



**Disabilities Committee**

**Employment Services for Disabled Workers**

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**Updated 2/4/2021**

27 WARREN STREET, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876  
(908) 541-5785  
WWW.THEGRWDB.ORG

## **Hunterdon County:**

**-Alternatives, Inc.** Provides comprehensive services to individuals with special needs 908-685-1444, 908-685-2660 Fax, 600 First Avenue, Raritan, NJ 08869 [www.alternativesinc.org](http://www.alternativesinc.org)

Available services:

- Behavioral Supports
- Career Planning
- Community Based Supports
- Community Inclusion Support
- Pre-Vocational Services
- Supported Employment - Individual
- Supported Employment - Small Group
- Individual Supports

**-Arc of Hunterdon County** 908-730-7827 908-730-7726 Fax 1465 State Route 31S, Suite 23, Annandale, NJ 08801 [www.archunterdon.org](http://www.archunterdon.org)

- Behavior Modification Program for parents of children with disabilities
- Family Support Services
- Saturday Drop-Off Respite Program,
- Self-Advocacy Program (support groups)
- Recreation Program
- Group homes for people with Developmental Disabilities
- Parenting education
- DDD funded services
- DDD Applications Assistance

**-Center for Educational Advancement (CEA)** 908-782-1480 11 Minneakoning Road, Flemington, NJ 08822 [www.cea-nj.org](http://www.cea-nj.org)

Community Employment & Evaluation/Workplace Readiness/Student Pre-Employment Transition

**-Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)** 75 Veterans Memorial Drive East  
Suite 101, Somerville, New Jersey 08876-2952  
**Phone:** 908-704-3030

**Counseling and guidance/information and referral:** VR counselors will offer assistance and

coordinate client services consistent with individual employment goals and provide information regarding other available services.

**Job search skill development:** Guidance in work-search activities, such as resume writing, interviewing, travel, and the job search.

**Placement services:** Through one-on-one assistance, customers develop job search and interviewing skills, obtain job leads, and receive support during the job search. Depending on the customer's needs, placement services may include interviewing skills training, soft skills training, on-the-job training (OJT), supported employment (SE), or time-limited job coaching (TLJC).

**Time-Limited Job Coaching (TLJC):** One-on-one assistance in applying for jobs and/or on-the-job coaching after a job is obtained. Services are time-limited.

**Supported Employment (SE):** Customers who require an intensive level of job coaching are referred to a supported employment provider for one-on-one assistance in job searching, interviewing skills training, and applying for jobs. The supported employment provider delivers on-the-job coaching to assist the customer in learning job duties and adjusting to the work environment. SE also includes periodic follow-up to make sure the consumer retains his or her job.

**Assistive technology evaluations:** Assesses an individual's ability to drive, as well as determines equipment needed to drive safely.

**Diagnostic evaluations:** Evaluates medical, psychiatric, physiatriac, psychological, neurological, or physical barriers to employment to determine eligibility. Evaluations may also be done to determine the client's needs throughout the rehabilitation process and to provide restorative and accommodation services.

**Emotional restoration services:** Short-term individual, group, or other counseling to reduce mental health and emotional problems and improve work tolerance and the client's ability to get and keep a job.

**Physical restoration:** Satisfies client's equipment or therapeutic service needs so that the client is able to work. Service addresses physical, occupational, speech therapy, or cognitive therapy needs. Physical Restoration can include helping the client obtain prosthetics or orthotics, such as artificial limbs, braces, special shoes, hearing aids, and eyeglasses (in some instances).

**Benefits counseling:** Clients who are recipients of SSD/SSI benefits may be referred for Work Incentive Planning and Assistance counseling (WIPA) to determine how working may affect their benefits. Benefits counseling is provided through NJWI NS or Full Circle Employment Solutions.

**Financial needs assessments:** Assesses financial needs of the customer for acquisition of services. DVRS provides "Cost" and "No Cost" services.

**Home modifications:** Finds home modification services if the modifications are needed for work purposes.

**Job accommodations:** Employer is advised on worksite accommodations for the employee or provided equipment and assistive technology that will allow an individual to do work tasks more independently, effectively, and safely.

**Mobility equipment:** Services include referral for evaluation to determine mobility needs and recommended equipment/assistive technology.

**Vehicle modifications:** Car and van equipment modifications.

**College training:** Support for participating in a two- or four-year program that leads to a degree. Funding may include tuition, fees, books, supplies, room and board, assistive technology, interpreting services or CART services for the Deaf, and support services, depending on need and financial eligibility. Students are expected to attend school within the State of New Jersey.

**Driver training:** Helps consumers purchase driver training lessons if the lessons are needed for work purposes.

**Skills training:** Vocational school, technology or trade school, and business school training.

**Bilingual services:** DVRS employs vocational counselors who are bilingual Spanish-speaking or fluent in sign language. DVRS also provides interpreting services to assist communication with clients and DVRS staff.

**Interpreting services:** Interpretation services for the Deaf to help with job interviews and new job orientation training. DVRS also provides job coaches who are fluent in American Sign Language.

**Funding startup costs for small business:** Startup costs may be funded for those individuals whose vocational goal is a small business/self-employment. Funding for entrepreneur training may also be provided.

**-Easter Seals of New Jersey** (908)788-7580, [www.easterseals.com](http://www.easterseals.com)

To enrich the lives of people with disabilities and special needs, and those who care about them, by providing opportunities to live, learn, work, and play, in their communities.

**Employment and Training** Easterseals Promotes Employment for People with Disabilities because experience has taught us that meaningful employment is one of the best ways to boost an individual's self-esteem and sense that they play a valuable role within their community, Easterseals strives to help pave the road to independence through employment. Easterseals New Jersey's two New Jersey-based employment sites/community rehabilitation programs - located in Central and Southern New Jersey - offer pre-vocational evaluation, work adjustment training, school to work transition, supported employment, extended employment, and job placement services. Easterseals excels at working with individuals with disabilities and matching program participants to local businesses and volunteer services through its Employment Services division and in conjunction with the following programs:

- [Workforce Development Solutions](#)
- [NJ Packaging Services & FileSave Imaging](#)
- [SCSEP, Senior Community Services Employment Program](#)
- [Career Pathway Connections](#)
- [Career Exploration](#)

For information on eligibility and other program criteria, contact Easterseals New Jersey's Information and Referral line toll free at (855) 215-4541.

**-Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission** (908)439-4280 ext. 4700,  
[www.hunterdonesc.org](http://www.hunterdonesc.org), Fran Leddy, Supervisor [fleddy@hunterdonesc.org](mailto:fleddy@hunterdonesc.org)

Adult Programs and Services:

DDD - Thrive Day Habilitation [thrive@hunterdonesc.org](mailto:thrive@hunterdonesc.org)

[THRIVE – A Day Habilitation Program](#) – serving individuals age 21 and over with differing abilities and from all counties in NJ

Literacy – Hunterdon County [vszymanski@hunterdonesc.org](mailto:vszymanski@hunterdonesc.org). Somerset County [spettesch@hunterdonesc.org](mailto:spettesch@hunterdonesc.org).

Adult Basic Skills

High School Equivalency Preparation

English Language Acquisition

Basic Computer Skills

Job Readiness/Resume and Interview Preparation

**-Progressive Center for Independent Living** 908-782-1055 [www.pcil.org](http://www.pcil.org)

Progressive Center for Independent Living (PCIL) offers Adult Job Readiness Training to help people living with disabilities transition into the working life! Individuals no longer attending high school in need of pre-employment training would find these services helpful. Individuals are referred to PCIL through their Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Counselor and have an open case through DVRS.

Courses under the A La Carte menu have a comprehensive focus on the development of skills to obtain and maintain competitive employment. DVR counselors can refer you to the following services listed below. Most of the sessions are individual instruction.

Pre-Employment Instructional Support

Rights and Responsibilities: Title I of the ADA

Keys to Obtaining & Retaining Jobs

Working Well with a Disability

Employment Readiness Instructional Support

Community Based Work Experience

Steps in Vocational Planning

Understanding Employee Benefits, Fiscal Compensation & Managing

Finances Compensation & Managing Finances

Assistive Technology; Tools to Employment

Employment Job Club

How to Maintain Employment

Time Management and Organization in the Workplace  
Conflict Resolution in the Workplace

PCIL, with support of the CARES Act, is also offering [direct assistance to individuals](#) with disabilities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Call the office for more details.

-**StarThrower Group**: 908-655-5234, Mailing address: PO Box 2238, Flemington, NJ 08822, Physical address: 20 Commerce Street, Suite 2013, Flemington, NJ 08822, [www.starthrowergroup.com](http://www.starthrowergroup.com), [info@starthrowergroup.com](mailto:info@starthrowergroup.com).

Serving Somerset, Hunterdon, Warren and Mercer counties.

Services include:

Community Based Supports

Pre-Vocational Training (Group)

Supported Employment (Group/Individual)

Community Inclusion

Career Planning

Speech Therapy (Group/Individual)

Encourage skill development through member driven peer led projects that provide service to our communities and support our local businesses.

- **The Hunterdon County Office on Disability Services**: (908) 788-1361 (VOICE/TDD)

Contact: Barbara Metzger, MSW, LSW, Disability Services Planner

- Information & Referral to Agencies throughout the State
- Advocacy
- Addressing issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), such as discrimination and accessibility
- Planning new or expanded services for people with disabilities when appropriate
- Educational presentations
- The Hunterdon County [Personal Assistance Services Program](#) (PASP) has openings for individuals who have permanent disabilities, are able to self-direct, and who are not on or eligible for Medicaid. Contact program coordinator Alycia Wolf at 908-788-1361 or [awolf@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:awolf@co.hunterdon.nj.us).

**Other Resources:** There are also other local, state and federal agencies that serve people with disabilities; another statewide information and referral resource is the NJ Department of **Human Services' Division of Disability Services**. This Division can be reached toll-free at **888-285-3036** or **609-292-7800**.

### **Somerset County:**

-**Alternatives, Inc.** Provides comprehensive services to individuals with special needs 908-685-1444, 908-685-2660 Fax, 600 First Avenue, Raritan, NJ 08869 [www.alternativesinc.org](http://www.alternativesinc.org)

Available services:

Behavioral Supports  
Career Planning  
Community Based Supports  
Community Inclusion Services  
Individual Supports  
Day Habilitation  
Pre-vocational Training  
Supported Employment - Individual  
Supported Employment - Small Group  
Individual Supports  
Community Support Services  
Transitional Housing  
Bridges to Employment [www.bridgestoemployment.com](http://www.bridgestoemployment.com) or [www.alternativesinc.org](http://www.alternativesinc.org)

**-The Arc of Somerset County**, 141 S Main St, Manville, NJ 08835-1803, 908-725-8544  
[lauraz@thearcofsomerset.org](mailto:lauraz@thearcofsomerset.org)

Adult Employment Services:

- Fostering continued development and growth beyond the school years.
- Center-based and community-based services as well as support for the transition from school to vocational life.
- Center-based adult programs at four facilities in Somerset County to over 200 individuals.
- The focus is to foster positive work attitudes and behaviors while increasing social skill development.
- Assessment, counseling and training, fulfillment and production tasks are offered as a means of developing work skills and earning money while providing business solutions to customers from a variety of industries such as manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, professional services and county organizations. Individuals receive payment for their work in accordance with Department of Labor, Wage and Hour standards.

Community-Based Employment:

- Supported Employment
- Career counseling, evaluation and assessment
- Internships or on-the-job training, and assistance with any job accommodations which may be needed.

Transition Services:

- Transition Services can provide a bridge between school life and working life for individuals with a developmental disability.

- The Arc of Somerset County will attend Individual Educational Plan (IEP) meetings and support the family and the Child Study team in efforts to implement transition plans, visit center-based programs and tour work sites.
- Time limited job sampling and assessments are available throughout the transition year and provide exposure to community work and culture.
- Skills can also be developed to support an individual's efforts to express personal interest.
- Once complete, job development services continue to foster resume creation, interview practice and general employability. After hire, job coaching services assist in acclimating individuals to the work environment and to monitor progress and personal preferences.

**-Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)** 75 Veterans Memorial Drive East  
Suite 101, Somerville, New Jersey 08876-2952  
**Phone:** 908-704-3030 *For services available see above under Hunterdon County*

**- Easter Seals of New Jersey** (908)788-7580, [www.easterseals.com](http://www.easterseals.com) *For services available see above under Hunterdon County*

**- Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission** *For services available see above under Hunterdon County*

**-Matheny School** 65 Highland Ave, PO Box 339, Peapack, NJ 07977, 908-234-0011

Adult Service is comprised of two learning centers – one in Hillsborough and the other at Matheny’s main campus in Peapack. The programs are designed to assist our patients in attaining their highest level of independent functioning while maximizing engagement and satisfaction. This is accomplished by a wide range of disciplines offering a variety of classes, programs and community trips. Additionally, the adult patients are committed to giving back to their community by hosting disability awareness days, guest speaking at elementary schools, creating cards for kids in need, fundraising for local charities and our largest program, Brave Bags, which provides police departments with handmade bags by our patients filled with items that can be provided to children during a crisis situation.

**-Richard Hall Community Health & Wellness Center,** Nicci Spinazzola, Executive Director, 500 North Bridge Street, Bridgewater, NJ 08807, 908-725-2800,  
[MentalHealth@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:MentalHealth@co.somerset.nj.us)

The Employment Works Supported Employment Program works with people who have been unemployed or underemployed due to their mental health issues. The program provides one-on-one job coaching and job development assistance for participants to choose, get, and keep employment. The job coach is an additional support added to the person’s mental health treatment team, family, friends, co-workers, and other community resources to help increase the likelihood of maintaining success at work.



**Possible types of support that may be provided, if desired, include:**

- Help managing time, pacing, and prioritizing at work
- Benefit planning – SSDI/SSI, Medicare, Medicaid, GA, etc.
- Providing feedback on performance and problem solving for improvement
- Support to cope with personal problems, to decrease the impact on work performance, and to help to work through a bad day
- Assistance dealing with personnel, workspace, or environment issues
- Helping address special needs related to job modifications and/or reasonable accommodations
- Problem solving assistance for maintaining a job
- Encouragement and emotional support to maintain a job
- Support can be offered at the worksite, in the community or in the office
- On site visits and contact with an employer or supervisor, if desired
- Orientation and training support
- Transportation training
- Help in learning the expectations of the employer and worksite culture

**- Somerset County Office on Aging and Disability Services**, Disability Services Coordinator, 27 Warren St, PO Box 3000, Somerville, NJ 08876 908-704-6346

Somerset County Disability Services is an information and referral resource for individuals with disabilities, family members, friends and communities. The goal of the Disability Services is to help improve the quality of life for all residents.

The Somerset County Advisory Council on Disability Issues (ACODI) addresses the needs and concerns of individuals with disabilities through educational projects that help to raise awareness, including publications and workshops.

The office also manages a [Personal Assistance Services Program](#) (PASP), which allows individuals to be independent with dignity and choice about their own care needs in order to remain productive, active and safe in the community. PASP authorizes a monthly dollar allocation to persons ages 18 through 70 living with permanent physical disabilities. For details, contact Amy Cameron, Somerset County PASP Coordinator, at (908) 541-5747.

**-StarThrower Group**: 908-655-5234, Mailing address: PO Box 2238, Flemington, NJ 08822, Physical address: 20 Commerce Street, Suite 2013, Flemington, NJ 08822, [www.starthrowergroup.com](http://www.starthrowergroup.com), [info@starthrowergroup.com](mailto:info@starthrowergroup.com). *For information see above under Hunterdon County*

## **VIRTUAL SERVICES:**

### **-Disability-Related Job Banks**

- ABILITY Jobs: [www.abilityjobs.com/](http://www.abilityjobs.com/)
- RecruitABILITY: [www.recruit-ability.com/](http://www.recruit-ability.com/)
- One More Way Foundation: [www.onemoreway.org/](http://www.onemoreway.org/)
- RECRUITDISABILITY: [www.recruitdisability.org/](http://www.recruitdisability.org/)
- Think Beyond the Label: [www.thinkbeyondthelabel.com/job-board](http://www.thinkbeyondthelabel.com/job-board)
- Talent Acquisition Portal: [www.tapability.org/](http://www.tapability.org/)
- disAblePerson.com: [www.disabledperson.com/](http://www.disabledperson.com/)

**-GettingHired.com:** A place where people with disabilities, employers committed to hiring people with disabilities, service providers, college disability and career services departments, and disability advocacy groups connect: [www.gettinghired.com](http://www.gettinghired.com)

**-Hire Disability Solutions:** Hire Disability Solutions provides comprehensive career services to facilitate employment for people with disabilities, veterans, their family members, and others who face challenges in their lives: [www.hireds.com](http://www.hireds.com)

## **COVID SERVICES:**

### **COVID-related resource developed by The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities:**

Helping Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Become Comfortable with Face Masks. Click here:

<http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/links/documents/HelpingAdultswIDDFaceMasks-F.pdf>

This guidance about face masks will be particularly helpful as New Jersey moves forward with the COVID-19 Recovery and Re-Opening.

**Division of Developmental Disabilities Residential Screening Policy Update.** Based on Governor Murphy's [travel advisory](#) for people entering New Jersey from states with significant COVID-19 spread, the Division has updated its [Residential Screening Policy](#). As indicated in that advisory, anyone visiting or returning from one of the identified states should quarantine for 14 days.

### **DDD Guidance for Direct Service Providers**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed a new resource, [Guidance for Direct Service Providers](#), which includes comprehensive information and guidance for direct support professionals who provide services to people with disabilities.

**The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** released a [Provider Relief Fund Fact Sheet](#), which includes specific guidance for providers applying for funds from the Medicaid and CHIP provider distribution of the Provider Relief Fund.

### **Virtual Family Assistance Center**

Grieving is always difficult, and The Red Cross recognizes the COVID-19 pandemic creates additional challenges and needs. This Virtual Family Assistance Center offers information and resources that we hope will help you during this time. If you lost a loved one to [#COVID19](#), volunteers are here for you. We urge anyone who needs support to visit [RedCross.org/VFAC](https://www.redcross.org/VFAC)

### **Department of Justice Announces Launch of Civil Rights Reporting Portal**

The Department of Justice announced the launch of the Civil Rights Reporting Portal. This new online tool will make it easier for the public to report a civil rights violation. The new Civil Rights Reporting Portal– located at [civilrights.justice.gov](https://civilrights.justice.gov) – will consolidate over 30 unique reporting pathways. The portal will dramatically ease the burden on victims of civil rights violations to identify the proper reporting channel. The form is fully accessible to people with disabilities. It is also available in both English and Spanish, with more languages to be added over the next year. Individuals who believe that they may have been victims of civil rights violations can learn how to report violations by visiting [civilrights.justice.gov](https://civilrights.justice.gov). If you believe that you are a victim of criminal civil rights violations, such as misconduct by law enforcement officers, hate crimes, or human trafficking, please [contact your local FBI office](#).