



March Information Session: Prevocational Services & Pre-Employment Planning

March 16, 2022

Chappaqua Central School District's Special Education Department &
The Arc Westchester

Presented By: Jacie Feuer

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW:

Pre-employment Services during High School:

- ACCES-VR's Pre-ETS
- Project SEARCH
- OPWDD's ETP

OPWDD Adult Prevocational Services:

- Description of service, activities, & benefits
- Prevocational Service Providers

Additional Strategies

Updates, Resources & Questions



Employment Readiness



Candidates for Supported Employment services (either through OPWDD and ACCES-VR) demonstrate employment readiness based on current employer expectations, including professionalism, reliability, productivity, flexibility, and communication.

PLANNING FOR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

Increasing Work Readiness During High School

Pre-Employment Services for HS Students in a School-to-Work Program

ACCES-VR

- Pre-Employment Training Services (Pre-ETS)
- Project SEARCH

OPWDD

- Employment Training Program (ETP) Trainee



Pre-Employment Transition Services

(ACCES-VR's Pre-ETS)

The Pre-ETS for **students** with disabilities provide information on career options, education and skills training for students **ages 14-21** who are potentially eligible or eligible for ACCES-VR services.

ACCES-VR Pre-ETS Contact:

Debra Ehrenberg, Senior VR Counselor Transition and Youth Services

Phone: 914-946-7648 Email:

Debra.Ehrenberg@nysed.gov

The Five Pre-ETS



National Technical Assistance Center on Transition, or NTACTIONA's, website: <https://transitionta.org/about>

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New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ADULT CAREER & CONTINUING ED SERVICES



ETP

OPWDD's Employment Training Program (ETP) can potentially pay OPWDD eligible students for the community-based work they are doing through their school-to-work program.

The OPWDD ETP Supervisor, Bryan Bischoff, also works directly with the students' families and Care Managers to coordinate their transition to adult employment services when they leave school.

OPWDD ETP Contact:

BRYAN L. BISCHOFF, *Employment Training Program Supervisor*

OFFICE: (845) 947-6021

Email: Bryan.L.Bischoff@opwdd.ny.gov



Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities



PROJECT SEARCH

The Project SEARCH Program is a unique, business-led, one-year employment preparation program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of **classroom instruction, career exploration,** and hands-on **training through worksite rotations.** The program culminates in individualized job development.

Typically, these are **high school students** who are on an Individual Education Program (IEP) and in their last year of high school eligibility.

The hallmarks of Project SEARCH are total workplace immersion and a singular **goal of competitive employment for every program graduate.**



Project SEARCH Programs Located in Westchester County

Project SEARCH® at Montefiore New Rochelle

Since September 2011

Partners: School District of New Rochelle, Ability Beyond, and ACCES-VR.

Program Contact: Christine Grogan, cgrogan@nredlearn.org and Kathy Barbara KBarbara@nredlearn.org

During high school, before exiting/graduating

Project SEARCH® WIHD/Columbia Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital

Bronxville, NY. ***NEW*** September 2022 projected start

Partners: WIHD/CSN Ability Beyond, Participating School Districts (TBD), ACCES-VR, Self-Direction. **Program Contact:** Yvette Goorevitch, WHID,

ygoorevitch@wihd.org

During high school, AND Post high school possibilities

Project SEARCH® Autism Enhancement at NewYork-Presbyterian Westchester Behavioral Health Center, White Plains, NY. Since 2011-2016, September 2018

After exiting/graduating high school, up to age 28.



Project SEARCH WIHD/Columbia Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital

For more information or to send referrals, contact: Yvette Goorevitch
ygoorevitch@wihd.org



Westchester Institute
for Human Development

**Project SEARCH -
WIHD/Columbia
Presbyterian Lawrence
Hospital**

Eligibility

Ages 19-25

Completing last year of IDEA services or
OPWDD eligibility (or pending)

Potential for competitive employment
with supports

Potential for workplace behavior safety

Desire for independence and self
direction to participate in integrated
community experiences

Referrals being accepted for
September 2022

From School Districts for
individuals with continued IDEA
eligibility or

From Care Coordinators, families
or self-referred for individuals
with OPWDD eligibility

PREVOCATIONAL SERVICES

Post-high school, as authorized by OPWDD

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY-BASED PREVOC?

Has limited experience in the community

Maria is leaving High School soon and doesn't know what to do next, and has limited community experience

Has limited employment experience

John is moving on from a sheltered workshop and is unsure what it takes to be competitively employed

Would like more Discovery

Julie has only participated in day Hab and would like to try something different

Community Prevocational Services:

- Experiences that prepare individuals for jobs that pay minimum wage in an integrated setting
- Primarily in community, integrated settings such as volunteer sites, community businesses, etc.
- Services may wrap around or blend with other services
- Employment planning and real work experiences improve job matches



Transferable Work Skills

What are some Non-Job Task Specific Examples

Following directions

Attending to tasks

Managing stress

Problem-solving

Working safely

Understanding work culture

Being flexible

Developing social and natural supports

Learning about various job requirements

Travel training

The Arc.
Westchester
New York

Activities

Community-Based Activities

Volunteering for the Red Cross

Volunteering at a community garden

Participating in mock interviews

Participating in business tours

Visiting the local One-Stop for information and classes

Group participation in Work Readiness Curriculum

Career Exploration Activities

Career Interest Assessments

Vocational Skill Classes

Virtual Job Shadowing

Interviewing Business Managers

Researching Career Options

Other Career Exposure and Skill Learning Opportunities

PREVOCATIONAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Post-high school, as authorized by OPWDD



McCloskey Works

- This vocationally-driven program is a person-centered functional approach to skills acquisition and practical application.
- Providing simulated work environments
- Offering volunteer opportunities

**Cardinal
McCloskey**

For More information contact:

Terril Welsh at twelsh@cmcs.org or Noreen O'Connor
at Noconnor@cmcs.org

Ability Beyond

Contact:

Debbie Reinehr 888-832-
8247 x3070

Debbie.Reinehr@abilitybeyond.org

Career Exploration & Internship Opportunities



We support individuals in building critical and transferable employment and social skills in an industry specific setting. This short term career exploration program consists of internship rotations at a variety of host businesses, classroom instruction, and community business exploration, with the goal of securing employment for the intern after successful program completion.

Services are individualized and offer opportunities for personal discovery, experiential learning, relationship building, community access, health and wellness. We work in concert across interdisciplinary teams.

Jawonio's Connections Pre-Employment Program

Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30am-2:30pm.

Provides learning experiences where individuals can develop strengths and skills that contribute to an individual's employability in the community.

Services include: personal appearance, goal setting & problem solving, safety & wellness, socialization & communication, tolerance & ethics.

Link to Vocational Services page: <https://jawonio.org/vocational-services/>

Contact:

Stacey Kantrowitz, 845-708- 2000 x 2396 or
Stacey.kantrowitz@jawonio.org



The Arc Westchester's Project SEARCH Autism Enhancement

- **Funding:** OPWDD Community Prevocational Service
- **Location:** NewYork-Presbyterian Behavioral Health Center located in White Plains
- **Structure:** 10-month curriculum-based work readiness program
- **Schedule:** 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM, Monday-Friday, September-June
- **Desire & Commitment to Work with a Goal of Employment!**

Job Development ACCESS-VR

(minimum 16-hours/week, minimum wage currently \$15/hour)

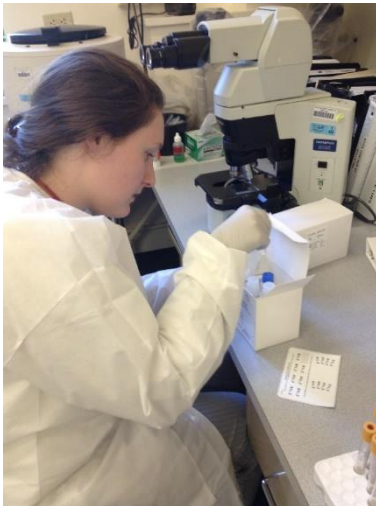
- ❖ Participate in **600 hours of internships** in a variety of positions
- ❖ Acquire **300 training-room hours** on competitive, transferable, and marketable job skills
- ❖ The PSAE cohort consists of up to **8-10 Interns** per cohort



SAMPLE PSAE Schedule

**Programs, schedules, and admission requirements vary across providers - contact providers directly for the most recent and accurate information on their services.*

Sample based on The Arc Westchester's Project SEARCH Autism Enhancement



- 8:30** Arrival & Morning Routines
- 8:40 Morning Meeting
- 8:50 Get ready for work
- 9:00 Work at Internship Site
- 1:00 Leave Internship site
- 1:15 Lunch
- 1:45 Curriculum
- 2:15 Logs and Notes
- 2:20 Afternoon Routines
- 2:30** Departure



Chappaqua CSD Department of Special Education & The Arc Westchester

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Prevocational Services & Pre-Employment Planning 3/16/22



| Organization: | Program: | Descriptions: | Program Contact: | Program webpage: |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Ability Beyond | WOW Internships | WOW Internships are a new part of the WOW program. The internships are designed to be a year-long on-site career exploration and training program for individuals that consist of job internship rotations, classroom training and community business exploration. The goal of the program is that the interns participating will secure employment after successful program completion. | Debbie Reinehr – Information and Referral Department 1-888-832-8247x3072 or (866) 997-5781 debbie.reinehr@abilitybeyond.org or info@abilitybeyond.org | Transition Services - Ability Beyond for People with Disabilities CT&NY |
| Cardinal McCloskey | McCloskey Works | This vocationally-driven program is a person-centered functional approach to skills acquisition and practical application. Providing simulated work environments. Offering volunteer opportunities | Terril Welsh at twelsh@cmcs.org, or Noreen O'Connor at Noconnor@cmcs.org | Adults with Developmental Disabilities (cmcs.org) |
| CAREERS Support Solutions | Community Prevoc | Prevocational services provide the opportunity for individuals to participate in general training activities to build on their strengths and overcome barriers to employment. These services assist individuals who want to work, but who need extra help to develop the skills need to be successful in the workplace. The main focus is participation in unpaid work experiences with 100% job coaching. | 914-741-JOBS (5627) Jennifer Retacco, Valhalla Program and Transition Coordinator - CAREERSSprvsr@aol.com Kim Flynn, Carmel Transition & Work-based Learning Coordinator - kflynn@careersfp.org | www.careersupportsolutions.org |
| Cerebral Palsy of Westchester (CPW) | Prevocational Services (Community or Site Based) | The Vocational Program offers an educationally based curriculum that is structured around training modules and learning sites in the community. Some of these modules include: Porter Maintenance, Clerical and Basic Life Skills. Each area of training incorporates guest lecturers, field trips and hands on training to enhance development of skills. Other Prevocational programming at CPW includes: CP/W Market Place, Goals Unlimited (Clerical Skills) and Food Bank of Westchester | Program Director at 914-937-3800 ext. 720 or (914) 937-3800 or email info@cpwestchester.org | https://cpwestchester.org/community-or-site-based-prevocation-services/ |
| Community Based Services (CBS) | Community Pre Voc | Community prevocational services are habilitation services that assist the individual to develop employment readiness skills and that are provided in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the individual receiving such services. The services consist of learning and work experiences, including volunteer work, that are not job-task specific but contribute to an individual's ability to attain paid employment in the community. | Avinash Samaroo, Director of Vocational Services ASamaroo@commbasedservices.org (914) 277-4771 Ext. 1126 | www.commbasedservices.org |

| Organization: | Program: | Descriptions: | Program Contact: | Program webpage: |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Hawthorne Foundation | Community Pre Voc | Sample Volunteer/Community Pre Voc-Training Sites: Afya Foundation, Croton Free Library/Greenburgh Library, Ronald McDonald House, Balance Fitness Gym, Meals on Wheels, Local Food Pantries, Paws Crossed, Residential Cleaning Sites | Novlette Clarke, Coordinator of Adult Community Programs Phone: (914) 999-3132 ext. 5013 or email: nclarke@hfadm.org | DAY HABILITATION Hawthorne Foundation Inc. United States |
| Jawonio | Connections Pre-Employment Program | Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30am-2:30pm. Provides learning experiences where individuals can develop strengths and skills that contribute to an individual's employability in the community. Services include: personal appearance, goal setting & problem solving, safety & wellness, socialization & communication, tolerance & ethics. | Stacey Kantrowitz, 845-708- 2000 x 2396 or Email: Stacey.kantrowitz@jawonio.org | https://jawonio.org/vocational-services/ |
| The Arc Westchester | Project SEARCH Autism Enhancement | Project SEARCH Autism Enhancement (PSAE) is a 10-month internship program targeted for young adults ages 18-28 whose goal is competitive employment. This work-readiness program takes place in White Plains on the NewYork-Presbyterian Westchester Behavioral Health Center campus, where total immersion in the workplace facilitates the teaching and learning process as well as the acquisition of employability and marketable work skills. PSAE was created by NEXT for AUTISM in partnership with The Arc Westchester, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, and NewYork-Presbyterian's Center for Autism and the Developing Brain. | Jacie Feuer, Transition Services Director, jfeuer@arcwestchester.org | Project Search Autism Enhancement The Arc Westchester |
| The Institute of Applied Human Development (IAHD) | Prevocational Services | For those interested in future employment, we offer Prevocational Services, which includes both classroom and on-the-job training. Volunteer opportunities are explored to learn about workplace expectations, as well as the vocational interests and talents of each individual. | Ana Rodriguez, Outreach and Intake Specialist, (914) 220-4326 or arodriguez@iahdny.org Sophia Lulgjuray, (914) 220-4325 or slulgjuray@iahd.org | https://www.iahdny.org/support-services/adult-day-services/ |
| YAI | Transition Services & Pre-Vocational - Hudson Valley | This program prepares participants for competitive employment through pre-vocational and day habilitation internships and volunteer opportunities at various sites throughout the community. Job coaches provide participants with on-site support to ensure success. | Michelle Newburger at 845.358.5700 x1115 Or call by location Elmsford 914.592.1648 or for Tarrytown 914.631.2401 | https://www.yai.org/services/transition-services-pre-vocational-hudson-valley |

Document created by The Arc Westchester's Transition Services Director. This document provides transition-aged families and professionals with information on Prevocational programs in Westchester County. We have compiled the data directly from the websites of OPWDD approved Prevocational providers serving Westchester County. **DISCLAIMER:** This document is not a comprehensive list of service providers. We are not responsible for the information on this document. The contact information and services listed are subject to change. Contact service providers directly for additional information, including updates in services offered.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Work or volunteer experience
- Interest in employment
- Transportation to-and-from program
- Activities of Daily Living – level of independence/support
- Behavioral Support Needs
- Communication
- Community activities
- Therapy needs (e.g., PT, OT, Speech)
- Staff to participant ratios
- Program vacancies, waitlist
- Age range

Other strategies to help your child/student prepare for employment post high school:

- Keep them part of the conversation and include in decision making process
- Provide opportunities for teaching self-advocacy
- Build stamina & encourage volunteer activities in the community
- Keep a routine
- Assign responsibilities/chores with clear expectations
- Set short-term and long-term goals
- Include the whole team
- Keep an up-to-date resume with volunteer/internship experience
- Discuss interests, likes, dislikes, preferred learning style
- Conduct mock-interviews



COMMUNITY HABILITATION

- Community Habilitation (Com-Hab) is an OPWDD service (outside of school hours, and in adulthood)
- Community Hab services can be at your home or in the community.
- Once approved for this service, goals and schedule are set by you!
- Supports include, but not limited to:
 - assistance with activities of daily living (hands-on),
 - community inclusion and relationship building,
 - **training and support for independence** in travel, transportation, adult educational supports, development of social skills, leisure skills, self-advocacy and informed choice skills, and appropriate behavior development to help people access their community.

Materials & Resources:

- **Regional Front Door Office *NEW PHONE NUMBER*: 845-947-6390**
- Westchester County Day Hab Directory – February 2022 update!
- Pre-Employment Services Information & Contact
- Prevocational Service Providers Contact Sheet

Next Information Session:

April 20th – ACCES-VR and Supported Employment

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclfuqqqTgiGdZ4YCNlq5Ej8mqhAW-OU2NV>



Questions?

