

What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is designed to give training opportunities in a variety of work experiences, to explore different careers, and to teach competitive work skills in a wide range of settings. This process helps to refine career goals and to prepare each participant for competitive integrated employment for 20–40 hours per week upon completion of the program.



www.projectsearch.us



Project SEARCH

Helping people with disabilities
develop career skills for a better future



About Us

Project SEARCH is part of an internationally recognized program dedicated to building a workforce that includes people with disabilities. This benefits the individual, the community, and the workplace.

The Project SEARCH model was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in response to an institution wide effort to include people with disabilities in their workforce. Project SEARCH seeks jobs that are complex and systematic. The program strives to match the skills and interests of each Intern with the specific needs of the employer. Currently there are Project SEARCH programs in both hospital and corporate sites in 48 states and in 10 countries.

The purpose of this program is to develop skills that advance employment opportunities, provide pathways to careers, and enable Interns to succeed as contributing members of their community. Project SEARCH addresses the critical unemployment rates—over 75% of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are not working.



Adults who may apply for Project SEARCH

- 1 Have completed an Adult Transition Program and received a Certificate of Completion or have graduated from high school and received a Diploma.
- 2 Must receive services from the Regional Center of Orange County and are eligible for Department of Rehabilitation Services or have a case open with DOR.
- 3 Take public or para-transit transportation to the training site or provide their own transportation.
- 4 Make a commitment to seek competitive integrated employment at the conclusion of the training program.



Career Opportunities

Project SEARCH Interns are given the opportunity to work in several key areas of the host site. Some of the departments that have mentored Project SEARCH Interns include:

- Acute Rehab Unit
- Central Distribution
- Clinical Nutrition/Dietary
- Digital Imaging
- Environmental Services
- Food Service
- Gastroenterology
- Head and Neck
- Human Resources
- Information Systems
- Lift Team
- Linens
- Materials Management
- Neurology Clinic
- Neuroscience Unit
- Patient Transport
- Patient Financial Services
- Safety
- Sterile Processing
- Women's Health

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED PARTNERS



Learn More

For information about Project SEARCH Internships, or to become a host site, please contact:

Anita Kwon, Employment and Day Services Manager
Regional Center of Orange County
akwon@rcocdd.com



The Project SEARCH Program

Project SEARCH participants work 30 hours per week in a specialized non-paid internship training program for a maximum of 11 months. Each intern has 3 or 4 rotations in different departments to maximize their work experience.

An onsite instructor, Skills Trainers and mentors help to support interns as they transition into new training positions. Participants are also enrolled in community college classes held at the worksite.

At the completion of the program, Interns are prepared for job interviews and the new skills they have acquired are recorded in their resumes.

Graduates are not guaranteed employment where they are trained, however, every attempt is made to match employment options in the community to their individual career interests.

