

Dialogue Summary

From July 24 to August 25, 2023, and on September 20, 2023, the ePolicyWorks national online dialogue, *Our Future Matters: Informing the Federal Interagency Strategy*, hosted by the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and Federal Partners in Transition gathered ideas from individual participants on ways to improve policies and practices that lead to a smooth transition to adulthood for youth with disabilities. The online event welcomed ideas and experiences from any interested stakeholder, including those with a personal or professional interest in supporting the aspirations of youth and young adults with disabilities to live, work and thrive in their communities. This snapshot summarizes key themes and takeaways gleaned by DOL/ODEP from the online dialogue, as well as two companion Fireside Chats hosted on X held on August 17 and September 20.

Key Themes and Takeaways from the Dialogue



Consider changes and updates to Social Security



Create and support opportunities for peer mentoring



Educate employers



Encourage the Federal Government to serve as a model employer



Ensure higher education is accessible and inclusive of young adults with disabilities



Expand home based services to include transition services



Focus on improving access through transportation



Improve the transition from schools to adult services



Include transition information and support in school (including Tribal school) curriculums and resources



Integrate wraparound supports and services into the transition process



Provide transition services inclusive of medically complex individuals



Provide transition support for the specific needs of disabled youth in rural areas

Dialogue Participation Summary



7,130

dialogue visits

Logins:
1,044



185

registrants

States represented:
40 + D.C.



95

participants

51% contributed
ideas or comments

Online Dialogue Contributions



64

ideas



39

comments



81

likes

Fireside Chat Participation

To complement the dialogue, ePolicyWorks hosted two Fireside Chats on X on August 17 and September 20, 2023. Featured guests of the chats included the Maryland Department of Disabilities, the National Down Syndrome Congress, the Institute for Educational Leadership, the Corps Network and the Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth). The numbers below include combined totals from both Fireside Chats.



55

posts on X



10,951

impressions



630

engagements



28

resources

Thank you to all who participated in this important conversation in the Fireside Chats on X!

CAPE-Youth

Institute for Educational Leadership
Maryland Department of Disabilities
National Down Syndrome Congress

Outreach Snapshot



A total of 18 email campaigns were sent out to stakeholder groups to encourage participation in the dialogue. Recipients include, but are not limited to:

- Educational institutions
- Independent-living organizations
- Advocacy groups
- State government officials
- Local government officials
- Disabled young adults and their families
- Other key stakeholders, including members of the disability community

Thank you to all who participated in this important conversation.

A number of leading organizations, agencies, and advocacy groups promoted this dialogue to their networks of key stakeholders to encourage participation, including but not limited to:

Administration for Community Living
Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion
Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board
U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office
U.S. Department of Education
Workforce GPS

Connect with ePolicyWorks to learn more about policies, programs and upcoming dialogues.