



Mobility International USA (MIUSA)

Invites **WOMEN and MEN with DISABILITIES** from
Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua y Perú
to apply for the

International Leadership, Employment and Disability (I-LEAD) Exchange Program

March 9 - 29, 2008 in Eugene, Oregon, USA

MIUSA's **I-LEAD** exchange program is a unique opportunity to strengthen your leadership skills, create new visions and build international networks of support to explore leadership challenges and develop practical strategies and skills to increase employment options for people with disabilities in Latin America.

WHO CAN APPLY:

Women and men with disabilities who are over age 21 from Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru, who:

- Are members or employees of disability-led organizations, organizations that serve people with disabilities, local businesses that employ or provide workforce training for people with disabilities, or businesses that are interested in expanding their inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace
- Demonstrate leadership and interest in employment strategies for women and men with disabilities
- Demonstrate the capacity to increase employment of women and men with disabilities in their communities and/or country
- Have not participated in a MIUSA exchange program
- Have an understanding of disability rights issues and a commitment to working for rights of people with disabilities.

LANGUAGE:

- **Spanish-English translation and sign language interpretation** will be provided during formal program workshops, seminars and site visits only.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The I-LEAD program will include workshops, site visits and practical activities, on topics including:

- **Employment strategies** for women and men with disabilities including education, training, supported employment, vocational rehabilitation
- **Policy and legislation** for employment opportunities
- **Equal opportunities for education**, including inclusive schools, educational options for Deaf students, legislation and legal rights, services and accommodations for accessibility

- **Career planning and higher education** including policies and support systems for people with disabilities
- **Transportation and accessible communities:** policy and models for accessible transportation systems and public access
- **Microenterprise** and private sector partnerships
- **Leadership strategies** for employment, including using the media, coalition building
- **Organizational development and sustainability**, including funding resources and strategies, and fostering partnerships with community organizations and business
- **Cultural, team-building and community service** experiences
- **Goals and action plans** for employment of women and men with disabilities

ACCOMODATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION:

- Simple but comfortable accommodations with shared bedrooms and bathrooms will be provided.
- Breakfast, lunch and a light dinner will be provided each day. All supplemental meals, snacks, or personal incidentals (including laundry) will be at the expense of each delegate.
- Accessible public transportation will be provided.

Note: Please do not expect “luxury” accommodations, meals, or transportation.

PROGRAM COST:

- The total program fee is \$250 USD. *Limited scholarships may be available based on applicant’s demonstrated need.*
- **MIUSA will provide: roundtrip airplane tickets** for participants to travel from home countries to Eugene, Oregon, USA; **food, lodging and local transportation** for all I-LEAD program activities.
- **Program participants** will be responsible for obtaining a current passport, U.S. visa and all related costs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Mobility International USA

2008 Latin America I-LEAD

Email: apply@miusa.org

Fax: +1-541-343-6812

Mobility International USA (MIUSA) is a US-based, non-profit organization whose mission is to empower people with disabilities around the world to achieve their human rights through international exchange and international development.

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International Leadership, Employment and Disability (I-LEAD)
March 9 - 29, 2008 in Eugene, Oregon, USA

APPLICATION and INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please fill out ALL SECTIONS of this application, including:

- _____ **Applicant Information Form (Section 1 – 3)**
- _____ **8 Essay Answers (use separate pages for your answers)**
- _____ **Two Completed Recommendation Forms**

IMPORTANT: INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED UNTIL MIUSA RECEIVES EACH SECTION. APPLICATIONS ARE CONSIDERED COMPLETE ONCE MIUSA RECEIVES EACH OF THE ABOVE SECTIONS.

2. Please type or print clearly in ALL SECTIONS.

- Applications may be submitted by e-mail, fax or postal mail.
- Applications will be accepted in English or Spanish. Applicants will NOT be judged on English spelling, vocabulary or grammar!
- If sending answers verbally on audiotape or CD, please make sure your answers are audible and clearly understood.

3. MIUSA will strive for diversity of gender, age, ethnic background, and types of disability in final selection of qualified participants. In selecting participants, MIUSA will give priority to: Women and men with disabilities who are over age 21 from Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru who demonstrate:

- Leadership experience or leadership potential
- Experience and interest in employment strategies for women and men with disabilities
- Capacity to increase employment of people with disabilities in their communities and/or country
- Understanding of disability rights issues and a commitment to working for rights of people with disabilities.

4. Two Recommendation Forms: MUST be completed by two people familiar with your work and qualities as a leader. Family members cannot complete your recommendations.

- Suggested references could include employers, government agencies, or non-governmental organizations (i.e. a women's group, disabled peoples organization, community based organization, education, social services, etc.)
- Give each of your reference persons a copy of the program overview pages that describe the I-LEAD exchange program.
- Have each of your reference persons complete and sign a Recommendation Form and send the completed, signed Recommendation Form to MIUSA by email or fax. (E-mail to: apply@miusa.org, or by fax at +1-541-343-6812.)

5. APPLY EARLY! Applications will be accepted until December 21, 2007.

- We expect to receive a large number of applications for a **limited number of openings**.
- Early acceptance will also allow more time for travel preparations (i.e., obtaining a passport and visa interview).

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APPLICATION INFORMATION FORM: PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

SECTION 1:

Applicant Family Name: _____ **Applicant First Name:** _____

Birth Date: Month: _____ Day: _____ Year: _____

E-mail address(es): _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ **Province/State:** _____

Country: _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Tel/TTY: (____)(____)_____ **Fax:** (____)(____)_____

(Country code, City code, Local number)

(Country code, City code, Local number)

=====
Do you have a current passport? NO YES **Country of Passport** _____

Passport Number: _____ **Passport Expiration Date:** Month: __ Day: __ Year: ____

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Occupation (if a student, what is your field of study?): _____

Primary Language (spoken or sign): _____

English Language level: Beginning _____ Slow _____ Fast _____ Fluent _____

American Sign Language level: Beginning _____ Slow _____ Fast _____ Fluent _____

Other Languages (spoken or sign): _____

SECTION 2:

Organization/NGO/Business that you will represent: _____

Contact Person: _____ **E-mail address:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Province/State:** _____

Country: _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Tel/TTY: (____)(____)_____ **Fax:** (____)(____)_____

(Country code, City code, Local number)

(Country code, City code, Local number)

Applicant Family Name: _____ **Applicant First Name:** _____

=====

Please list one other person who could contact you if we are not able to reach you:
Name: _____ **Relationship to you:** _____

Email address(es): _____

Tel/TTY: (____)(____)_____ **Fax:** (____)(____)_____

(Country code, City code, Local number) (Country code, City code, Local number)

SECTION 3:

DISABILITY INFORMATION

MIUSA's International Leadership, Employment and Disability (I-LEAD) exchange program is designed to meet the leadership needs of people with disabilities. MIUSA will select qualified people of diverse geographic regions, gender, age, ethnic background and type of disabilities. MIUSA will make appropriate arrangements for each qualified applicant, to ensure that each delegate with a disability can participate fully and equally. To help us meet this goal, please complete the following:

Do you have a disability? NO _____ YES _____

If yes, please describe your disability:

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Applicant Family Name: _____ **Applicant First Name:** _____

E-mail address(es): _____ **Country:** _____

Application Instructions:

- **Applications may be submitted by:**
 - Email: apply@miusa.org
 - Fax: +1 (541) 343-6812
 - Postal Mail: MIUSA, I-LEAD 2008, 132 E. Broadway, Suite 343, Eugene, OR, 97401, USA
 - **Applications will be accepted in English or Spanish.** Applicants will NOT be judged on English spelling, vocabulary or grammar!
 - If sending answers verbally on audiotape or CD, please make sure your answers are audible and clearly understood.
-

Please answer the following questions completely and clearly:

1. Organization/NGO/business you will represent:

- a) What is the name of the organization, NGO or business you will represent?
- b) What is the purpose, mission or goal of the organization, NGO or business? (Limit 100 words)
- c) What is your position in the organization, NGO or business? (i.e. member, staff, volunteer, etc.)
- d) What are your daily tasks and responsibilities?

2. Leadership experience(s):

- a) Please describe your leadership experiences in your community (i.e. home, school, work, organizations), locally, nationally, regionally, and/or internationally.
- b) What makes you a good leader?
- c) What skills do you need to learn to make you a stronger leader?

3. Personal employment or volunteer experience(s) and goals:

- a) Describe your own employment or volunteer experience(s), including current or past jobs (please describe paid or unpaid positions).
- b) What is your dream or goal for your own employment? For example, what type of job, what position, and what employer?

4. Strategies for increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities:

Employment opportunities for people with disabilities are often limited by hiring discrimination, lack of job skills, training and education, lack of accessible transportation options, inaccessible workplaces and technology, lack of role models, low self-esteem, discouragement from family members, etc.

- a) What have YOU (yourself or with a group or business) done to address these problems to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities?
- b) Describe the five most important strategies that would increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities in your community.

5. **Imagine that you have been invited by an organization to submit a proposal for a grant of USD\$5,000 for a project that would increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.**

Please describe a realistic project that you could actually implement in your community.

- a) In one paragraph, describe the goal, activities and results of this project.
- b) List five community partners and describe how they would be involved in achieving the goals of this project.

PLEASE NOTE: MIUSA does NOT have funds to support your proposal.

6. **How will you ensure that people with disabilities in your community will benefit from your participation in the I-LEAD 2008 program?** Please be specific.
7. **Please list:**
- a.) Any previous experience with international exchange programs or conferences (where, why and when).
 - b.) Any previous travel to the USA (where, why and when).
8. **Please add any other relevant comments** regarding your participation in this exchange.
9. **How did you learn about the I-LEAD program?**

Send your application by e-mail, fax or postal mail to:

**Mobility International USA (MIUSA)
I-LEAD 2008
132 E. Broadway, Suite 343
Eugene, Oregon 97401 USA
Email: apply@miusa.org
Fax: +1-541-343-6812**

Website: www.miusa.org

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RECOMMENDATION FORM (1)

Note to the Reference Person: The person named below is applying to be a participant in the MIUSA International Leadership, Employment and Disability (I-LEAD) exchange program, in which people with disabilities will strengthen leadership skills, exchange strategies and build networks to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Latin America. **Please return the completed form by e-mail, fax or postal mail to MIUSA (see below) or return to the applicant to be submitted with her/his application AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** (Use extra sheets of paper if necessary). Thank you.

Please type or print clearly. Use separate paper if necessary.

Name of person giving reference: _____

Organization: _____

Telephone/TTY: _____ **Fax:** _____
(Country code, City code, Local number) (Country code, City code, Local number)

Email address(es): _____

1.) Why do you recommend this applicant for MIUSA's I-LEAD 2008 Exchange Program?

2.) Please briefly state the goals or aims of your organization (100 words or less).

3.) What role(s) does the applicant have in your organization?

4.) If selected, how would the applicant's participation in the 2008 I-LEAD exchange program help your organization to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities in your community?

5.) Please describe the support that your organization can offer to projects and activities to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Signature of Reference Person: _____ **Date:** _____

Please return to the applicant or send via e-mail, fax or postal mail to:

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I-LEAD 2008

132 E. Broadway, Suite 343

Eugene, Oregon 97401 USA

Email: apply@miusa.org

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RECOMMENDATION FORM (2)

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Telephone/TTY: _____ **Fax:** _____
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