TRANSITION SUMMIT 2026 | NOVEMBER 7, 2026

Beyond High School

Exploring Work-Based Learning Opportunities



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AHRC NYC

Work-Based Learning: Real-World Experience

Work-based learning helps young adults explore careers, develop skills, and prepare for employment through hands-on experiences.

Explore Careers

Discover interests and strengths

Gain Experience

Learn in real workplace settings

Build Skills

Develop workplace and professional skills

Grow Independence

Build confidence and self-advocacy

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Project SEARCH

A business-led, one-academic-year employment preparation program that takes place entirely at a host workplace.



Workplace Immersion

Training takes place at a host business

Internship Rotations

Experience different departments and job responsibilities



Skills Development

Classroom instruction and hands-on learning

Individualized Support

Job coaching and employment preparation

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A Day in the Life of Project SEARCH

Learning happens in the workplace, with opportunities to practice skills throughout the day.



Classroom Instruction

Workplace communication, problem-solving, and professional skills



Hands-on Training

Hands-on training in a department of the host business



Reflection & Support

Review progress, address challenges, and set employment goals

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Project SEARCH Host Businesses

Business & Facilities

Building operations, porter services, and workplace maintenance.

Health Care

Hospital operations, environmental services, and support roles.

Food Service & Hospitality

Kitchen operations, food preparation, and hospitality services.

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The Goal: Competitive, Integrated Employment

Project SEARCH emphasizes meaningful, paid employment in inclusive workplaces.

Integrated Employment

Year-Round Employment

Prevailing Wages

16+ Hours Per Week

Project SEARCH: Youth (ACCES-VR)

A school-to-work transition program that combines education, internships, and employment preparation.

Who is it for?

- ***Students*** *with disabilities preparing to transition from school into employment.*
- *Students who would benefit from intensive workplace learning.*

What to Expect

- *School-year-long program based at a host business.*
- *Classroom instruction and hands-on internship rotations.*
- *Career exploration, job coaching, and employment planning.*

How to Access

- *Speak with the student's school transition team.*
- *Explore* ***ACCES-VR*** *eligibility and referral requirements.*
- *Contact AHRC NYC about available sites and timelines.*

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Project SEARCH: Adult (OPWDD)

A workplace-based training program for adults with developmental disabilities who have **completed high school**.

Who is it for?

- ***Adults*** *with developmental disabilities.*
- *Eligible for OPWDD services.*

What to Expect

- *Nine-month, business-led internship program.*
- *Classroom instruction, workplace rotations, and individualized support.*
- *Job development and support transitioning into employment.*

How to Access

- *Connect with an* ***OPWDD*** *Care Manager.*
- *Discuss eligibility and available Project SEARCH sites.*
- *Contact AHRC NYC about referrals and enrollment*

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DYCD: Train & Earn

A workforce development program funded through the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), combining career readiness, industry-specific training, paid internships, and employment support.



Career Readiness

Resume writing, interviewing, and workplace communication.

Paid Internships

Gaining real-world work experience while earning money.



Industry Training

Developing skills for specific career fields.

Employment Support

Job placement assistance and career planning.

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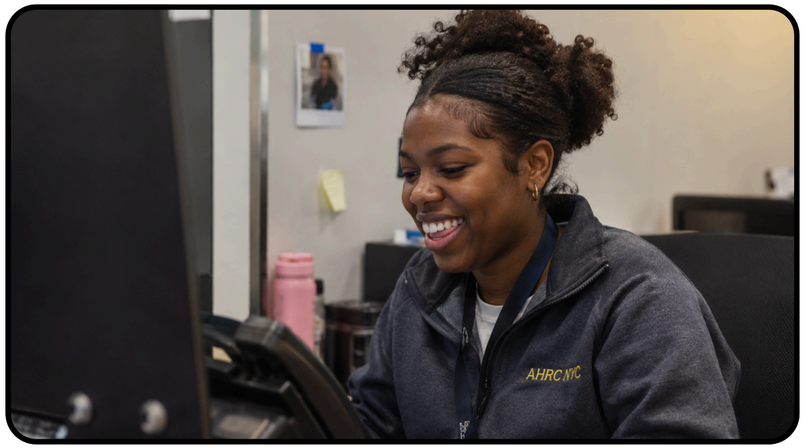
How Train & Earn Works

From Training to Employment



DYCD: Train & Earn at AHRC NYC

Two Career Training Tracks at AHRC NYC





Manhattan: Government Sector

- *Office technology*
- *Administrative skills*
- *Professional communication*
- *Job readiness*

Brooklyn: Concrete Polishing

- *Concrete polishing techniques*
- *Equipment and tools*
- *Workplace safety*
- *Industry preparation*

DYCD: Train & Earn

From Training to Employment

Who is it for?

- *Young adults ages **16–24.***
- ***Currently out of school and not working.***
- *Participants who meet DYCD eligibility requirements.*

What to Expect

- *Career readiness and industry-specific training.*
- *A 150-hour paid internship.*
- *Individualized employment support.*
- *Follow-up services.*

How to Access

- *Contact **AHRC NYC's Train & Earn team.***
- *Complete an intake and eligibility screening.*
- *Explore available career tracks.*

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Partnership for Inclusive Internships (PII)

An internationally award-winning internship program:



Government Partnerships

Opportunities with the MTA, DSS, DOE, and other agencies

Paid Internships

Up to 320 hours over six months



Career Experience

Build professional skills and gain experience in a chosen field.

Individualized Support

Internship preparation, workplace support, and career development.

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PII Participating Government & Public Agencies

A few of our partners offering professional internship opportunities:

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Department of Transportation

NEW YORK STATE Division of Human Rights

NYC Housing Resource Portal

MTA

NYC Department of Social Services
Human Resources Administration
Department of Homeless Services

NYC Department of Education

9/11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM
25 YEARS LATER

City of New York Parks & Recreation

NYC DCAS
Citywide Administrative Services

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Partnership for Inclusive Internships (PII)

A next step for individuals ready to gain experience in a professional workplace.

Who is it for?

- ***Adults with disabilities**, ages 18+.*
- *Connected with ACCES-VR or NYSCB.*
- ***I**ndividuals with foundational workplace skills.*

What to Expect

- *Paid professional internships.*
- *Competitive application and interview process*
- *Individualized workplace support.*

How to Access

- *Apply to PII and explore available internships.*
- *Apply and interview for specific positions.*
- *Host employer makes the final selection.*

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At a Glance

Finding the right work-based learning pathway.

	Who	Experience	Length	Paid	How to Access
Project SEARCH	Students and adults needing intensive workplace training.	Classroom instruction, workplace rotations, and job coaching	9 months	Varies*	School/ACCES-VR (Youth) or OPWDD (Adult)
Train & Earn	NYC young adults ages 16–24 who meet eligibility requirements	Career training and hands-on internships	Approx. 16 weeks, plus 1 year follow-up	Yes	AHRC intake and DYCD eligibility screening
PII	Adults with disabilities ready for professional experience	Competitive professional internships with individualized support	Up to 320 hours over 6 months	Yes	Apply to PII, interview, and be selected by the host employer

**Project SEARCH internship compensation varies by site*

Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program

An inclusive college experience that combines academics, campus life, career exploration, and personal growth.



Academics

Two college courses each semester, with individualized learning supports

Campus Life

Clubs, campus events, friendships, and peer mentorship



Career Exploration

Internships and opportunities to develop workplace skills

Personal Growth

Self-advocacy, independence, and civic engagement

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Melissa Riggio: Getting Started

Exploring eligibility, the college experience, and how to apply.

Who is it for?

- *NYC residents with intellectual disabilities*
- *Eligible for OPWDD services and enrolled in the HCBS Waiver*
- *Interested in college life, career exploration, and building independence*

What to Expect

- *College courses and campus activities*
- *Peer mentorship and individualized support*
- *On- and off-campus internships*
- *Opportunities to build independence and self-advocacy*

How to Access

- *Complete the CUNY Unlimited application*
- *Submit required application materials to AHRC NYC*
- *Applications are reviewed through a two-part admissions process*

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Questions? Let's Stay Connected!

Learn more about each program, eligibility and next steps!

Project SEARCH

- Project SEARCH General
- Project SEARCH at AHRC

General AHRC PS:
Vivian Martins
Vivian.Martins@ahrcnyc.org

Train & Earn

- Train & Earn General
- Train & Earn at AHRC

Gov Sector:
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Concrete Polishing
Peter Niemiec
Peter.Niemiec@ahrcnyc.org

PII

- Partnership for Inclusive Internships

Program Coordinator:
Imam Rezki
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Questions? Let's Stay Connected!

Learn more about each program, eligibility and next steps!

Melissa Riggio College Program

Melissa Riggio General

Application Information

Program Admissions:
mrhep@ahrcnyc.org

AHRC NYC General Inquiries

Referral & Information Center

(212) 780-4491

General Referrals and Info:
referrals@ahrcnyc.org

Thank You!

Explore programs and resources shared today.

Scan to View the Presentation

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