



Department of  
Workforce Services



## Columbus Connects Program

The *Columbus Connects* program provides pre-employment transition services to individuals with disabilities, ages 14-21 and their parents. This program is individualized to each participant according to their strengths, interests, and needs. Each participant is paired with a pre-employment specialist who will work one-on-one with them and connect them to all resources and opportunities which will aid in their transition to employment and independent life.

### Objectives

#### 1. **Job Exploration Counseling**

Includes career exploration counseling, an interest assessment, and site visits to businesses within each participant's realm of interests.

#### 2. **Counseling on Post-Secondary Education**

Introduction to post-secondary education, including tours of college and technical school campuses relevant to each participant's interests.

#### 3. **Workplace Readiness**

Includes resume building, job coaching, and practice filling out applications as needed.

#### 4. **Work-Based Learning**

Short-term paid internships may be arranged at businesses in the realm of each participant's interests with the objective of furthering relevant work experience in their career field of choice.

#### 5. **Self-Advocacy**

Connections to various government and community resources are provided, including introductions to affordable housing and guardianship supports. Participants will be given an opportunity to speak with representatives, apply for needed services, and advocate for themselves to the best of their ability.

Cost: **\$0.00**

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- Program participants must be between the ages of 14-21
- Participant must have a documented disability
- Participant cannot currently be on the **waitlist** for Vocational Rehabilitation services (participants can be already enrolled in VR's services and paired with a counselor, or not involved with VR's services at all)

**For more information or to register for the program, please contact:**

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