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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
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Subject: Making Telecommuting Work for You and Your Business

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How Employers and Employees Can Get the Most out of Telecommuting

6.1.16

As if there was ever any doubt, telecommuting is here to stay. While certainly not for everybody or every company, many love the freedom and benefits that come along with working remotely. Of course, there are downsides, too. It can be a strain on building strong work relationships as well as a company culture.

In this article, we look at some benefits and drawbacks of telecommuting for employers and employees alike.

ENSURE YOUR TIME AWAY FROM THE OFFICE IS A SUCCESS

According to Gallup, [the average worker telecommutes two days a month](#)—a trend that's sure to increase. If you're one of those individuals—or you're thinking about becoming one—you'll want to take care of a few things to ensure your time away from the office is a success.

Here's a Forbes article with [10 tips for working from home](#). For one, you'll want to create a safe place that's exclusively for working. Also, your tech skills need to be solid since your company's IT department may not be easily accessible. Take this [Self-Assessment](#) and [Safety Checklist](#) to assess your telework readiness.

GET THE TIPS

ARE THERE EMPLOYER BENEFITS TO EMPLOYEES WORKING REMOTELY?

Sure, a lot of employees may ask to work remotely because of the freedom it gives them, but what's in it for employers? Plenty, perhaps. This Harvard Business Review article details [a study in which half of a company was allowed to work remotely, and half were not](#). The study found that the half that were allowed to work remotely were more productive, happier and more committed to the company.

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GET YOUR REMOTE EMPLOYEES TOGETHER REGULARLY

Implementing a remote-workforce program allows you to source talent from any location, meaning you have access to the smartest, most capable employees in your field, according to this article. But creating and keeping a company culture can be a challenge. Check out this article for tips on managing a remote workforce, like taking advantage of video conferencing software, and having the team travel to company headquarters once a quarter to check in.

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MAKING TELEWORK WORK FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Need to create a telework handbook or training courses? On

[Telework.gov](#), find free [training materials](#), [guides](#) and other info used by the federal government to train its own telework [coordinators](#), managers, and [employees](#) that you could adapt for your organization.

Wondering about tax withholding and financial reporting when you have employees that work remotely? Here's a great article on [payroll issues for employers with remote employees](#).

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TWITTER HIGHLIGHTS

Here are a few of our top tweets from the past week:

@NIST_MEP works w/ #manufacturers to help them create/retain #jobs, increase profits, save time and money.

It's #AfricaDay & we have resources to help you do #biz in 1 of the fastest growing regions in the world!

A small group is making a big impact for #innovation & #entrepreneurship. See how and get involved.

In honor of #AAPI Heritage Month, we'd like to highlight @USMBDA's #biz centers. Read about how they can help you.

#Vetpreneurs, here's a list of programs that can help you start your
#business. | #MilitaryAppreciationMonth

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