What a Navigator IS:
- Systems Change Agent
- Problem Solver
- Relationship Builder
- Resource
- Facilitator

What a Navigator IS NOT:
- Case Manager
- Front-line Staff Person in the One-Stop Career Center
- Community Work Incentives Coordinator
- Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist

DPN Resources:

Disability Program Navigator site:
http://dpnavigator.net/

Navigator Frequently Asked Questions:
http://dpnavigator.net/pages/faq_nav.html

One-Stop Toolkit:
http://www.onesoptoolkit.org

Navigator Training Archive:
http://dpnavigator.net/pages/training.html

Disability and Employment:
http://disability.workforce3one.org

Social Security Administration:
http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/research/navigator.htm
The DPN Initiative

The DPN Initiative is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). Since 2003, it has been funded for approximately $125 million from DOL ETA and $12 million from SSA.

- DOL’s Employment and Training Administration and SSA’s Office of Program Development and Research signed an Interagency Agreement in September 2002 to jointly fund, implement, pilot, and evaluate the Navigator Initiative.

- DOL has entered into cooperative agreements with the state level workforce system in 42 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Complex rules surrounding entitlement programs, along with fear of losing cash assistance and health benefits, can often discourage people with disabilities from working. DOL and SSA have established the Disability Program Navigator (DPN) Initiative to better inform beneficiaries and other people with disabilities about the work support programs now available at DOL-funded One-Stop Career Centers.

The DPN Initiative is: developing new/sustaining ongoing partnerships to achieve seamless, comprehensive, and integrated services; promoting the workforce investment system becoming Employment Networks under the Ticket-to-Work Program; blending/braiding resources to leverage funding for individual customers; creating systemic change; and expanding the capacity of the workforce investment system to serve customers with disabilities and employers.

July 26 marks the 19th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)... the ADA’s provisions include the right to seek, obtain, pursue and maintain employment without being hampered by physical or attitudinal barriers. I believe that having a job is a civil right. Those who are qualified for and want to work should not be denied that right because of an inaccessible building or an outdated set of assumptions about what they can or cannot do. Unfortunately, the employment rate for people with disabilities in this country is unacceptably low: 22.6% of individuals with disabilities in our country are participating in the labor force, compared to 71.9% of persons with no disability.

- Statement by Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis

THE DPN Position - The Navigators:

- Guide One-Stop Career Center staff in helping people with disabilities access and navigate the various programs that impact their ability to gain/retain jobs.

- Facilitate integrated, seamless, and comprehensive services in One-Stop Career Centers to persons with disabilities.

- Improve linkages to the employer community and develops demand-responsive strategies to meet their recruitment and retention needs.

- Facilitate the transition of in- or out-of-school youth with disabilities to obtain employment and economic self-sufficiency.

- Serve as a resource on programs that impact the ability of persons with disabilities to enter and remain in the workforce.

- Bring together multiple partners to foster a collaborative effort by building Interagency Action Committees to address systems level barriers and Integrated Resource Teams to address individual level barriers to employment job seekers with disabilities experience.