

Effecting Policy Change Through Crowdsourcing: ePolicyWorks National Online Dialogues



37
Dialogues
Held



12,616
Participants
Engaged

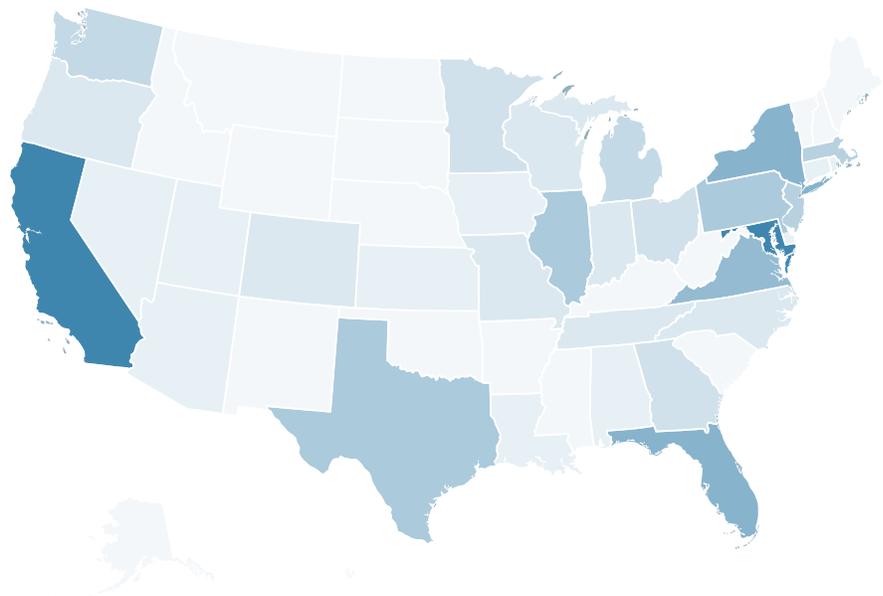


1,459
Ideas
Generated



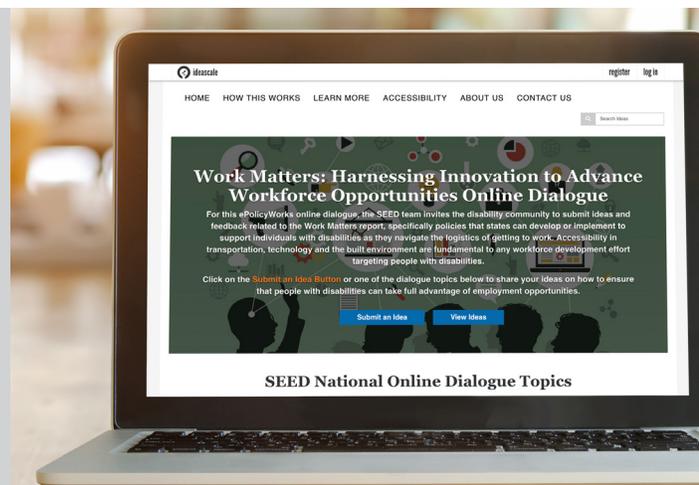
5,843
Comments
Gathered

Dialogue participants work and shape policy in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.



Since 2013, ePolicyWorks has hosted online dialogues to engage stakeholders and enable the government to gather the public's input on key policy issues related to the employment of people with disabilities. Topics discussed include:

- ➔ Federal Policy
- ➔ State Policy
- ➔ Laws and Regulations
- ➔ Careers and the Workforce
- ➔ Youth and Young Adult Employment
- ➔ Technology
- ➔ Transportation



Sponsored by the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), ePolicyWorks is an example of information sharing and participatory policymaking through interactive technology. It reflects a change in how stakeholders connect and collaborate with the Federal government and each other, thereby increasing the efficiency of the policymaking process. ePolicyWorks works to promote positive, lasting change through effective public policy and advance America's promise of equal employment opportunity for all citizens.

ePolicyWorks is collaboration in action

ePolicyWorks is a collaborative approach to federal policymaking that leverages Web-based technology, stakeholder involvement and real-time information sharing. It encourages national experts and stakeholders to shape policy and address specific barriers to employment faced by people with disabilities and establishes a model for other national policy-building efforts on a range of important topics. In addition, ePolicyWorks offers policymakers accessible engagement, productivity and crowdsourcing tools, including online dialogues.

ePolicyWorks benefits government and citizens through increased involvement

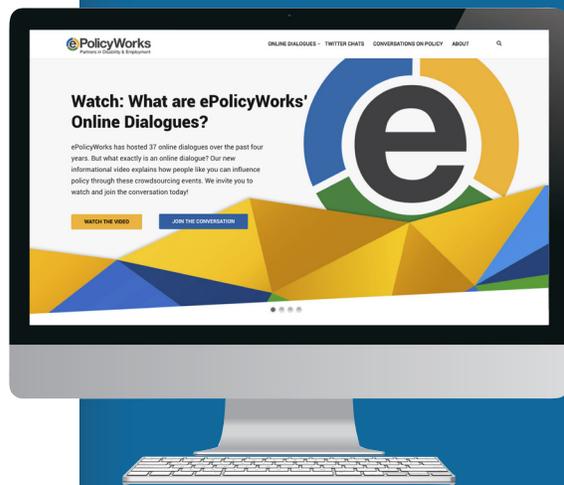
ePolicyWorks promotes the public's input on key policy issues related to the employment of people with disabilities. Government agencies benefit by tapping into a diverse group of people who bring unique skills, talents and knowledge to the task at hand. It is also easier to navigate, less costly, more efficient, more flexible and more accessible than traditional input tactics such as in-person interviews and qualitative research studies. The ePolicyWorks online dialogues encourage interaction among users and expands reach to groups who may otherwise not engage with the policymaking process. Lastly, it provides valuable quantitative and qualitative data.

ePolicyWorks heightens government transparency and efficiency

ePolicyWorks helps modernize government, heighten transparency and maximize efficiency through its open network of stakeholders and constituents. Beyond simply providing a forum for contributors to share information, the initiative's online dialogues drive policy development. Because the online dialogues are hosted on the Web, more stakeholders can participate, less logistical planning and support is needed, accessibility is built-in and participants can contribute and access information any time of the day.

ePolicyWorks dialogues inform effective policy

To date, ePolicyWorks has hosted online dialogues on a number of different topics around disability employment, including workplace accommodations, advancing state policy, careers in the arts, accessible transportation, promoting inclusion, and hiring and retaining people with disabilities. Through crowdsourcing, these dialogues help drive innovation and ensure the correct issues are being addressed by engaging a broad group of people of varying perspectives in the conversation. When a diverse group of people is at the table, more needs can be addressed. Ideas and input collected from each dialogue in turn shape policy and lead to better employment outcomes for people with disabilities.



Join the conversation today!

Through ePolicyWorks, we rely on the insights and ideas of stakeholders like you to help us understand the employment challenges and opportunities faced by people with disabilities across the country. More importantly, your voice helps ODEP and our partners identify solutions, create policy and effect change that positively impacts the employment of people with disabilities.

Now, it's *your* turn to join the conversation. All dialogues are open to the public, registration is free and anyone is welcome to join.

Visit us online to watch an introduction on how our dialogues work. Then, access upcoming dialogues, join our mailing list and learn more about the power of crowdsourcing.

www.ePolicyWorks.org