

Advancing Your Career: Online Applications, Technology for Workers with Disabilities



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For disabled professionals looking to advance their career or find a job, it's true that resources are limited. However, with the work-from-home phenomenon and the advances in technology, it's easier to make your career goals a reality. No matter where you are in your career, there's an app or online resource to help you—and no matter what your disability, you can use the power of technology to take charge of that career. [Northwest Veterans Newsletter](#) offers a few tips that can help you advance your career.

Attend an Online Career Fair

ABILITY Jobs is a website where you can post your resume and search for jobs, and it regularly hosts a [live online career fair](#). A traditional job fair isn't always fully accessible, and the online fair was designed to bridge that gap. It features live video and audio with employers, screen reader compatibility, and speech to text (in real time). Text-based messaging and sign language interpreters are also available. You simply need a computer or smartphone that runs Chrome or Firefox, and a webcam and microphone.

A reliable smartphone is important for this and many other aspects of job hunting—and job keeping, for that matter. It needs to support updated versions of job hunting apps, and it needs to load websites quickly. After you've landed the job, clients and co-workers have to be able to reach you. If it's time for an upgrade but your budget is limited, look to providers with reliable plans and [introductory promotions](#) on new devices. No matter what you choose, make sure it has the speed and memory you need for a successful job hunt and career.

Find the Job That's Right For You

In addition to ABILITY Jobs, there are several other job search sites that are just for people with disabilities. Try [Getting Hired](#), [Recruit Disability](#), and [Think Beyond the Label](#). From posting your resume, searching for jobs from employers who already understand their responsibilities when hiring a disabled person, and reading blogs and advice about employment, these sites aim to be thorough and fully accessible.

In addition to these hiring sites, you can look around online job boards for listings. For example, if you're a transcriptionist, you can [create a listing](#) and let clients find you. You can also look for employers who are looking for a contractor to assist with their business.

Nail the Interview

Before your interview, you'll want to practice answering some of the most common interview questions. Take some time to also review potential scenarios for interviewing with a disability. For example, make sure the interview location is accessible and you have the resources you need, like a sign language interpreter. Remember that you don't have to answer questions about your disability if you don't want to, nor do you even have to disclose it if it's not something that requires any adjustments to the interview process.

Advance Your Career

Take advantage of opportunities from your employer. Workshops, mentorship programs, and allowances for continued education may be available. Today, online degree options make it simple to earn a degree from home. Check out this [guide](#) to the best online schools for people with disabilities. These schools are committed to the accessibility of their online programs. Websites like Coursera offer free online [college courses](#) if you're looking to sharpen your skills; if you need credits or a certificate showing you took the course, you can make the purchase.

For ideas and inspiration, check out Learn How to Become. It offers tips on finding a job, how and when to disclose your disability, and [ideas for careers](#) that may be suitable for you along with stories of people with your disability who found success in those careers.

Of course, you can also take to social media to network, which is great for both job hunting and career advancement. Build connections and reach out to your contacts to see who is hiring and get ideas for continuing education and personal development. By embracing all the internet has to offer, you can land the job of your dreams.