



Maine Business Leadership Network

Access an Emerging Market-People with Disabilities

What is the US Business Leadership Network (BLN)?

The US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®) is the national disability organization that serves as the collective voice of over 60 Business Leadership Network affiliates across North America, representing over 5,000 employers. The USBLN® supports the development and expansion of its Business Leadership Network (BLN) affiliates. A BLN affiliate is an employer-led coalition dedicated to promoting opportunities that benefit business and people with disabilities.

BLN Program Goals:

- Assist businesses to attract and retain new employees and customers with disabilities.
- Develop business leaders who value diversity and actively work to promote strong communities that include people with disabilities.

Key Characteristics of a BLN:

Employer Led, grassroots, business-oriented coalitions that:

- Provide disability related education and support to employers/employees
- Build partnerships amongst disability, business, government and community groups
- Focus on employment outcomes, encouraging disability community outreach

Why Launch a BLN in Maine? It Makes Good Business Sense!

- 1 in 5 Americans have a disability.
- As customers people with disabilities have an annual buying power of \$3 trillion and aggregate income of \$220 billion.
- Workers with disabilities have a higher retention rate and are more loyal to their companies than other employees.
- 88% of Americans prefer to give their business to employers who hire people with disabilities.
- Maine contains the nation's oldest population with the highest median age of 41.5.

Announcing Exciting Next Steps ...

The Maine State Chamber has partnered with Maine's new BLN affiliate, and will provide fiscal agency services, office space and other chamber support. Plans are underway to hire a part-time BLN director and officially launch by early June 2012!

To get involved or to learn more:

Call the Employer Hotline: 1-855-ALL-HIRE
www.employmentforme.org • www.usbln.org