



WIHD CSN 2024 Transition Institute

Employment Services

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What is OPWDD's Supported Employment (SEMP)?



- Provides job coaching, job development and support on a job
- On-going supports and services, as needed
- Supports are faded, as individuals build independence
- The outcome is community based, competitive, integrated employment
- Paid by business at minimum wage or higher

To receive OPWDD SEMP services the individual must be employed in the general workforce community, earning minimum wage or more, in an integrated setting.

ACCES-VR and OPWDD Collaborate to offer Short-term and Extended Supported Employment Services

ACCES-VR

Supported Employment Service (**SES**)

- Job Development,
- Placement, and
- Stabilization

**Short Term Services, as authorized by ACCES-VR*

**Job
Coaching**

OPWDD

Supported Employment (**SEMP**)

- Extended Supports (e.g., job coaching)

** Extended Services as authorized by OPWDD*



Employment Readiness

Motivation & Mindset:

- Clear desire & commitment to work
- Reachable employment goals
- Open minded, reliable & flexible (work is the priority)
- Self-Started, uses checklists, alarms or other visual supports as necessary

Independence:

- Able to successfully complete job tasks without the presence of Job Coach
- Meet the productivity expectations of the employer
- Travels to and from work independently (includes ParaTransit)
- Have independent hygiene, grooming skills and (if applicable) self-administers medication and allergy awareness

Communication & Social Skills:

- Engage in basic communication effectively (verbal or non-verbal methods)
- Take direction and receive feedback from supervisors
- Maintain appropriate behavior and social skills



CONSIDERATIONS

Benefits:

- SSI, SSDI, SNAP and other benefits may be impacted depending on wage and hours worked

Job Development:

- Based on current job market

Schedule & Stamina:

- 4–8-hours/shift
- Schedule determined by employer to meet their need
- * **Minimum wage is currently \$16/hour**



Pre-Employment Services

High School Age Service

Options:

- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
 - Funding source: ACCES-VR
- Employment Training Program (ETP), Trainee
 - Funding source: OPWDD, requires eligibility determination

OPWDD Adult Service

Options:

- Pathway to Employment
- Prevocational Services
 - Community Based Prevocational Services
 - Site-Based Prevocational Services
- Employment Training Program (ETP) Discovery (SEMP-Intensive service)

Which Services Fit the Person's Skills, Experience and Support Needs?

Person has no
community or work
experiences and no
Discovery



Pathway to Employment
or Community
Prevocational Services

Person has limited
community or work
experiences and no
Discovery



Pathway to
Employment or
Employment Training
Program (ETP)

Person has
community and
work experiences
and has completed
Discovery



Employment Training
Program (ETP), or
ACCES-VR or SEMP

Employment Resources & Contacts

Adult Career & Continuing Education – Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)

Website: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr>

Contact Information:

- White Plains District Office, (general phone) 914-946-1313
- Click [HERE](#) to view the Staff Contact List for the [White Plains District Office | ACCES | NYS Education Department](#)
- Pre-ETS contact: Debra Ehrenberg, *Senior VR Counselor Transition and Youth Services*, 914-946-7648, Debra.Ehrenberg@nysed.gov

Online Resources:

- [Introduction to ACCES-VR Services \(nysed.gov\)](#)
- [Pre-ETS Brochure \(nysed.gov\)](#)
- [Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation Services | Adult Career and Continuing Education Services \(nysed.gov\)](#)
 - [Application for Services VR-04 \(English\)](#)
 - [Application for Services VR-04 \(Spanish\)](#)

Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

Website: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/>

Contact Information:

- Front Door: Phone Number for Westchester County Front Door office: 845-947-6390
- Employment Training Program (ETP) Derrick L. Melendez, Employment Training Program Supervisor, (914) 332-4035, Derrick.L.Melendez@opwdd.ny.gov

Online Resources:

- [Pathway to Employment | Office for People With Developmental Disabilities \(ny.gov\)](#)
- [Employment Services | Office for People With Developmental Disabilities \(ny.gov\)](#)
- [ETP Brochure \(ny.gov\)](#)





Thank You

The Arc Westchester

www.arcwestchester.org

For General Inquiries & Information:

Call 914-949-9300 or 914-428-8330

Email us at info@arcwestchester.org