Promoting Employment Among People with Disabilities: The State Partnership Initiative

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American Public Health Association Conference
Philadelphia, PA
November 12, 2002
Goals of the SPI Demonstration

- Focus on people with disabilities who receive benefits, particularly SSI or SSDI
- Focus on three key outcomes
  - Work
  - Benefit receipt
  - Income
- Give states flexibility to achieve these goals
  - Direct intervention
  - Systems change
Demonstration: Operations and Evaluation

- 18 State Projects
  - 12 funded by SSA
  - 6 funded by RSA
- Project Office (VCU and MPR)
- Comprehensive Evaluation
Barriers to Employment

- Policies mean work may not pay
- Complex rules inhibit use of existing policies
- Severe impairments and inadequate skills
- Employer perceptions
Interventions

- Medicaid Buy-In (12)
- SSI waivers (4)
- Benefits counseling (15)
- One-stop centers (6)
- Service coordination (13)
- Employment assistance (6)
- Peer supports (3)
- Employer outreach/education (8)
A. Total Enrollment

n = 6,479 (12/31/01), n = 9,000 (9/30/02)