

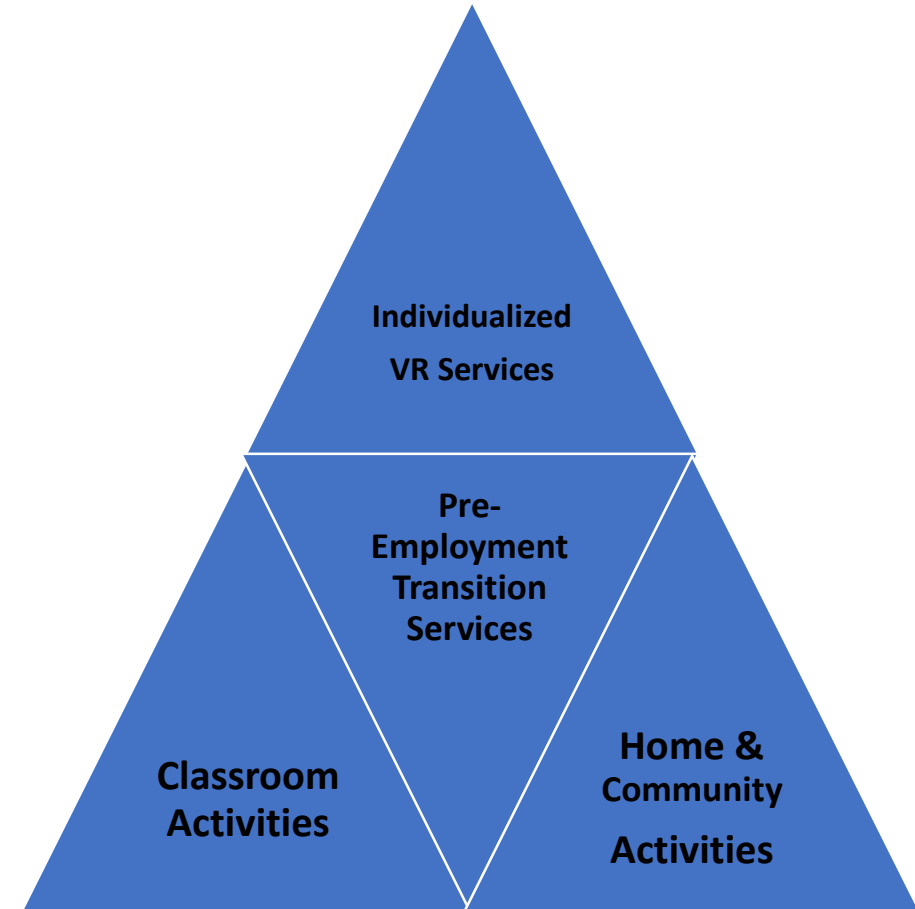
Employment Services in Maine



Pre-Employment Transition Services:

Partnering to Create a Culture of Work for Students with Disabilities

1. Job Exploration Counseling
2. Work-based Learning Experiences
3. Counseling on Opportunities for Post-Secondary Training and Education
4. Workplace Readiness Training to Develop Social Skills and Independent Living
5. Instruction in Self-Advocacy



Strengthening Connections for Youth

- Transition VR Counselors
 - Assigned to every Maine high school
- DVR Foster Care Liaisons
 - Available in each DVR region
- Cross Agency Collaborative for Transition
 - Youth Advisory Council
- Transition Career Exploration Workshop
 - https://www.maine.gov/rehab/73422/maine_cew/cew_transition/index.html

Summer 2019 – Initiatives for Youth

Summer Work Experience

- VR supported
 - Approximately 250 students around the state
 - Paid at minimum wage
 - Employment in the community
 - Some school programs, some individual placements
 - Built-in employability class
 - Great feedback

Step Up Program

- Pilot Year - Held at UMaine
- Participants had a diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum
- Partners: Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies and Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research
- Paid work experience
- 3 credit Psychology course
- Instruction in Social Skills and College Readiness

Progressive Employment

- Adapted from successful Vermont-developed model
 - Early engagement
 - Informational interviews, business tours, job shadows, paid work experience
 - Different way of partnering with the business community
 - Everyone is ready for something!
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- Pilot for transition-age youth in Portland and Lewiston
 - Over 800 youth and young adults have participated in Progressive Employment activities to date!
 - Expansion to Bangor and Augusta under TWBL grant

Partnering to Strengthen Community Rehabilitation Provider Services

- History & Stakeholder Input
- Request for Proposals – Community-based employment services
- Awards
 - Maine Medical Center – Department of Vocational Services (Region 1)
 - Goodwill of Northern New England (Regions 2 & 3)

Partnering to Strengthen Systems

- Quarterly meetings – DHHS
- Children's Cabinet
- Collaborative work to address Maine's workforce needs

Joint work of DHHS and DOL

The Benefit Counseling Program through Maine Medical Center

- funds free Benefit Counseling Services for SSA Disability recipients state wide
- provides training and technical assistance to over 100 people a year on Work and Benefit Navigation; now over 400 people become navigators dispelling work myths and offer guidance to the people they support

Joint Work of DHHS and DOL

Employment Workforce Development System

- Certifies at least 25 new Employment Specialist a year
- Provides Advanced training for employment staff - *Building Supports in the Workplace, Supporting people around employment who have behavioral needs, Technology and Employment, Career Planning*
- Hosts monthly webinars on employment
- Administers the College of Employment Support
- Coordinates registries for staff and training calendar

Joint work of DHHS and DOL

Your Path to Employment

- Conversation starter tool that is being used across DOL, DOE and DHHS

Business to Business Maine

- A platform, web resources and information sharing of Maine businesses at the Retail Association of Maine- October 2019

Maine Association of Professional supporting Employment First (Me-APSE)

- The State affiliate of National APSE for people who are involved in employment- Open for New members

OADS-Employment Services

- Intake and Eligibility staff now share employment pathway, VR brochure and Benefit Counseling information at Intake
- PCP process and employment planning and barrier identification
- Waivers 18, 20, 21 and 29 all have
 - Career Planning – new training, new options for Community Support programs
 - Work Supports- can be used in self employment also
 - Employment Specialist- can be used to switch to another similar job

OADS – our focus for employment 2019/2020

- Ensuring all waiver members have access to employment planning and services, with trained staff and agencies available statewide in conjunction with VR
- Additional training for Case Managers and Care Coordinators
- Resources and Support to all Community Support programs to create access to employment (HCBS)
- Evergreen system will have enhanced employment tracking- on a pathway and employed (data)
- Transportation to employment- options available to members

Questions

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