed increases in the taxpayer contributions of AbilityOne employees. The positive results show that AbilityOne employment within the above four business lines:

- Saves government balance sheets between \$3,067 and \$6,918 per AbilityOne employee;
- Reduces reliance upon SSDI, SSI, and food stamps;
- Eliminates and reduces of the need for welfare benefits, public housing, Medicare and Medicaid;
- Increases annual wages 30% to 56%; and,
- Results in creating taxpayers contributions to federal and state income tax.

The enclosed brochures will help you carry the message to your customers and federally elected officials. This information clearly sends a positive AbilityOne message and enables you to say “thank you” – with quantified results for the support the program receives from the federal government.

If you have questions about the study, please contact Debbie Ignatz, Manager of State Relations, at (678) 838-5171 or [dignatz@nish.org](mailto:dignatz@nish.org). If you need additional brochures, please contact Paula Scanlon at (703) 584-3985 or [pscanlon@nish.org](mailto:pscanlon@nish.org).

Sincerely,

E. Robert Chamberlin  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Enclosures

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