

# Jawonio Inc

Jawonio is the premiere provider of lifespan services in the Mid-Hudson Region for people with developmental disabilities, behavioral health challenges and chronic medical needs.

Our mission is to advance the independence, well-being and equality of people with disabilities and special needs.

[www.jawonio.org](http://www.jawonio.org)



<https://youtu.be/fesdfIUQyKY>

# Educational Services

Partnering With Your School  
District to Support Your Child's Needs

# The Student has an IEP...Now What?

- Clear and open communication among administrators, teachers, students and parents is essential to the students' success, growth and well being.
- A partnership between parents and the school district is imperative in order to build and reinforce a strong community.



# How to Partner With Your Child's Teacher and Service Providers

What is not on the IEP? Share important information

What is the best way to communicate with each other?

What can you expect regarding communication?

How best to articulate your concerns?

How can you support the learning and growth at home?

Ladder of communication



**Time can be a friend, but  
may feel like an enemy**

---

Give it time while watching the data

# What if I feel I need help with this process?

Follow the communication ladder – have you spoken with the director or school administrator? If yes, perhaps you would like to speak to someone from:



**Westchester Institute for Human Development**

**Early Childhood/Special Education/Family and Engagement Community Center**

**Student Advocacy – Elmsford Office**

**All in the spirit of collaboration**

# What about supports outside of the school environment?

Advocacy and Entitlements

It is never too soon to start planning for the future.

## Referral and Contact Information

Heidi McCarthy, Ed. D

Director of Education

Jawonio, Inc

845.708.2000 x3255

[heidi.mccarthy@jawonio.org](mailto:heidi.mccarthy@jawonio.org)





# Rockland Day Services

## Adult Learning , Volunteering, & Community Connections

We engage in a variety of community integration and support services that empower adults with special needs to achieve their personal goals. Our services are tailored based on the individual's choice and needs. We are committed to offering community involvement through a variety of volunteer placements with local businesses and organizations.

## Day Habilitation Without Walls

Day Programs are available in New City, Nyack, and Westchester. Persons served must be age 18 or older to apply.

- OPWDD eligibility
- HCBS Waiver
- Transportation is provided



# Program Snapshots

- Arts
- Volunteering
- College Classes
- Advocacy
- Without Walls (WOW)
- Prevocational Work Programs
- Respite



## Without Walls

Using the community as its classroom, small groups (up to 4) participants with I/DD engage in planned activities in the community all day such as volunteer work, attending classes at various colleges and some engage in part-time supported employment and/or internships in the Rockland community.

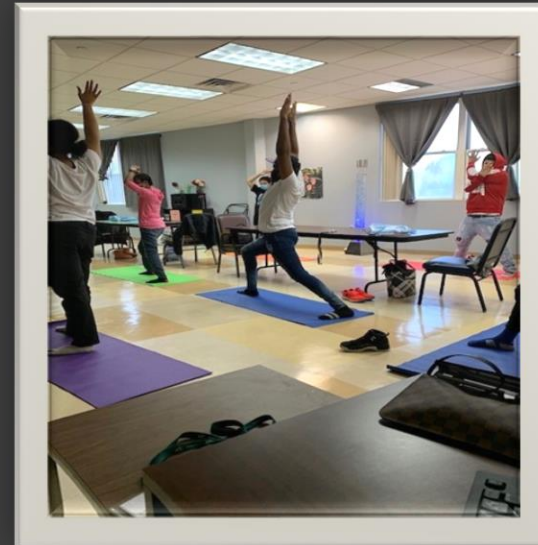
## "After the Day" Respite Services

"After the Day" Respite services provide a strong focus on learning community life, wellness activities, and developing independence in the community. Offered two afternoons per week and transportation home is provided.

## Prevocational/Work Program

Offers people with developmental disabilities a part-time person-centered day program which facilitates life skills through the community and center-based activities combined with part-time pre-vocational/work program in contract and other "mini-business" activities.

## Programs





# Site-Based Programs

- PACE
- STARS
- Seniors
- Sunrise Court
- Horizon
- LEAP
- Nyack Studio Arts
- NCDH
- Yonkers Day Hab



- Documents - what to email ahead of time or bring with you when you visit.
- What you can expect.

# Intake Process





## Anthony Mundy

<https://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/rockland/2019/03/21/down-syndrome-anthony-mundy-jawonio/3213713002/>

Anthony Mundy loves listening to music, playing video games, swimming and doing volunteer work in his community.

The 31-year-old Spring Valley resident is known among his friends for his big smile and personality, his compassion and for being active on social media.

Mundy, who was born with Down syndrome, attends a day program at Jawonio called Without Walls, or WOW. The program offers young adults of varying abilities opportunities to participate in activities such as fitness classes, performing volunteer work as well as learning life skills.

# Referral and Contact Information



Sara Trowers  
Director of Day Services  
845.708.2000 x2339  
[sara.trowers@jawonio.org](mailto:sara.trowers@jawonio.org)

## Rockland Day Services

Carol King  
Associate Director  
845.708.2000 x2268  
[carol.king@jawonio.org](mailto:carol.king@jawonio.org)

## Westchester Day Services

Shedricka Edwards  
Program Director – Yonkers  
914.963.8666 x8311  
[shedricka.edwards@jawonio.org](mailto:shedricka.edwards@jawonio.org)



# Community Living Services (CLS)

Jawonio Community Residences are warm and caring homes around Rockland County including houses, apartments and condominiums. Each home fosters increased independent living skills for people with disabilities.







## CLS

Jawonio Community Living Services provides homes for individuals geared towards independence and an empowering path to a world of opportunity. Residences are designed to meet nearly every need and preference, ranging from an independent living-style apartment complex, to community condominiums, to community residences with intensive 24/7 supports. Jawonio is there for the people we support, all day, every day, today and for a lifetime.

Jawonio residential services are about choices. Learning and growing we believe, starts with having options, knowing what they are and working with people committed to the process discovery that informs and ultimately empowers our participants to define themselves based on their own sense of who they are and a personal vision for the person they'd like to become.





Residents receive individualized support in self care, independent living skills and basic household chores according to their level of ability. Individuals are encouraged to participate in community events, social and recreational activities in the evenings and on weekends. We provide specialized services to individuals who range in age from young adults to seniors, from the mildly to severely disabled.



**Represented in some of the best neighborhoods in Rockland County, Jawonio residences are at home in the local landscape , and are also uniquely tailored to maximize the independent function and inclusion of our residents.**

**The Rustic IRA is our newest home, developed for 6 young men on the Autism Spectrum. The entire home is accessible to all individuals living in the IRA and was designed to allow for the most independent living possible. The home is bilevel with 6 single rooms and common areas on both levels. This allows the young men residing there to have personal space while also affording the opportunity to participate and socialize with their housemates if they choose. The house has a large, fenced backyard available for relaxation and outdoor activities in the warmer months. Daily activity schedules were created taking each person's interests and choices into consideration. Staff from the IRA transport the men to the LEAP Day Hab Program, and stay with them to provide Day Hab Services, ensuring continuity of support.**

With program options that offer a full array of clinical, medical and behavioral health services, Jawonio brings an unparalleled level of clinical expertise to the lives of the people who call the agency home. Our commitment is to the whole person and to innovative person-centered approaches to meet the gamut of needs; from dual diagnosis, complex medical needs and service approaches that foster inclusion and community participation, but also a sense of mastery, accomplishment and identity.



# Eligibility

- Persons served must be age 18 or older to apply
- OPWDD eligibility
- HCBS Waiver
- Authorized for residential placement by the Certified Residential Opportunities department of OPWDD





## Tiffany & Kimberly Mason

"Thank you Jawonio for being there and giving our girls what we didn't know they could have. Kimberly and Tiffany have been a part of Jawonio since they were infants. They started in the Early Intervention Program, attended Preschool and the Summer Education Program; Tiffany even worked as a teacher's aide for 6 years. When Tiffany returned from college, she became a part of Community Living Services and has been living independently in the Condo Program for the past 8 years. She also worked part-time at Jawonio in the Human Resources Department. She now works at a church and is involved in 3 gospel choirs throughout the county. Kimberly is also a part of Community Living Services, living as independently as possible in the Bobbi Lewis House. She attends the Nyack Studio Arts day program, is an usher at her church, enjoys making jewelry and scarves, and works one day a week. Thank you Jawonio for being an integral part of Kim and Tiff's lives. They are who they are because you saw who they could become."

-Monica & Aubrey Mason

# Referral and Contact Information



Carol St. John  
Division Director  
Community Living Services  
845.708.2000 x5363  
[carol.st.john@jawonio.org](mailto:carol.st.john@jawonio.org)

Stephen Pegram  
Residential Director  
845.708.2000 x5420  
[stephen.pegram@jawonio.org](mailto:stephen.pegram@jawonio.org)

Jessica Joseph-Thomas  
Residential Director  
845.708.2000 x1391  
[jessica.joseph-thomas@jawonio.org](mailto:jessica.joseph-thomas@jawonio.org)





**Jawonio**  
**Community**  
**Employment**  
**Services**  
**(CES)**

At Jawonio Community Employment Services, we believe that work is the center from which all other things in a person's life can grow.

Jawonio has been serving people across a full range of disabilities in pre-employment and supported employment services since 1986.

During that time, Jawonio has facilitated over 5500 job hires for people with disabilities in a myriad of industries with an overall average job retention rate of 7 years.

# Menu of Services

All CES services are available in English,  
Spanish, Creole, and American Sign  
Language

Vocational Assessments  
Community-Based Vocational Assessment  
Job-Related Discovery  
Career Exploration and Vocational Planning  
Work Readiness Training  
Self-Advocacy Training  
Community Work Experiences  
Paid Internships  
Benefits Advisement Counseling  
Travel Training  
Counseling on Post-Secondary Education  
Educational Coaching  
Tutoring  
Customized Job Development  
Planning for Self-Employment  
Job Coaching/Employment Counseling  
Long-Term Supported Employment Services

## Vocational Assessments

Focused evaluations/diagnostics designed to investigate, identify and appraise an individual's level of capability in relation to vocational preparation, employment selection, and career decision-making.

## Job Exploration Counseling

- Jawonio assists individuals to identify potential career paths through the use and/or review of interest inventories.
- Counseling and education are provided regarding the various career options related to the individual's interests and strengths.
- Individuals will become aware of both local and regional trends and the demands of the job market.
- Potential careers are discussed with the individual in detail, outlining the typical job descriptions related to the individual's interests.
- Both general work skills and the more specific skills needed for positions of interest are discussed as well as an overview of the education and training needed to obtain the position(s).
- Individuals are also given further exposure to their paths of potential interest through guest career speakers.

# Job Preparation

## Work Readiness Training

Designed to assist individuals in the development of soft skills, including:

- Communication skills
- Social/interpersonal skills
- Understanding conflict
- Harassment, intimidation, bullying, and discrimination
- Coping with stress
- Teamwork
- Healthy living
- Building self-esteem and self-confidence at work
- Professional behavior at work
- Overcoming challenges
- Setting goals
- Appropriate use of social media.

Individuals sharpen their understanding of the world of work, better positioning themselves to meet the expectations of employers, while also forming a strong base of independent living skills.

# Self- Advocacy Training

- Individuals learn tools and techniques:
- Becoming more introspective, thus obtaining a deeper self-awareness.
  - Identifying their own needs.
  - Learning about their own educational plans and disability services.
  - Making their own informed decisions and setting goals.
  - Rights and responsibilities as a person with a disability.
  - How to ask for assistance effectively in getting their needs met.
  - Identifying current resources and where to find additional support as needed.

## Work-Based Learning Experiences

- Individuals are offered an opportunity to gain real exposure to their field of interest through:
  - Business tours
  - Informational interviews with professionals
  - Job shadowing.
- Participants are offered work experiences and internships in fully integrated settings consistent with their desired areas of interest. The skills students have learned in the classroom are then applied in a more direct way, as individuals increase their awareness through a more tangible experience.
- Once an individual begins a work experience, Jawonio offers support and feedback regarding performance on an ongoing basis. This includes:
  - Formal review with the worksite
  - Self-evaluation by the individual of their own performance. Performance standards and
  - Assessment of the acquisition of work skills, progress, and areas for improvement to achieve industry-standard performance are reviewed with the participant.

# Community- Based Assessments

Hands-on skill/aptitude evaluations are performed within community businesses across a wide variety of industry settings. Community-based assessments are based on the individual's preferences and interests.



# Counseling on Post-Secondary Educational Options

- Jawonio assists students and their families in exploring a variety of post-secondary options within the individual's areas of interest. Career paths are reviewed while traversing a variety of potential educational programs, including, but not limited to:
  - Colleges
  - Trade or Technical Schools
  - Workshops
  - Apprenticeship programs
  - Certificate programs.
- The training and education needed to succeed in the desired field are outlined.
- Related available courses and programs are explored, compared, discussed, and advised upon.
- In-person or virtual tours of campuses
- Visits to campus disability offices to review available support services and accommodations:
  - Application and admission process
  - Entrance exam accommodations
  - Classroom support services such as educational coaching, "class shadows", tutoring and adaptive technologies.
- Once students are ready to apply for post-secondary option(s), Jawonio provides individuals and families information about the admissions process and guidance with respect to financial aid.



# Internships

- Through ACCES-VR, individuals referred for wage-reimbursed internships have an opportunity to work at a business within the community for a period of 160-320 hours.
- Jawonio acts as a fiscal intermediary by hiring eligible individuals onto our payroll. ACCES-VR then reimburses the intern's salary to us.
- This structure allows for meaningful internships to be developed at both for-profit and not-for-profit businesses in the community.
- Interns are at no cost or liability to an employer.
- ACCES-VR also funds job coaching support for the individual during their internship.
- Internships are developed to match the skills and desires of the participant.
- Internships are of a wide and diverse range of industries and settings.



# Employment Training Program (ETP)

- The ETP provides OPWDD waiver eligible individuals with an opportunity to work in an internship with the goal of obtaining permanent employment in a community business.
- Via a wage-reimbursed internship structure, OPWDD hires the potential intern onto their payroll and pays the intern minimum wage while they learn a job.
- Prior to the internship phase, there is a mandatory period of discovery/assessment to ascertain identifiable work skills.
- For those who participate in a school-to-work program and are in their Junior year of High School, students can also be paid minimum wage for the time working in the program.
- When identifying a potential internship, the proposed job description and related tasks are reviewed and negotiated with the employer and the participant as well as with the funder. Through negotiation, the “must-have” tasks, as well as any “forgivables” that the participant need not learn to be hired.
- Internships are generally for a period of 6-9 months and can go as long as one year.
- The goal is to be hired directly by the business if skill acquisition and performance standards are achieved during the internship. Internships start in a student’s Senior year of High School or older.
- As an ETP participant, individuals also attend job readiness classes.
- ETP participants receive very intensive employment support services, including 100% coaching during the first phase of work, slowly reducing as the intern gains more independence.

# Business Partnerships

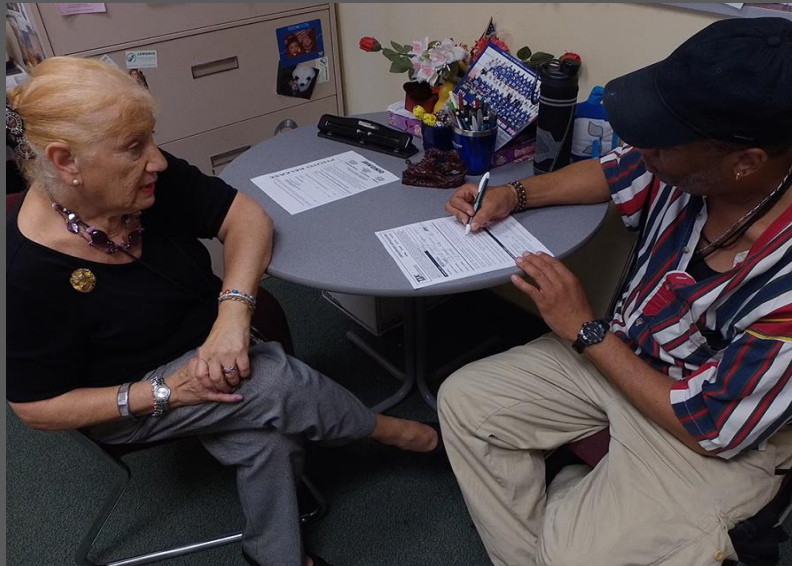


Jawonio currently maintains partnerships with over 180 employers and businesses throughout Rockland, Westchester, and Orange Counties as well as the Bronx and Northern New Jersey.

- Work experience development opportunities
  - Internships
  - Community-based assessments
  - Job placement
- Customized employment opportunities

# Job Development

- Rather than seeking a job for one person, Jawonio develops relationships with business, thus opening the door to multiple potential opportunities.
- Jawonio focusses on the unmet needs of the business and then leverages the talents of participants to fill those needs.



# Supported Employment Services

Employment Counseling may be performed at the participant's place of employment (on-site at the business), at a separate location (off-site), or via tele-practice.

- Once an individual is offered a job, Jawonio staff provides employment counseling/job coaching services to assist in skill acquisition as well as raising and maintaining job performance to industry standard.
- Jawonio acts as a liaison between the employee and the employer.
- Employment counseling is tailored to support the worker to reach their fullest potential while ensuring that the needs of the business are met.
- Supported employment is not time-limited and in some cases, may last throughout an individual's career.



# Eligibility

Community Employment Services (CES) serves people of all disabilities age 14 and older.

CES retains contracts through the Office of Mental Health (OMH), New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB), the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), ACCES-VR and various grants.

Selecting appropriate funding for services is determined based on the individual's disability, age, and geographic location.

## Referral and Contact Information

Stacey Kantrowitz,  
Director of Community Employment Services

845.708.2000 x2396

Cell: 845.527.3013

[stacey.kantrowitz@jawonio.org](mailto:stacey.kantrowitz@jawonio.org)





**Jawonio Westchester**  
**176 South Broadway**  
**Yonkers, NY 10701**  
**916.963.8666**

**Jawonio Rockland**  
**260 North Little Tor Rd**  
**New City, NY 10956**  
**845.708.2000**





Thank you!

Randi L. Rios-Castro, M.S.

Executive Director / CEO

845.708.2000 x2196

[randi.rios-castro@jawonio.org](mailto:randi.rios-castro@jawonio.org)



Deborah Mayo, B.S.

Chief Program Officer

845.708.2003

[deborah.mayo@jawonio.org](mailto:deborah.mayo@jawonio.org)