



## **Easter Seals Web Site Content Management System Made Accessible for Persons with Disabilities**

In the fall of 2004, Easter Seals was awarded a Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) grant from the United States Department of Commerce which has resulted in important Internet innovations for people with disabilities. Internet accessibility efforts to date have focused almost solely on making Web sites accessible so that content can be consumed by people with disabilities.

In contrast, this project seeks to ensure that Easter Seals Web site content management administrative tools are accessible to persons with disabilities. This allowing Easter Seals employees that use assistive technology to create content and update Easter Seals Web sites.

Convio, committing significant in-kind support, has redesigned the authoring suite of Easter Seals Online Network tools with accessibility in mind. This project sets an example of how a sophisticated content management system and related tools can be made accessible and how people with disabilities who use assistive technology can be trained and accommodated to use such a system in the workplace and as a result, find employment.

In 2006 and 2007, Easter Seals recruited interns from around the country to participate in the TOP grant initiative. Each intern has a vision or mobility impairment that requires the use of assistive technology for online endeavors. The interns have been trained on the Online Network Web content management system. In addition to updating Easter Seals Web sites, the TOP interns are working with Easter Seals to continue to improve usability and documenting their knowledge for future Easter Seals employees.

For more information, contact Easter Seals Interactive Solutions Manager, Janine Stines, at [jstines@easterseals.com](mailto:jstines@easterseals.com).

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