

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 07-64

Policy Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Associate Directors
DCS Field Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: David W. Mackley, Director
Department of Workforce Development

Date: September 28, 2007

Subject: **Google Internet Search Aid for the Visually Impaired**

Purpose: To transmit information to Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners regarding the availability of an aid to assist visually impaired customers to conduct internet searches.

Background: The search engine, Google has developed a search page to make internet searches more useful for the visually impaired. Called Google Accessible Search, the page provides search capabilities that prioritize access to websites that are the most user-friendly for those with impaired vision. Using the page results in receiving the same listing of matching websites as would a “regular” search. However, the listing is prioritized so as to place those sites most easily read by speech readers (those sites with less graphic “clutter”) at the top of the list.

The page is currently operational in *test mode* but can be used and Google welcomes feedback from users to assure optimum usefulness in its final version.

The page can be accessed through the following link:

<http://labs.google.com/accessible/>

More detailed information about the use of Google Accessible Search may be found in Attachment A, "Accessible Search FAQ".

Action

Required: Please assure that all staff are aware of the availability of this service for visually impaired customers.