

WASHINGTON, NJ- Abilities of Northwest Jersey Inc. is thrilled to announce the organization has been awarded an exceptional grant from the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to create the Summer Internship, Pre-Employment Transition Services Program, for students living in Warren County.

The grant will allow Abilities' Employment Pathways program to work with high schools throughout Warren County to provide free services to students receiving 504 services or Individualized Education Program services between the ages of 14 and 21. The program will provide the opportunity for students to explore and identify a career of interest and intern with an employer for six weeks during the summer while being paid minimum wage at no cost to the school district. Students who apply must commit to working 15-20 hours a week during the 6-week internship, must have transportation to and from job sites, and must be willing to work independently at the job site with employer supervision provided.

Abilities' Employment Pathways staff will work with each student to reinforce job training and career development skills to ensure each student's success during their internships. Once the internship is completed, Employment Pathways will be providing pre-employment transition services to the students at either their home school or at Abilities' classroom at Warren County Community College twice a month from September to January.

"The new DVRS Summer Internship Grant is a great way for a student to explore their interests in a career field of choice, while also working on the important skills employees need for success. Abilities is excited to offer this program to area high school students and to further the mission of our organization," said Karen Menke, Abilities' Employment Services Manager.

Students who are interested in signing up will be required to meet with Employment Pathways staff and a representative from NJ DVRS along with the student's parent or guardian to complete an interest inventory, admissions paperwork and register with NJ DVRS. Students will also be required to obtain working papers depending on their age.

Abilities of Northwest Jersey Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the employability and quality of life of individuals with different abilities by providing training and individualized services. For more information on Abilities' Summer Internship Program, please contact Karen Menke kmenke@abilitiesnw.com or call Employment Pathways at 908-689-7460.