

Navigating The Modern Job Search

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www.MyEmploymentOptions.com



Our Company



My Employment Options (MEO) is an authorized Employment Network in the Social Security **Ticket To Work Program**.

We Provide Free Work At Home and Onsite employment services for job seekers:

- Who receive SSDI or SSI (non-retirement) benefits
- Ages 18-64
- Serving the 48 contiguous states & D.C.



Presenters



Lisa Seeley is a Senior Work At Home Employment Counselor. She has been with MEO for over 16 years. She is also a SSA Ticket to Work Program Success Story.



Kimberly Bounds is a Work At Home Employment Counselor and is in HR Operations. She has been with MEO since 2014. She is a team player and loves assisting clients with finding employment so they can become financially stable.

What We'll Discuss

- **Strategizing for Success**
- **AI and its Role in a Job Search**
- **The Hidden Job Market**
- **Managing the Pipeline**
- **Overcoming Unseen Challenges**
- **Navigating Rejection: Shifting Your Mindset**
- **Converting Setbacks into Success**
- **Maintaining Your Mental Well-being**





The Blueprint for Success

Strategizing for Success

The modern job search can feel incredibly dehumanizing. Between automated Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS), recruiter ghosting, and repetitive data entry, feeling frustrated is valid.

To protect your sanity and momentum, you must keep positive.

Use these strategic pivot points to navigate the modern job search without losing your mind.

The Blueprint for Success



Targeted Strategy

Moving away from "spray and pray" applications toward intentional targeting.

Prioritize and apply to jobs that fit you



Personal Branding

Making sure your resume and LinkedIn tell the same compelling story.

Ensure they align with your professional goals.



Proactive Networking

Building relationships before you need them.

Why Customize Your Resume?

Tailoring your resume to each job application is a critical job search strategy



Beat the ATS

Applicant Tracking Systems scan for keywords. A tailored resume matches the job's exact language and gets past automated filters.



Show Fit

Employers want to see YOU in their role. Customizing highlights the skills most relevant to each specific position.



Stand Out

Recruiters review hundreds of resumes. A targeted resume demonstrates genuine interest and effort — setting you apart.



Higher Callback Rate

Candidates who tailor their resumes are significantly more likely to receive interviews than those who send a generic version.

One resume does not fit all — personalize to connect.

AI in the Modern Job Search

How automated intelligence is integrated at each stage of the hiring process

01

Outreach

Recruiter tools use AI to write unbiased job descriptions, target high-potential candidates, and automate initial engagement.

02

Screening

Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS) scan resumes in milliseconds, shortlisting profiles based on keywords and work history.

03

Assessment

Automated platforms evaluate technical tests, measure soft skills, and analyze recorded video interviews for key behaviors.

04

Scheduling

AI chatbots manage 24/7 communications, addressing candidate queries, requesting info, and booking interviews instantly.

Job Posting & Outreach

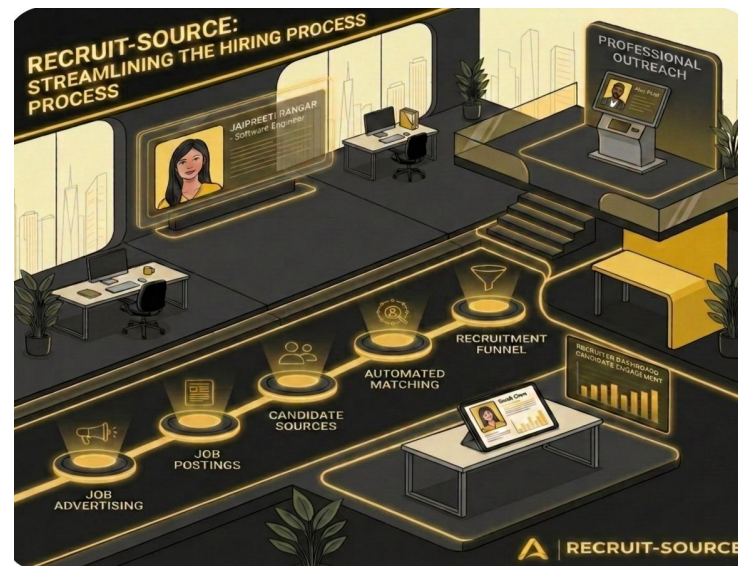
How companies leverage modern automation to connect with top-tier talent online



AI-Generated Campaigns

Companies actively use AI systems to write neutral, unbiased job advertisements that resonate with specific demographics.

These automated tools then instantly identify and dispatch personalized outreach messages to potential applicants across online professional networks.



Resume Screening

How automated algorithms instantly filter and evaluate your application



Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS)

When you submit an application, software called an Applicant Tracking System scans your resume in seconds.

It looks for specific keywords and experience to decide if your application moves forward.



Candidate Assessment

How automated intelligence evaluates skills and capabilities in modern hiring



Automated Evaluation

Some companies use automated tests to screen and analyze potential candidates before direct human interaction.

- Digital Skill Tests: Online assessments designed to measure technical proficiency and role-specific capabilities.
- Automated Video Interviews: Recorded sessions where you answer set questions analyzed by software algorithms.



AI Usage Metrics and Insights

To put this in perspective, here are a few key numbers on AI in recruitment



85-90%

HIGH ADOPTION

Enterprise Scale

Around 85 to 90 percent of medium and large companies use AI somewhere in their hiring process.



Top

MAIN FOCUS

Early Funnel

Most of this software is used at the very beginning—specifically to source and screen applicants.



50%

EFFICIENCY

Screening Time

Companies leverage these automated tools because it cuts candidate screening time nearly in half.



90%

HUMAN DECISIONS

Final Call

Hiring managers strongly agree that a human being—not an algorithm—must make the final hiring decision.

The "AI vs. AI" Friction Point

Job seekers use AI to write resumes, while employers use AI to read them.



Applicants Writing with AI

Many applicants use tools like ChatGPT to help craft cover letters or tailor their resumes. This has created an influx of highly structured but often generic applications.



Employers Demanding Authenticity

More than half of hiring managers say they are skeptical of generic, AI-written text. They want to see your real voice and specific experience, not just copy-pasted text from an AI tool.

The Hidden Job Market



The Invisible 80%

70% to 80% of positions are never published. Public postings are expensive and flood managers with resumes.



Direct Outreach

Network with peers or leaders in your target field to access the hidden market.



LinkedIn Visibility

Stay visible by actively engaging on LinkedIn to build and maintain professional connections.

LinkedIn: How It Can Help the Modern Job Search

Managing the Pipeline

- It is work looking for work, but set strict hours
- Build a tracker
- Quality over quantity



Sample Application Tracker Sheet

To Use On Paper
PRINT AND HANDWRITE Information
And **EMAIL** Job Descriptions
To Yourself For Reference



To Use On Computer
Download File Into Google Sheets
or Microsoft Excel. Save it.
Then Input Information.

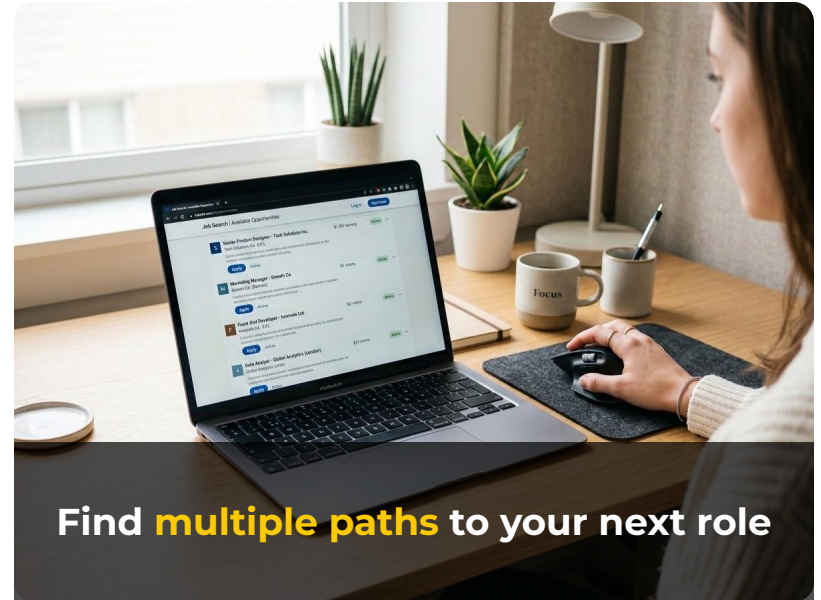
APPLICATION LOG

Date Applied	Company Name	Job Title Applied For & Job Number	Job Posting Website Address, Search Site, etc	Employer Contact Information	Employer Follow Up Outcome	Notes (Date to call back, impressions from contact, feedback, etc)

Maximize Your Opportunities

Leverage Company Sites

When you find a position that fits, don't stop there. Search for additional roles you qualify for on the same site.



Find **multiple paths** to your next role

Benefits of Job Alerts

- **First-Mover Advantage**
- **Time Savings**
- **Reduced Job-Search Fatigue**
- **Passive Opportunity Tracking**

The Reality of the Search: Challenges



Invisible Hurdles

Even with a flawless strategy, we have to look the hardest part of the job search right in the eye.



Emotional Rollercoaster

The inevitable ups and downs that come with an extended job search.



Recruiter Ghosting

The challenge of not hearing back after putting in the effort to apply or interview.

Reframing Rejection

When a rejection email hits your inbox, it feels deeply personal:



It's Data, Not a Diagnosis

Treat each response as a data in your search strategy rather than a reflection of your worth.



'No' is Just Redirection

A rejection often means that specific path wasn't the right fit, clearing the way for a better opportunity.



Control the Controllables

Focus your energy on your application quality, networking, and follow-ups instead of outcomes.

Remote Rejection Factors

1. The Global Talent Pool

When a job is posted as fully remote, the hiring pool instantly scales globally or nationally.

The Reality:

Instead of 30 local competitors, you face 500 to 2,000 applicants from multiple time zones.

The "Overqualified" Squeeze:

Remote flexibility is so prized that high-level candidates often take pay or title cuts to secure it.

2. Hidden Location Constraints

Behind "Fully Remote" tags, companies often have strict legal and operational limits.

Tax Laws:

Companies must have a registered business entity in your state. Complex state labor laws often lead to automatic filtering.

Time Zone Alignment:

Teams relying on synchronous work may reject candidates outside a 3-hour core window (e.g., Pacific vs. Eastern).

The Action Plan After a Rejection

Turn that 'No' into an opportunity with a three-step action plan:



1. Reply with Grace

Acknowledge the decision professionally. Keeping the door open preserves your reputation and network.



2. Ask for Feedback

Politely request specific insights on how to improve. This shows a growth mindset and provides actionable data.



3. Analyze Funnel

Evaluate where you are losing momentum. Adjust your CV, cover letter, or interview technique based on the trends.

Maintaining Mental Resilience



It's work looking for work

Treat your job search with the same discipline as a professional role.



Set ironclad boundaries

Define clear hours for searching to avoid burnout and maintain balance.



Keep a strict routine

Consistent habits create stability and build momentum over time.



Learn to **celebrate your micro-wins**

Conclusion & Next Steps



Consistency always beats intensity

Small, daily efforts lead to significant long-term results in your search.



Relationships are your real currency

Networking and genuine connections open doors that applications alone cannot.



Stay resilient

Keep your momentum high by focusing on your goals and celebrating micro-wins.

My Employment Options Contact Information

www.MyEmploymentOptions.com

1-800-441-3114

Resources: For Those Not On SSDI or SSI



Ask MEO is our referral resource division. If you are not on SSDI/SSI and have employment challenges, you can schedule a free 15-minute assessment call. Learn More at www.askmeo.com



MEO Staffing is our general staffing division. If you have a resume and a defined career path, you can submit your resume at www.meostaffing.com



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Questions

QUESTION:

How to Properly Navigate the Web for Real Job Acquisition and Escape the Scams?

1. Verify the Domain

Always check the company's official website. Scammers use **spoofed URLs** (e.x., [link removed] instead of company.com). Look for the secure **HTTPS** protocol.

2. No Upfront Fees

Legitimate employers **never charge candidates** for training materials, software, or application processing. If they ask for payment or bank details early, it is a scam.

3. Secure Channels

Real recruiters reach out via **corporate email addresses**, not personal accounts (Gmail, Yahoo). Interviews should be conducted via professional video tools.

QUESTION:

What About Ghost Jobs?

How Do We Avoid Those Links?

1. Check Posting Date

Prioritize jobs posted within the **last 14 days**. Postings older than 30 days are highly likely to be inactive "ghost" listings..

2. Verify Career Page

Always cross-reference job board links by searching the company's official **Careers page**.

3. Automated Rejections

Instant rejection emails **received within minutes**, often signal an automated resume collection pipeline.

QUESTION:

What is the Best Way to Follow-up After Applying For a Job?

1. Perfect the Timing

Wait **7 to 10 business days** after submitting your application before reaching out. This demonstrates professionalism and patience.

2. Target Key Contacts

Locate a direct professional email via confirmation messages, official company careers page, or **LinkedIn**. Direct, personalized emails to hiring managers yield much higher response rates.

3. Keep it Professional

Draft a **concise, clear message**. State the exact job title and ID, reiterate your excitement. Ask for status updates and thank them for their time.

How We Can Help

If you receive SSDI/SSI disability and you are not a current client, and want to find out if My Employment Options can help you:

It's Easy! Apply Online 24/7 @

www.MyEmploymentOptions.com

Click **"APPLY NOW"** at the top

Direct Link: www.myemploymentoptions.com/apply-now/

Phone: 800-441-3114

Questions: Email ladler@myemploymentoptions.com



Thank You!



**We thank you for attending our
webinar and we wish you the best with
navigating the modern job search
process!**

Have a great rest of your day!

