



# Increased Options, Stronger Support: How States Can Assist Businesses in Employing People with Disabilities

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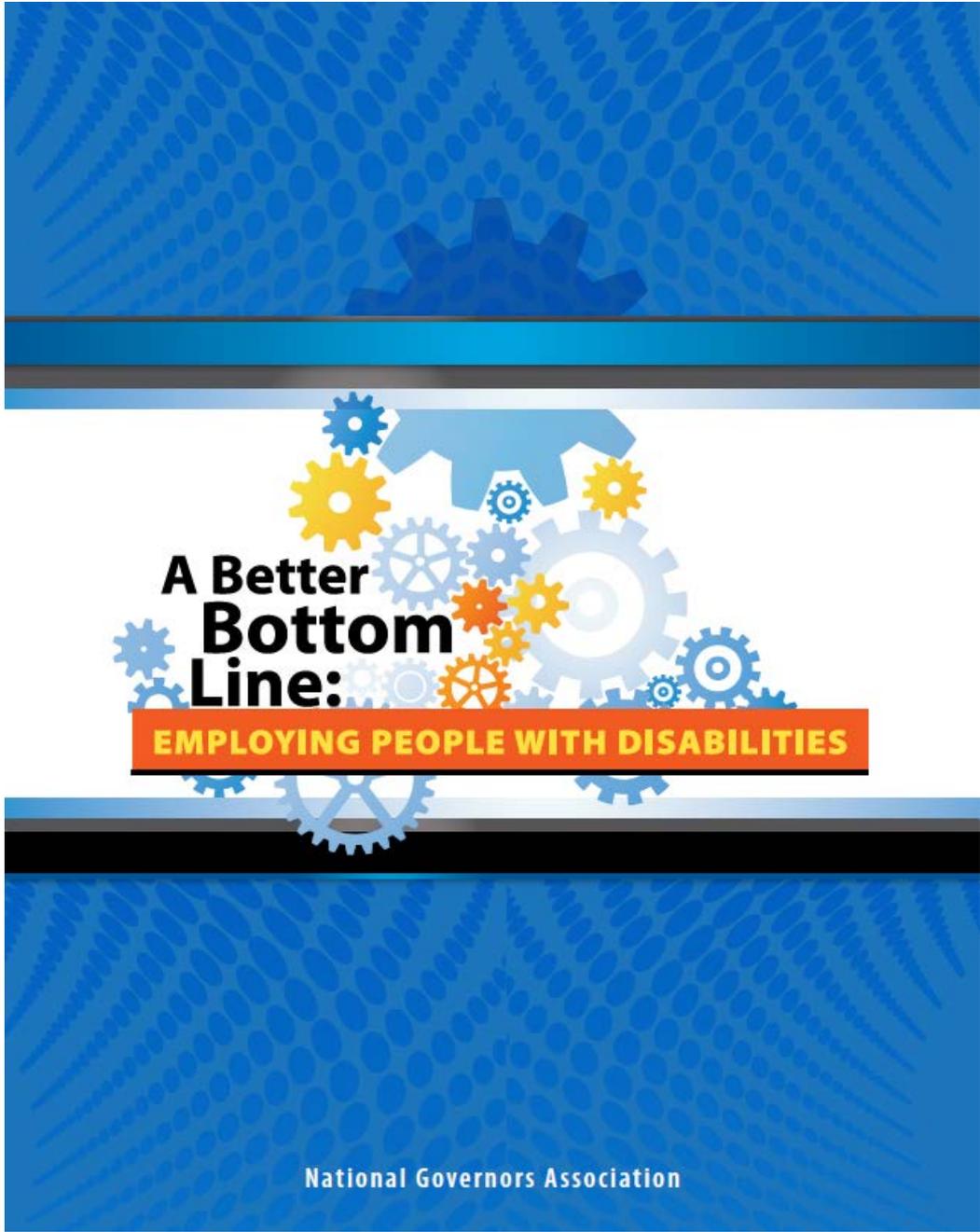
**NETAC**

National Technical Assistance, Policy, and Research Center  
for Employers on Employment of People with Disabilities

**EARN**

Employer Assistance and Resource Network





**A Better  
Bottom  
Line:**

**EMPLOYING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

National Governors Association

# Today's Agenda

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- What is an NGA Chair's Initiative?
- 2012-13 Topic: Employing People with Disabilities
- Governor's Vision
- What's in it for employers?
- NGA's role
- Q&A

# What is an NGA Chair's Initiative?

- **The Chairmanship switches between political parties each year.**
- **NGA Mission Statement**
- The National Governors Association (NGA)—the bipartisan organization of the nation's governors—promotes visionary state leadership, shares best practices and speaks with a collective voice on national policy.
- **Who We Are**
- Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association (NGA) is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s most respected public policy organizations. Its members are the governors of the 55 states, territories and commonwealths. NGA provides governors and their senior staff members with services that range from representing states on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key federal issues to developing and implementing innovative solutions to public policy challenges through the NGA Center for Best Practices. NGA also provides management and technical assistance to both new and incumbent governors.

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# **Topic: Why did the Governor Choose “Employing People with Disabilities”?**

**As the Governor likes to say...**

It's the right thing to do

It's the smart thing for government to do

It makes good business sense

# Topic: What?

What are the details of the topic?

- The initiative focuses on the role that both state government and business can play in advancing opportunities for these individuals to be gainfully employed in the competitive labor market.
- Key emphasis on what STATES can do to help the private sector employ persons with disabilities.
- Which begs the question...What can states do?

# What can states do?

The NGA initiative's objective is to convince governors that a) there is something to be done, and b) provide tools to go out and do it.

## Goals

To advance employment opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities by:

- Educating both private sector and public sector employers about the business benefits of recruiting, retaining and promoting people with disabilities in the workplace;
- Supporting state governments in joining with business partners to develop blueprints to promote the hiring, retention, and upward mobility of individuals with disabilities in integrated employment in both the public and private sectors; and
- Establishing public/private partnerships to build out those blueprints and increase employment of individuals with disabilities.

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# How?

How can states support the private sector in hiring people with disabilities?

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**WE NEED YOU**



# Is it true?

Employers indicate difficulty:

- Finding individuals with disabilities to hire
- Being approached by multiple providers to hire their clients
- Navigating public systems (the workforce system, training providers, healthcare and benefits providers, etc.)
- Others?

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# What's in it for employers?

*A Better Bottom line: Employing People with Disabilities* is focused on the private sector

How can states help the private sector find and hire skilled workers with disabilities?

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# 2012-13 NGA Chair's Initiative Timeline

## 1 Year as NGA Chair:

- Spring 2012      Develop concept paper and scope
- July 2012        Announce initiative and expectations
- Summer 2012    NGA research and informational interviews
- Early Fall 2012   Thought-Leader Roundtables
- Winter 2013     NGA Winter Meeting
- Spring 2013     Regional Institutes for State Policy Teams
- Summer 2013    Release Blueprint for Governors and Businesses

# NGA Focus: Where are we going?

- Experts Roundtable (next week)
- Winter Meeting (Winter 2013)
- State Institutes (Spring 2013)
- Annual Meeting (Summer 2013)
- Blueprint to Governors (Sustaining it beyond 2013)

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# THANK YOU!

For a summary of the initiative, please see:

[http://www.nga.org/cms/home/news-room/news-releases/page\\_2012/col2-content/new-nga-chair-announces-year-lon.html](http://www.nga.org/cms/home/news-room/news-releases/page_2012/col2-content/new-nga-chair-announces-year-lon.html)

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