



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

GREEN JOBS AND DISABILITY PREVENTION

Health safety and well-being of people in America is, for the most part, linked with employment.

A forum was held by the Urban Institute entitled “A Safety Net for Working Families”. Presenters at the forum were policy experts on employment and project directors from community projects who provided concrete examples of creation of ‘green jobs”

Summary

Job quality is an issue that is often raised in political debates. While income level is a major criterion for a good job, there are also health quality issues associated with employment such as health insurance, family leave, wellness programs, work place safety income security and other factors associated with health

A “one million trees” and weatherization projects were described at the forum that provided needed concrete example of “green jobs” that generalizes to the real world. These are jobs for low skill workers that are without health insurance, pensions, family leave, wellness programs or other aspects associated with employment health benefits There are 39 million people in America who live in poverty, 60 million if the European measure of 60% of median income is applied, who are in need of subsistence level work.

Disability Prevention Issue

At present, the health safety and well-being of vulnerable populations is linked with employment.” Green Jobs” should be linked with adequate public health benefits that prevent diminished health that may lead to disability. Vulnerable populations should be provided with health protection with such program as Medicaid, SCHIP, Medicare, community health centers, nutrition for workers, infants and children through Federal nutrition program and other public health programs.

Collaboration of subsistence level jobs linked with public health safety net programs could prevent diminished health of vulnerable population that may result in a host of chronic health conditions that lead to disability. Chronic health conditions result in 72% of aggregate health care costs.

Activity

A post-forum discussion and a letter was written to one of leaders in development of “green jobs” in applied settings concerning adequate acute health care and public health benefits associated with subsistence level jobs

Principle

All “green jobs” should be linked to public health provisions that prevent diminished health that can lead to disability.