



National Service Programs: The Next Step for Students with Disabilities in Preparing for Employment

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Serve America Act, 2009

- Authorizing legislation
- Expands the service programs
- Increased focus on inclusion of individuals with disabilities
- Identification of service contributing to employment for participants



National Service Inclusion Project

- CNCS funded project at the ICI since 2001
- Goal: meaningful service experiences for all Americans, regardless of their abilities.
- Partners: Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD), National Down Syndrome Congress, National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), Association of Higher Education and Disability



Options to Serve through Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

- Learn and Serve America
- AmeriCorps
 - State/National
 - Vista
 - National Civilian Community Corp
- Senior Corps
 - Foster grandparents
 - RSVP
 - Senior Companion Program





- Identify effective practices that support national service leading to employment for individuals with disabilities
- Develop training and TA materials to promote employment opportunities through service
 - Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) providers
 - Disability organizations/agencies
 - Individuals with disabilities/family members
 - Employers



NextSTEP activities

- Service Demonstration
 - National Organization on Disability
 - CTAT
- Policy Demonstration
 - Developmental Disability Agencies –in conjunction with the State Employment Leadership Network
 - Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies
- Employer Outreach
 - US Business Leadership Network



Service Options for Individuals with Disabilities

- Structured service career exploration
- Help develop their resume
- References
- Educational Benefit and Living Allowance
- Encourages civic engagement



Personal development

- Emotional Intelligence
- Emotional Health
- Clarity and self-awareness
- Builds self-esteem and self-confidence
- Self-directed decision making




On-the-job development

- Interpersonal skills
 - Teamwork
 - Communication
 - Conflict resolution
- Hands on experience
 - Workplace attitudes , expectations
 - Sustaining work routines
- Hard Skills



Broadening Horizons


- Increases personal and professional network
- Exploration and Discovery
 - Define career interests
 - Diversity of experiences, people
 - Expanded sense of possibilities
 - Exposure to new issues, cultures, communities



Start on Success

- Manhattan High School
 - Students with emotional and behavioral issues
 - Senior year—20 hour paid internship in service capacity

- Overall success rate for students in Start on Success—75% are employed or go on to post-secondary education after completing program



Resources

- Corporation for National and Community Service
 - www.nationalservice.gov
- National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP)
www.serviceandinclusion.org 1-888-491-0326
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