

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 several 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, enrollment availability, & referral process.**

Agency Name & Contact Details	Location	Summer/ School Year	Population/ Capacity	Program Description
Central Baptist Devon Hynson dynson@centralbaptistcdc.org	NCC In-Person	School Year Summer	Students ages 14-22	4, 10-week sessions providing – Job Exploration Counseling, Post-Secondary Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, Self-Advocacy, Work-Based Learning Experiences Students will participate in activities that make them aware of non-traditional career opportunities, explore vocational and academic training required for successful employment. Provide job seeking skills, resume writing, application assistance, and interview preparation. Services will also include self- awareness training, identifying goals, strengths, and weaknesses, and negotiation skills training. Sessions will provide work-site tours, job shadowing, and paid and unpaid work-based learning experiences.
CIS Sandi Hanley 302-376-8259 sandi.hanley@cisworks.org	Statewide	School Year Summer	Students ages 14-22	4, 6-week, 3 times per week programs providing – Job Exploration Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, Work-Based Learning Experiences Classroom instruction will help students explore career related to their interests, skills, and abilities, develop independent living and work readiness skills. Students will participate in activities with the goal of developing workplace skills and gaining real-world work experience. Students may be paid a stipend for up to 60 hours of participation in WBL activities.
Easterseals Jane Schuler 302-221-2030 jschuler@esdel.org	Statewide	July - August	Students ages 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.

DVR Pre-Employment Transition Programs

<p>Food Bank of Delaware Milford Location: Bendu Collins 302-292-1305 ext.142 bcollins@fbd.org</p> <p>Newark Location: Tinishia Sanders 302-292-1305 ext. 138 tsanders@fbd.org</p>	<p>Open to students Statewide with locations in Milford and Newark</p>	<p>Summer</p>	<p>Students ages 16-22</p>	<p>4-weeks, 4 days a week Culinary Summer Program at the Milford or Newark training kitchens providing – Job Exploration Counseling Post- Secondary Counseling Workplace Readiness Self-Advocacy Work- Based Learning Experiences Students will learn about different jobs and careers in the food service industry in Delaware. Students will identify training, education, or employment pathways required to pursue their career interests. They will identify transportation resources and learn resume writing and interview skills building. Students will learn self- advocacy skills for identifying and requesting support and accommodation needs in training or employment settings. Through ServSafe Food Handlers curriculum students will learn safe food handling practices, will attend work-site tours, and participate in a WBL experience.</p>
<p>Goodwill Monique Kelly 302-252-3205 ext. 264 mkelly@goodwillde.org</p>	<p>NCC</p>	<p>School Year and Summer</p>	<p>Students ages 14-22</p>	<p>School Year and Summer programs providing – Job Exploration Counseling, Workplace Readiness, Work-Based Learning Experiences, Self-Advocacy The objective of this program is to increase students’ knowledge and application of workplace soft skills through our Ready -to- Hire Curriculum. The course of training will help individuals transition to employment following graduation and equip them with invaluable transferable skills to carry with them throughout life. This twelve-week program also provides a paid hands-on workplace training and job skills learning experiences to help students evaluate potential career options in various work environments. School teachers and para educators are present on site at Goodwill during the school year and hands-on throughout the duration of the program to assist each student with acclimating to the process. The program was redesigned to accommodate an in person and/or virtual classroom setting. GOODWorks is an experience for teenagers and young adults to learn new skills, not only to gain and retain employment, but to achieve new levels of comprehension in capacities they have never experienced before.</p>
<p>Humanity’s Kitchen Richard Carter 302-444-8609 ext. 101 rcarter@humanityskitchen.org</p> <p>www.humanityskitchen.org for online application & brochures</p>	<p>Statewide NCC Hybrid & Virtual Kent & Sussex – Virtual</p>	<p>School Year and Summer</p>	<p>Students ages 14-22</p>	<p>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 –ServSafe 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.</p>

DVR Pre-Employment Transition Programs

<p>Independent Resources, Inc. Marsha Nowotny 302-536-1387 mnowotny@iri-de.org</p>	Statewide	School Year and Summer	Students ages 14-22	8-week programs providing- Job Exploration Counseling, Post-Secondary Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, Self-Advocacy, Work-Based Learning Experiences Assist students with exploring career opportunities that fit their interests, skills, and abilities. Assist students with exploring opportunities for enrolling in higher education. Develop independent living and work readiness skills in consideration of the unique needs of each student. provides self-advocacy instruction based on the unique needs of the student(s). Work-based learning experiences may include opportunities that are after school or outside the traditional school setting. These experiences must be provided in an integrated setting to the maximum extent possible.
<p>Merakey Program pending staff hire.</p>	NCC	School Year and Summer	Students ages 14-22 Specializing in work with ASD and IDD population	10-week programs providing – Career Exploration, Post-Secondary Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, Self-Advocacy, and Work-Based Learning Experiences. Students will walk away with a greater understanding and independence in determining and pursuing their career paths, as well as experience to propel them further into their future careers. Utilizes the Life Centered Education curriculum as a baseline but adapts to needs of the individual or group being served. Providing Work-Based Learning Experiences through partnerships with local businesses and worksites and connecting the group and individuals to other local employers, agencies, and resources as necessary to ensure independence.
<p>NaviGate - Aspiring Professionals Career Exploration Program Felicia Aline 302-853-0046 felicia@navigateetc.com</p>	Kent and Sussex counties	School Year and Summer	Students ages 14-22	10-week programs providing - Job Exploration Counseling, Post-Secondary Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, Self-Advocacy, Work-Based Learning Experiences. Help students identify career interests, explore career options, and provide them with opportunities that will prepare them for the transition to employment and/or post- secondary education.
<p>Service Source Ashley Hicks 302-762-0300 Ashley.Hicks@servicesource.org</p>	Statewide	School Year and Summer In person and virtual	Students ages 16-22	<p>In-Person - 4-week programs or Virtual –7-week programs providing - Job Exploration Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, Work-Based Learning Experiences.</p> <p>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, Embassy Suites, Marshall's, Home Goods, Home Sense, and Dover Down.</p> <p>Virtual – 7-weeks, with two-hour group sessions providing Workplace Readiness Training and Work-Based Learning as scheduled cooperatively with partnering schools. Each student also receives four hours of one-to-one Job Exploration Counseling, which also occurs over the program and is scheduled cooperatively with partnering schools.</p>

DVR Pre-Employment Transition Programs

<p>University of Delaware: Introduction to Employment Rebecca Jewell 302-831-7550 rajewell@udel.edu</p>	<p>Statewide</p>	<p>School Year</p>	<p>Students ages 16-22</p>	<p>Introduction to Employment – UD campus 15 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. Students will also receive individualized job shadow experiences.</p>
<p>University of Delaware: UDISCOVER Rebecca Jewell 302-831-7550 rajewell@udel.edu</p>	<p>Statewide</p>	<p>Summer</p>	<p>Students ages 16-22</p>	<p>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, education, self-advocacy, and independent living goals. Each student will participate in at least 2 individualized job shadow experiences. The program will take place on campus at the University of Delaware, providing students with the opportunity to experience college life and explore resources the university has to offer.</p>