Goodwill NYNJ

Transitional Services for High School Graduates

About Goodwill NYNJ

100+

years serving our community

Founded in Brooklyn

Our mission

To empower people with disabilities and other barriers to employment to gain independence through the power of work.

Goodwill Philosophy





Everyone has the right to explore independence and employment.

Our job is to support people in achieving goals that are meaningful to them and that lead to the most independent and fulfilling life possible.

Getting Services: The “Front Door”

Step 1 is one phone call: **866-946-9733** Say your county. Ask for your local Front Door office.

1 Call

Call the number above. A Front Door staff member will be your guide.

2 Learn

Join the required information session. It is online, in many languages.

3 Get a helper

Pick a care agency (CCO or SAA). They help you apply.

4 Gather papers

Collect the reports on the checklist. Missing papers cause the most delays.

5 Wait for a decision

OPWDD reviews everything and sends you a letter.

6 Make a plan

Apply for Medicaid if needed. A Care Manager helps you build a Life Plan.

Getting Ready: Papers and Tips

Papers to gather

- □ A psychologist's report with IQ test scores
- □ An adaptive behavior (daily living skills) report
- □ A doctor's report that backs up the diagnosis
- □ Health and social reports from the last 12 months
- □ Proof the disability began before age 22

Helpful tips

- ★ Keep one folder with copies of everything.
- ★ Write down the date and name for every call.
- ★ Start early. Old reports slow things down.
- ★ If you get a "no," you can ask to meet with OPWDD and appeal. The letter explains how.
- ★ Bring someone you trust to meetings. Ask them to explain in plain words.

Phone numbers and rules can change. Check opwdd.ny.gov/get-started/front-door for the latest. This is general information, not legal advice.

How to Enroll in ACCES-VR

Help for your child's path to work, training, and independence

New York State Education Department | Adult Career and Continuing Education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation

Who can apply?

Anyone age 14 or older with a disability that affects getting, keeping, or advancing in a job, who is willing to take part in the process. There is no upper age limit, and no IEP or 504 Plan is required. Applying is voluntary and free.

6 simple steps

1. **Learn about ACCES-VR**
   Watch the short orientation videos on the ACCES-VR website, or call your local District Office to join an orientation. Orientation is optional, but helpful.

2. **Get the application**
   Download it at acces.nysed.gov/vr (available in several languages), or ask your child's school transition counselor or an ACCES-VR office.

3. **Fill it out and sign**
   At minimum: name, address, date of birth, gender, disability, signature and date. If your child is under 18, a parent or guardian must also sign.

4. **Submit it**
   Send it to your local District Office by email, mail, or in person. Not sure where? Find your office on the website. Schools can also send it for you.

5. **Share information**
   Medical records, school records, or an IEP can help show eligibility. Don't have them? ACCES-VR can help get them with your written consent.

6. **Meet your counselor**
   ACCES-VR decides eligibility within 60 days of a complete application. Next, your child and a counselor build a plan for an employment goal.

Ready to start? Visit acces.nysed.gov/vr

Call toll-free: 1-800-222-JOBS (5627) | Or contact your child's school transition counselor

Please confirm current details with your local ACCES-VR District Office.

Programs at a Glance

Program	Services	Location
Project Discovery	Community-based prevocational	Astoria, Queens
Brooklyn Possibilities	Day Hab without walls + prevocational	Downtown Brooklyn
Jamaica Possibilities	Day Hab without walls + prevocational	Jamaica, Queens
Bridges to Success	Day Hab without walls + job support	Long Island City, Queens
Harlem Possibilities	Day Hab without walls + job track	East Harlem, Manhattan
Supported Employment	Job coaching and job development	Astoria, Downtown Brooklyn; all five boroughs
Respite	Recreational	Astoria, Downtown Brooklyn, East Harlem

Project Discovery







Project Discovery gives people the chance to explore work through internships, volunteering, and work readiness activities.

Community Based Prevocational Services teach job expectations and workplace safety, and prepare people for job interviews.

Eligibility
Participants must be eligible for OPWDD Services and HCBS Waiver Services.

Bridges to Success

Employment & Social Skills Program

- Supports individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Focuses on job preparation and social and communication skills
- Encourages community independence through diverse activities
- Builds confidence and practical skills

Eligibility
Participants must be eligible for OPWDD Services and HCBS Waiver Services.





Jamaica Possibilities









Jamaica Possibilities supports people in increasing social and communication skills and gives them the chance to explore work through internships, volunteering, and work readiness.

Blended services: Day Hab without walls and Community Based Prevocational Services.

Eligibility
Participants must be eligible for OPWDD Services and HCBS Waiver Services.

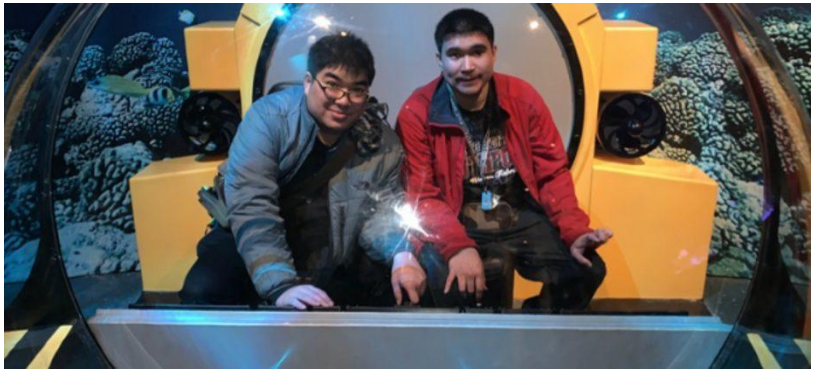
Next Steps

For people who are already working

Helps individuals strengthen job consistency, build independent living skills, and set and achieve financial goals.

Through peer support and shared recreational activities, participants build connections that support a balanced, independent, and fulfilling lifestyle.

Eligibility
Participants must be eligible for OPWDD Services and HCBS Waiver Services.





Brooklyn Possibilities







Brooklyn Possibilities supports people in increasing social and communication skills and gives them the chance to explore work through internships, volunteering, and work readiness.

Blended services: Day Hab without walls and Community Based Prevocational Services.

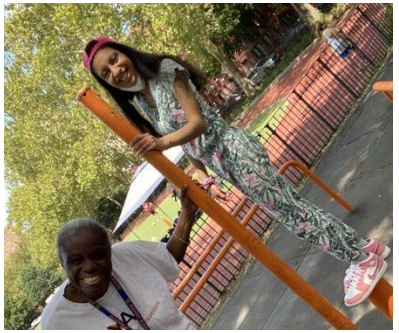
Eligibility
Participants must be eligible for OPWDD Services and HCBS Waiver Services.

Harlem Possibilities

Supports people in increasing social and communication skills and developing their independence.

Person-centered planning is used to identify interests and activities.









Employment track
Job expectations, workplace safety, and interview preparation.

Supported Employment (SEMP)

1. **Evaluation and Assessment**
2. **Job Placement**
3. **Job Coaching and Training**
4. **Ongoing Support**

Eligibility
Participants must be eligible for OPWDD Services and HCBS Waiver Services.







Advance

Program for Individuals with Autism

- For people interested in employment who do not have OPWDD services
- Funded by the Department of Mental Health
- One-year, time-limited program
- Uses Discovery to assess strengths, skills, and support needs
- Weekly work readiness groups, internships, and vocational activities during job development





Respite







Saturday recreation and fun

Participants enjoy scheduled community outings such as movies, sightseeing, and museums, along with other activities based on their interests and choices.

Eligibility
Participants must be eligible for OPWDD Services and HCBS Waiver Services.

Thank You! Get in Touch

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