

Employment and Job Training

Washington, D.C.

Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE)

CFSA's Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) has certain policies governing job searches, job training, and other employment assistance. OYE also has an employment specialist who can be of some continued assistance after case closure. Youth should contact OYE at 202-727-7500 for more assistance.

The Career Pathways Unit in OYE is responsible for identifying older youth (ages 18-20) who are not on track to attend a college/university and providing them with opportunities for alternative certification/experience in a designated field with the expectation that they will then transition into a full-time career. The Career Pathways Unit also provides a subsidized internship so youth can gain valuable work experience. This paid internship program allows youth to gain work experience (preferably in his/her industry of choice), gain soft skills training, build his/her resume, and prepare them to transition into sustainable unsubsidized employment.

- Practice Pointer: Make sure to talk to the youth's social worker as soon as he/she is eligible and interested to ensure that the youth gets connected to the Career Pathways Unit.

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)

Youth with disabilities should be linked to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). RSA, which falls under the Department of Disability Services (DDS), oversees grant programs that help individuals with physical or mental disabilities to obtain employment and live more independently through the provision of such supports as counseling, medical and psychological services, job training and other individualized services. In order to apply for RSA services, youth should complete the application online at https://dda.dc.gov/mcis/rsa_intake_outside/rsaintakeform.asp. Once the application is completed, the youth will work with an assigned counselor to validate their eligibility for services and develop an individualized plan for employment (IPE).

RSA's Youth in Transition Services Unit provides transition services to coordinate a set of activities for students designed around an outcome-oriented process. These activities promote movement from school to post-school activities including post-secondary education, vocational training, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, and independent living. For these particular services, students will need to be linked while still in school to create continued services.

- Legal Assistance: If youth need legal assistance to ensuring services are being provided, they should contact University Legal Services at 202-547-0198.
- Practice Pointer: Make sure that the social worker connects the youth to RSA prior to aging out to ensure that they are connected with these supports prior to case closure. There is an RSA representative who conducts RSA interviews at OYE.

Department of Employment Services (DOES)

The Department of Employment Services (DOES) offers job-seekers a variety of employment and training opportunities. Visit DOES's website (<http://does.dc.gov/>) for a comprehensive list of opportunities and services.

The Project Empowerment Program within DOES is a transitional employment program that provides job readiness training, work experience, and job search assistance to District residents who face multiple barriers to employment. Participants attend an intensive, three-week training course and upon completion have the opportunity to be placed in subsidized employment for up to six months. To be eligible for this program, youth must be at least 22 years old, a DC resident, unemployed, and not receiving any governmental assistance other than food stamps and SSI. In order to be referred to this program, youth must get referred from the American Job Center (AJC) in DC.

The AJC also offers a variety of services. Here, residents can utilize resources such as career counseling, career planning, resume assistance, direct job placement, classroom and on-the-job-training, information about local and national labor markets, unemployment compensation and much more. DOES operates various American Job Centers throughout DC. The locations and contact information are listed below:

- **Headquarters** – 4058 Minnesota Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C. 20019 – 202-724-2337
- **Northeast** – 5171 South Dakota Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C. 20017 – 202-576-3092
- **Northwest** – 2000 14th Street, NW, 3rd Floor, Washington, D.C. 20009 – 202-442-4577
- **Southeast** – 3720 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. 20032 – 202-741-7747

The Office of Youth Programs (OYP) under DOES develops and administers workforce development programs for DC youth between the ages of 14-24. OYP provides occupational skills training, work experience, academic enrichment and life skills training to facilitate the development of work habits and skills that are essential for success in the workplace. The summer youth employment program falls under OYP. For questions and information about OYP, contact 202-698-3492.

The Office of Apprenticeship, Information and Training (OAIT), part of DOES, registers apprentices and apprenticeship programs. These various apprenticeships usually last between two (2) to five (5) years. Applicants for apprenticeships must be at least 16 years old and meet the sponsor's qualifications. A high school diploma or GED is required for most programs. For more information about the apprenticeship program, contact the OAIT at 4058 Minnesota Ave., NE, Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20019, or 202-698-5099.

National Children's Center (NCC)

The National Children's Center (NCC) works to provide various opportunities to people with developmental disabilities. In NCC's Employment Services program, services are tailored to meet each person's desired employment goal. Through working with the youth and an employment specialist, an individualized work plan is developed with measurable goals and outcomes that lead to a competitive employment placement of choice. NCC also offers work readiness training. For more information, see <http://www.nccinc.org/about-ncc/ncc-employment-first/>.

Job Corps

Job Corps is a free education and training program that helps youth learn a career, earn a high school diploma or GED, and find and keep a good job. Generally, youth between 16 to 24 years old who are low income are eligible for Job Corps. For other eligibility requirements, refer to the Job Corps eligibility factsheet at <https://www.doleta.gov/programs/factsht/jobcorps.cfm>. For information about applying to Job Corps, visit the Job Corps Recruiting website at <https://recruiting.jobcorps.gov/>, which contains links to program information, an eligibility quiz, and an initial application for the program. You can also call (800) 733-JOBS, to be connected to a local admissions counselor.

For Job Corps eligibility, see [here](#).