OPWDD's Employment Training Program

Information for Employers

The Employment Training Program helps businesses hire qualified and skilled employees with disabilities at no cost to the business. The program matches businesses with interns with the experience and skills to become successful employees. OPWDD will pay the intern's wages during the initial training period, after which the business will hire the intern should they meet the job requirements.

How the Employment Training Program works

- OPWDD pays interns as hourly, temporary employees. They are covered by Workers' Compensation and Liability Insurance through New York State.
- Internships are part-time and time-limited depending on intern and business needs. It is expected that the businesses will hire the interns once they meet the employers' standards.
- The Employment Training Program provides regular job readiness classes to strengthen interns' work and social skills.
- Interns will be fully trained when they start on the business' payroll. When hired by the business, interns may increase their hours if needed.

The Employment Training Program can help businesses:

- Develop potential employees
- Save money on recruitment, job training and retention
- Enhance the diversity of their workforce
- Provide professional, on-the-job assistance to interns and businesses
- Fill existing vacancies or meet unfilled business needs

NEW YORK STATE | Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

Get started with the Employment Training Program today

- Contact the Statewide Employment Training Program at employment.vocational.services@opwdd.ny.gov
- You will be referred to a local Employment Training Program Supervisor, who will identify a service provider agency in your area. That agency will reach out to you to learn about your business and hiring needs.
- The service provider will match an intern to your business needs and provide assistance to both you and the intern for a successful experience.

Examples of Employment Training Program Internships

- Communications Assistant
- Inventory and Stock Associate
- Computer Repair Technician
- Floral and Greenhouse Worker
- Mail and Supply Clerk
- Food Service Staff
- Mechanic Assistant
- Retail Clerk
- Childcare Assistant
- Personal Care Aide
- Childcare Assistant
- Veterinarian or Animal Care Assistant
- And More