

Economic Benefits Study

PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE (PBS)
CUSTODIAL SERVICES



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WORK: AMERICA BENEFITS

Economic Benefits Brief on
Government Entitlements and
Taxpayer Contributions through
AbilityOne Employment on
PBS Custodial Contracts

AbilityOne

PROGRAM



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ECONOMIC BENEFITS STUDY

PBS Custodial Services

This brief presents research results from an evaluation of how AbilityOne Program employment of individuals with severe disabilities reduces their use of government entitlements and increases their taxpayer contributions. The subject of the study was federal Public Buildings Service (PBS) custodial contracts acquired through the AbilityOne Program.

The AbilityOne Program is the largest source of employment for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the United States. More than 600 community-based nonprofit organizations (NPAs) across the nation participate in the AbilityOne Network. They train and employ these individuals and provide quality goods and services to the federal government at a fair market price.

For the purpose of this research the sample population was comprised of 44 NPAs that have AbilityOne Program PBS Custodial contracts. Conducted in late 2008 by LMI Government Consulting, the study was conducted on behalf of NISH, one of two central nonprofit agencies that facilitate the AbilityOne Program on behalf of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, an independent federal agency.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS STUDY

PBS Custodial Services **Facts**

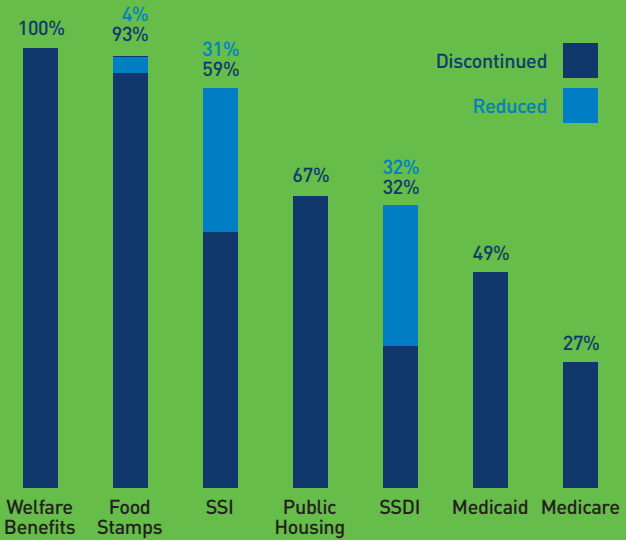
- Fifty-nine percent eliminated receipt of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) as a result of AbilityOne employment on a PBS custodial project.
- Ninety-three percent of employees eliminated the use of food stamps and 100% eliminated welfare benefits. The need for unemployment compensation ceased entirely.
- Prior to working on an AbilityOne PBS custodial contract, only 4 in 10 individuals with severe disabilities were employed. Their average hourly wage as a result of AbilityOne employment is \$10.75.
- Employees increased their annual average federal and state income tax payments from \$304 to \$1,819.
- Average annual wages increased nearly 42% as a result of AbilityOne employment.
- Individuals with severe disabilities employed on AbilityOne PBS custodial contracts decreased their dependence on Medicaid by almost half.

Employing individuals with severe disabilities on federal PBS custodial contracts through the AbilityOne Program saves the federal and state governments an estimated \$6.3 million annually. These employees also increase their payments to the government through income and payroll taxes. The net positive impact to the government is an estimated \$9.8 million annually.

In all, the employment of 2,333 full-time equivalents in AbilityOne PBS custodial contracts positively impacts the annual government balance sheets by \$16.1 million. This is an average annual savings of \$6,918 per employee.

ANNUAL SAVINGS PER FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE:

\$6,918



Percentage of AbilityOne Employees with Disabilities Discontinuing or Reducing Government Entitlements

Percentages are based on the number receiving each particular entitlement one month prior to AbilityOne employment. No reductions in Medicare are shown since individuals are either enrolled in this program or not.





ABILITYONE EMPLOYEES REDUCE RELIANCE UPON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Ninety-three percent of employees with severe disabilities who received food stamps just one month prior to their employment on an AbilityOne PBS custodial contract *discontinued* this benefit after commencing employment. More than half (59%) *discontinued* their reliance upon SSI while another 31% *reduced* the SSI benefits they received as a result of AbilityOne employment on PBS custodial contracts.

Two-thirds (67%) *discontinued* their use of public housing benefits. Almost half (49%) of the individuals with severe disabilities who received Medicaid prior to employment in the AbilityOne Program *discontinued* this benefit once employed on a PBS custodial contract. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits *discontinued* for 32% and *reduced* for almost another third (32%) as a result of employment.



nish

**Creating Employment
Opportunities
For People With
Severe Disabilities**

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Benefits Studies were conducted among 44 NISH-affiliated nonprofit agencies participating in AbilityOne PBS custodial services contracts that train and employ people with disabilities.

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