

Strategies for Overcoming Job-Search Frustration

By Robert Half/Accountemps

Current economic conditions mean that, now more than ever, the job-hunting process requires perseverance and a positive outlook. If a protracted employment search is testing your pride and patience, consider using the following suggestions to get back on track:

Don't take snubs personally. There are undoubtedly times when life doesn't seem fair. You might apply for a payroll position that you're perfectly suited for, but you never hear a word from the employer. Or you interview for a job, the meeting goes exceedingly well, yet you receive nothing more than a form rejection letter. Or you finally land a job offer, but a surprisingly low salary is presented.

The best way to deal with setbacks and brush-offs is to quickly move on without letting the experiences dampen your determination. Put simply, wallowing in your woes isn't the answer. As Sylvester Stallone once said: "I take rejection as someone blowing a bugle in my ear to wake me up and get going, rather than retreat."

Set aggressive goals. If you've been unemployed for an extended period, you likely miss the sense of achievement derived from successfully completing assignments and meeting deadlines. That's why it's beneficial to establish specific goals related to your job search. For instance, your to-do list might include "write and submit five highly targeted resumes today," "meet with at least three business contacts by Friday," and "attend a software training seminar to enhance my skills and marketability." Meeting objectives will keep you focused, boost your morale and provide a sense of fulfillment.

Seek professional assistance. If you've diligently done everything you can think of to find a job to no avail, it might be time to call in a professional for help. Well-connected recruiters with specialized staffing firms can offer job leads, tips on improving your application materials, and insight on the types of positions that best suit you. Staffing professionals also can help you locate temporary arrangements. Project work enables you to stay productive, earn money, make contacts and get your foot in the door with employers that, at some point, will again be looking to hire top-quality full-time payroll professionals.

For more advice on management and career issues, listen to "The Management Minute," Robert Half's podcast series <http://www.rhi.com/podcast>.

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