

Disabilities Committee
Employment Services for Workers with
Disabilities

Hunterdon County (Pages 2 – 6)

Somerset County (Pages 6-9)

Virtual Services (Page 10)

Updated 11/2023

Hunterdon County:

-Arc of Hunterdon County 908-730-7827 908-730-7726 Fax 1465 State Route 31S, Suite 23, Annandale, NJ 08801 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

Facilitating career pathways and community employment for students and adults with disabilities. Community Employment & Evaluation/Workplace Readiness/Student Pre-Employment Transition and the CEA school, serving students ages 12 to 21. The CEA school is a DOE approved, private school, serving students ages 12 to 21, which operates as a “school within a school model”, specializing in transition services. Students are actively integrated in community life, paid internships, academic courses with peers, extracurricular, and electives. Students have opportunities for dual enrolment in local community college programs. Contact: Tara Vargas, Principal tvargas@cea-nj.org, Kara Nemeth, Lead Social Worker, knemeth@cea-nj.org 908-782-1480 x269

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

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/g8fo1c29/7kzALdGB4ECcNbfvd3hWQ?u=https://www.nj.gov/labor/career-services/special-services/individuals-with-disabilities/>

The New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (NJDVRS) provides services and support to help New Jersey residents with disabilities prepare for, find, and maintain employment. Our agency works directly with individuals to develop career goals and identify the supports they need to succeed in the workplace.

We take a person-centered approach, focusing on everyone’s strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice. Working closely as a team, the individual, their counselor, and other partners such as medical professionals develop an Individualized Plan for Employment. This plan outlines the services, accommodations, training, and other assistance the individual will receive from NJDVRS.

Some of the key services we provide include:

- **Vocational Counseling and Guidance**
- **Supported Employment/job coaching**
- **Resume and interview preparation**
- **Vocational/College training**
- **Interpreter services for those with hearing loss**
- **Assistive technology evaluations and equipment**
- **Benefits Counseling**
- **Transportation assistance, and more.**

The goal is to help each individual overcome barriers to employment and obtain a good job that matches their qualifications and interests.

-Easterseals of New Jersey (908)788-7580, 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. 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 & File Save 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 Literacy –
adultliteracy@hunterdonesc.org, Fran Leddy, Supervisor fleddy@hunterdonesc.org

Adult Programs and Services:

DDD - Thrive Day Habilitation thrive@hunterdonesc.org

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

Literacy – dvoria@hunterdonesc.org/908-237-5000

For Spanish – zcaastroabrica@hunterdonesc.org/908/237-5000

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

https://link.edgepilot.com/s/1dae78e9/jd3BraJ93EuB_aIC2IUfLQ?u=http://www.pcil.org/

Progressive Center for Independent Living (PCIL) offers Pre-Employment Transition Services to help people living with disabilities transition into the working life! Individuals are referred to PCIL through their Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Counselor and have an open case through DVRS.

Adults in need of pre-employment training would find these services helpful. 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 Conflict Resolution in the Workplace

Keys to Obtaining & Retaining Jobs Time Management & Organization in the Workplace

Working Well with a Disability How to Maintain Employment

Community Based Work Experience Steps in Vocational Planning

Employment Readiness Instructional Support

Understanding Employee Benefit, Fiscal Compensation & Managing

For youth still in school, pre-employment services under the *Workforce Innovative Opportunities Act (WIOA)* will help prepare them to relate their strengths and interests to a career. They will also have the opportunity to explore different careers and develop a career path along with

becoming knowledgeable of the skills and expectations of future employers. These services can be individual or within group settings.

Instruction in Self Advocacy
Workplace Readiness Training
Post-Secondary Opportunities Counseling

Career Exploration and Counseling
Work Based Learning Experience

-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, 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: Helene Pappas, 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](http://www.hunterdonnj.us/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.

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:

-Alliance Center for Independence (ACI), 629 Amboy Ave., Edison, NJ 08837
732-738-4288 [Alliance Center for Independence \(adacil.org\)](http://adacil.org)

A center for independent living serving Somerset County offering employment readiness programs including: Pre-Employment Transition Services and It's All About Work.

-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

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 or www.alternativesinc.org

-The Arc of Somerset County, 141 S Main St, Manville, NJ 08835-1803, 908-725-8544
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.

-The Center School 2 Riverview Dr, Somerset, NJ 08873 908-253-3870 Special Education School for Grades K-12 plus transition students ages 18-21.

-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*

- Easterseals of New Jersey (908)788-7580, 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

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 and older with permanent physical disabilities, are able to self-direct, and who are not on or eligible for Medicaid. Somerset County PASP currently has openings. For details, contact Jannell Wilson, Somerset County PASP Coordinator, at (908) 541-5747 or jwilson@co.somerset.nj.us.

-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, info@starthrowergroup.com. *For information see above under Hunterdon County*

VIRTUAL SERVICES:

-Disability-Related Job Banks

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

-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