The ePolicyWorks Model:
A Collaborative Approach to Effective Policymaking

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), ePolicyWorks works to promote positive, lasting change by informing effective public policy with the goal of advancing America's promise of equal employment opportunity for all all.

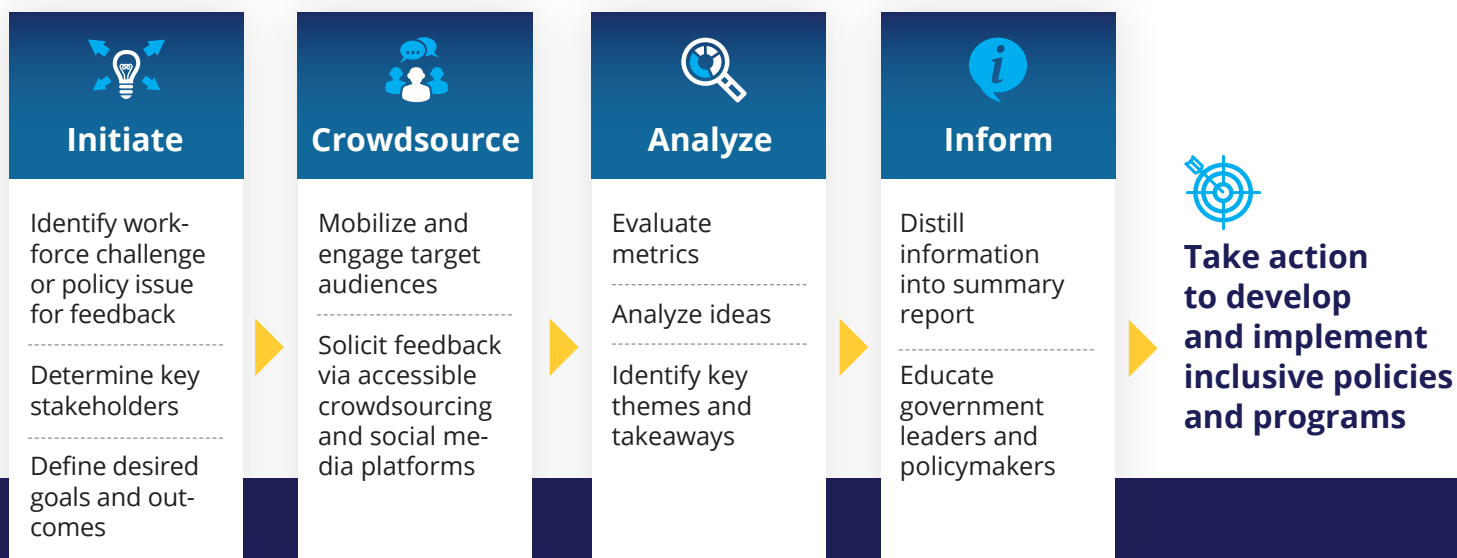## ePolicyWorks is collaboration in action

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.

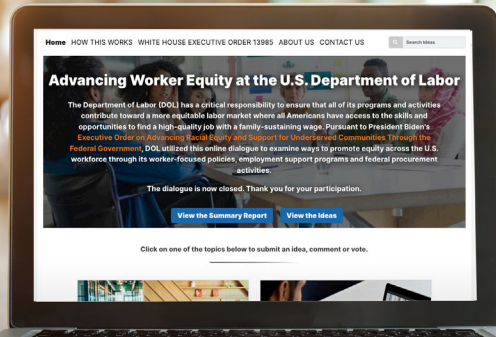## ePolicyWorks benefits government and citizens through increased involvement

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. ePolicyWorks online dialogues encourage interaction among users and expand reach to groups who may otherwise not engage with the policymaking process. Lastly, it provides valuable quantitative and qualitative data that can be used to inform decision-making.

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 an accessible Web-based platform, more stakeholders can participate, less logistical planning and support is needed and participants can contribute and access information any time of the day.

Initiate

Identify work-force challenge or policy issue for feedback

Determine key stakeholders

Define desired goals and out-comes

Crowdsource

Mobilize and engage target audiences

Solicit feedback via accessible crowdsourcing and social me-dia platforms

Analyze

Evaluate metrics

Analyze ideas

Identify key themes and takeaways

Inform

Distill information into summary report

Educate government leaders and policymakers

Take action to develop and implement inclusive policies and programs

ePolicyWorks Online Dialogues:
Effective Policy Change Through Crowdsourcing

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
- ✔ COVID-19 & Economic Recovery
- ✔ Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibly

60 Dialogues Held	**26,871** Community Members Engaged	**6,153** Ideas Contributed	**11,572** Comments Gathered	**41,700** Votes Posted

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Join the conversation!

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.

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