



Employer and Worker Services

Inclusive Job Descriptions

Employers can recruit and retain workers beginning with the job posting with an inclusive job description. Having a job description that is inclusive includes using “local” language or that which is easily understood by your pool of candidates, being cognizant of cognitive processing of potential applicants, avoiding gendered language, industry jargon, acronyms, and literacy exclusion. Inclusive job descriptions are comprehensive in their approach and incorporate physical (lift, push, pull, walk, stand), psychosocial (engagement, work-life balance, workload management), and cognitive (adaptation, communication, organization, and planning) demands of a job. As such, they can be used as a tool for employers to recruit, onboard, and retain valued workers. Inclusive job descriptions speak to diverse applicants while being specific about the skillsets required. Leading with sensitive, thoughtful, and inclusive language shows candidates you’re an inclusive workplace that considers all applicants regardless of gender, background, disability, or status.

Job descriptions should also incorporate environmental considerations in the workplace impacting individuals like noise, lighting, extreme temperatures, dust, and fumes. Environmental conditions are necessary for identifying if an individual can perform the essential functions of a job and allows an employee the opportunity to make an informed decision about accepting a position or returning to work following an illness or injury.

An inclusive functional job description takes into consideration all areas an individual and their employer should consider during recruitment, onboarding, promotion, and retention.

RETAIN Kentucky’s Senior Job Analyst is available for consultation to assist in your inclusive job description needs.

Work and Assistive Technology Support Assessment

Assistive technology assessments are conducted by HDI team members with the collective knowledge and skills needed to determine possible assistive technology solutions that address the needs of a worker and promote success in the work environment. Assessments identify and resolve barriers to work that begin at home such as activities of daily living, transportation barriers as well as barriers in the workplace and those specific to the individual’s essential job functions.

Assistive technology recommendations often increase safety, productivity, and morale for the individual employee as well as their coworkers. This service can be provided virtually or in person.

For more information, contact Kimberly Wickert at Kimberly.wickert@uky.edu or (859) 359-6726.