

FY2010 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Request Submitted by Senator Jeff Merkley

The following request was submitted by Senator Merkley to the Appropriations Committee for consideration as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 State, Foreign Operations and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Project Title: Mobility International USA Clearinghouse
Grantee: Mobility International USA, Eugene, Oregon
Amount Requested: \$500,000

Description: The Mobility International USA Clearinghouse educates people with disabilities and disability-related organizations about international opportunities; works to increase the participation of people with disabilities in the full range of international exchange programs; provides international exchange organizations and colleges and universities with practical how-to consultation, assisting them to be proactive in their inclusion of people with disabilities in their programs; and facilitates partnerships between people with disabilities, disability-related organizations and international exchange organizations. The Mobility International USA Clearinghouse also has a foreign language initiative to promote participation of people with disabilities in foreign language international exchange programs.

This project will provide jobs to approximately twelve full-time and consultant employees, of whom more than 50% are people with disabilities. In addition, the project provides employment training for university interns and students. The Mobility International USA Clearinghouse potentially provides information to the 60 million people with disabilities in the US so that they may have the opportunity to participate in international exchange, which can result in better employment, especially as the world economy seeks more employees with cross-cultural and foreign language capabilities.