

Youth Career Opportunity Assistance



Progressive Employment

Parents—Help your youth get an early start on a career!

Having a paid job before high school graduation is one of the best ways to ensure future employment success for young people.

Would you like your son or daughter to learn more about the world of work through activities with local employers and earn their first paycheck?

How does Progressive Employment work?

After being found eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services, youth and their families discuss with their assigned VR counselor if Progressive Employment is the right approach. Youth who are referred to Progressive Employment have access to a team of youth workforce professionals who share their knowledge and creative ideas in regular staffing meetings – leading to expanded opportunities!

Youth will be matched with a community rehabilitation provider based on their career interests, geographic location and other factors. That individual will then set up work-based learning activities in line with your son or daughter's career interests. The pace of these activities will be determined by the youth and participating employers' needs.

Opportunities for hands-on activities in the community include:

Job Tours

Youth learn about employers in their area.

Interviews

Youth practice their interviewing skills with local employers and workforce professionals.

Job Shadows

Youth “go behind the scenes” to experience jobs in action.

Work Experience/Summer Work Experience

Youth earn a paycheck and build skills in an authentic employment setting.

On-the-Job Training

After hire, DVR works with the young adult's employer to help share training costs.

What does success look like in Progressive Employment?

“Amy” had an interest in fashion but lacked the confidence to apply for a job at her favorite clothing store. Job tours, including an opportunity to dress the store mannequins, helped Amy build her comfort level and skills.

“Donnie,” a recent high school grad with an interest in food service, was referred to Progressive Employment. Going on job tours with local restaurants, led to a paid work experience with one of them where he helped with pizza dough preparation and did such a great job, he was offered a permanent position. He and his team agreed that it would be a great fit. Following 90 days of successful employment, “Donnie” now has long-term support funding in place to support him with job coaching as needed.

www.maine.gov/rehab/dvr

Want to learn more? Contact:

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DVR Transition Work-Based Learning Model

Maine Department of Labor

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Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs.

Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.

Programs are provided as a proud partner of the American Job Center network.