DVR Pre-Employment Transition Programs

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) published a Request for Proposal and awarded contracts to providers to offer pre-employment services to students with disabilities as prescribed in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act. The goal is to provide innovative employment focused programs to students with a disability, who are enrolled in school, ages 14 to 22. The following are the awarded contract providers. Students do not need to be open & eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation to access these services, unless otherwise noted.

***Interested youth, families, and school advisors should contact providers to inquire about their program schedule, and enrollment availability. All referrals will be submitted through the general mailbox, DOL_DVRPreEmployment@delaware.gov. This information is valid through 12-31-2026.**

Agency Name & Contact Details	Location	Summer/ School Year	Population/ Capacity	Program Description
CIS Alyssa Babuca 302-540-2673 Alyssa.babuca@cisworks.org	Statewide	School Year Summer	Students aged 14-22	Students will participate in an 18-day cohort on developing workplace skills and gaining real-world work experience. The program will provide Job Exploration Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, and Work Based Learning and help students explore careers related to their interests, skills, and abilities. Students will be paid a stipend of minimum wage for up to 54 hours of participation in WBL activities.
Easter Seals Jane Schuler 302-221-2030 jschuler@esdel.org	Statewide	July - August	Students aged 16-22	Easterseals will provide Job Exploration, Self-Advocacy, and Work Readiness activities as part of a 6-week paid summer employment opportunity. Students selected are expected to participate in the full 6-week program. Participation is 3 days per week (T, W, Th), which includes a 1-hour training session followed by 3.5 hours of work. Students are assigned to an employment site with one of the participating employers. Participating employers provide job opportunities within the context of their existing operations. Students are matched with job tasks based on their interests and may rotate through multiple assignments. Each student is paid minimum wage for all hours worked. In addition, students receive ongoing training and coaching by a Peer Mentor.

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Food Bank of Delaware Statewide Location: Ethel "Marie" Frazier, Participant Services & Compliance Coordinator 302-217-6393 efrazier@fbd.org Newark Location: Alexandra Henry, Program Manager 302-292-1305 ext. 142 ahenry@fbd.org Newark Location: Tinishia Sanders, Program Director 302-292-1305 ext. 138 tsanders@fbd.org	Open to students Statewide with locations in Milford and Newark	Spring & Summer	Students aged 14-22	- The Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Cooking as a Life and Employable Skill Program at the Food Bank of Delaware provides students with hands-on, work-based learning experiences designed to build essential workplace readiness skills and expose participants to a variety of career pathways. - Summer Exploration Program: Through structured programming in culinary arts, agriculture, nutrition, and volunteerism, students gain practical experience and foundational skills that support future employment and independent living.
Goodwill of DE & DE County Peter Lonie 302-252-3209 plonie@goodwillde.org or Eileen Kemske 302-504-3556 ekemske@goodwillde.org	Statewide	School Year and Summer	Students aged 14-22	School Year and Summer programs providing – Job Exploration Counseling, Workplace Readiness, Work-Based Learning Experiences, and Self-Advocacy The program's objective is to increase students' knowledge and application of workplace skills through our Ready-to- Hire Curriculum. The training program will help students transition to employment following graduation and equip them with invaluable transferable skills to carry with them throughout life. This twelve-week program also provides paid work-based learning experiences to help students evaluate potential career options in various work environments. School teachers and para educators are present onsite at Goodwill and hands-on throughout the duration of the program to assist each student with acclimating to the process.

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Humanity's Kitchen Richard Carter 302-444-8609 ext. 101 rcarter@humanityskitchen.org www.humanityskitchen.org for online application & brochures	Statewide	School Year and Summer	Students aged 14-22	6- Week After school and 3-Week Summer Camp programs providing -Job Exploration Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, Work-Based Learning Experiences Students will have a better understanding of the food service industry, be able to cook basic meals at home, and report increased knowledge and demonstrated increased ability in culinary skills area and life skills. Program Highlights –SERV Safe Food Handlers Certificate in Food Safety & Sanitation, Weekly food cards to purchase ingredients during virtual learning, $100 stipend for successful completion of the program, Chef coat, Hat, & Apron provided, Life Skills & Resume Building. **Visit website for online application, brochures, class dates and times. https://www.humanityskitchen.org/junior-chefs-free-classes/**
Manifest Business Consultants Tamara Varella 302-250-0175 admissions@manifestbiztraining.com www.manifestbiztraining.com	Statewide	School Year and Summer	Students aged 14-22	A career exploration in-person program held in Dover and Wilmington, for youth that uses virtual reality experiences to explore over 21 career tracks. Participants earn a Financially Fit financial literacy certification, complete workplace readiness training, and build an individualized career map. The State of Delaware Career Compass book is integrated into the curriculum.

Opportunity Center Inc. Ashley Hicks 302-762-0300 Ashley.Hicks@opportunitycenter.org	Statewide	School Year and Summer	Students aged 16-22	In-Person - 4-week programs providing - Job Exploration Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, Work-Based Learning Experiences. In-person - 4-week paid internship at employer site 20 hours a week, Monday to Thursday. Intern sites include various Walgreen stores throughout state, Westin Hotel and Food Machinery Corporation.
University of Delaware: Introduction to Employment CDS-PreCollege@udel.edu 302-831-2940 Visit Us: https://www.cds.udel.edu/clsc/transition-options-for-high-school-students/	Cape Henlopen High School, open to partnerships with additional districts	School Year	Students aged 16-22	Introduction to Employment - hybrid (virtual & in-person) 12 weeks providing - Job Exploration Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, Self-Advocacy, Work-Based Learning Experiences. Over the course of this 15-week course, students will meet 2 times per week on campus at the University of Delaware for in-person program and virtually for the virtual program and will engage in an in-depth research project on at least one post-high school career option. Weekly class sessions on topics related to career exploration, professional communication, and self-advocacy with assignments and a final presentation to capture learning. Students will also set up individualized job shadow experiences. Classes will primarily take place virtually with some opportunities for in-person activities.
University of Delaware: UDISCOVER CDS-PreCollege@udel.edu 302-831-2940 Visit Us: https://www.cds.udel.edu/clsc/transition-options-for-high-school-students/	Program takes place at University of Delaware Newark Campus. Open to students Statewide	Summer	Students aged 16-22	UDISCOVER- 2-Week Residential Summer Program providing Job Exploration, Post- Secondary Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, Self-Advocacy, Work-Based Learning Experiences. Students live on campus at the University of Delaware for two weeks and receive person-centered support to explore post-high school career and education options and build critical life skills, including self-advocacy, self-determination, independent living, problem-solving, and goal setting. Each student will participate in at least 2 individualized job shadow experiences.