

Daisy Thompson

4/21/2022

Home work

County Council Budgetary Hearing

Greetings President Albornoz & county council members: My name is Daisy Thompson I am a Senior living with a disability.

My ask is that funds be earmarked to start an initiative or expand a current program to create noncompetitive, County jobs for disabled adults, seniors, and retired professionals, with the option **to work from home for those who need it**. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that it is possible to work virtually.

According to the census bureau 30% of persons receiving government assistance were persons with disabilities. In 2021, persons with a disability accounted for 11.9 percent of the civilian noninstitutional population. Persons with a disability tend to be older than persons with no disability, reflecting the increased incidence of disability with age. Workers with a disability were more likely to be employed part time than those with no disability. Among workers with a disability, 29 percent usually worked part time in 2021, compared with 16 percent of those without a disability. The unemployment rate in 2021 for the disabled was 10.1% compared to non-disabled persons at 5.1 %.

There are many programs that assist seniors, and persons with disabilities to work, but often do not take into consideration work history, or education level. Most are supported employment, or initiatives, that involve " The Ticket to Work training program".

Therefore, many seniors, retirees, and disabled workers could really benefit from working from home, because it would eliminate travel cost, and physical exertion, offer the possibility of working full-time, and create jobs for those who simply cannot work in an office setting. It is true that older workers have proven to be valuable assets to companies where they work. They have shown that they have strong work ethics, high productivity, extensive experience, and low absenteeism and turnover rates.

In conclusion, Senator Chris Van Hollen agrees with me and believes we should do more to expand opportunities, reduce barriers, and increase investments in programs that support people with disabilities, retired workers, and seniors to help them get back to work.

