

2011 State of the Art Conference on Post-Secondary Education and Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

**Educational and Fiscal Support Needs
of Inner-City Students
with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Seeking Post-Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities**

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Disabilities**

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Disclaimer

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the presenter and do not reflect the position of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Labor, or the U.S. Department of Education.

President's Pledge

Recognizing the need for equal employment opportunities, we must strengthen and expand the educational opportunities for individuals with disabilities... If we are to build a world free from unnecessary barriers, stereotypes, and discrimination, we must ensure that every American receives an education that prepares him or her for future success.



President Barack Obama, 2009

Project | SEARCH

Getting Students CAREER READY

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

U.S. Department of Labor

U.S. Department of Education



Parties Executing Memoranda of Agreement

- ▶ U.S. Department of Labor (DoL), U.S. Department of Education (DoED), and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- ▶ District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- ▶ District of Columbia Department of Disability Services (DDS) – Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)

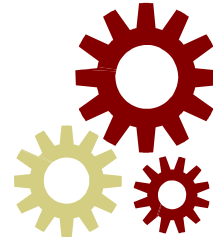
Project SEARCH “Model”

- ▶ National, research-based, award-winning transition program for high school students with disabilities.
- ▶ Step toward achieving President’s pledge (Executive Order 13548) and Departmental goals of increasing diversity and employing more people with disabilities.

School-to-Work Transition Model With Special Features

- ▶ Total workplace immersion
- ▶ Seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and on-the-job training
- ▶ Ongoing support for students and hosting offices from Project SEARCH, a DCPS teacher, job coaches, a vocational counselor, and Agency/Office mentor

How It Works



- ▶ High school students with disabilities:
 - Spend senior year at ACF, starting in late August;
 - Study in class for about 2 hours and work in offices for about 4 hours;
 - Complete two 17-week consecutive unpaid traineeships;
 - Graduate in June with a career plan and job skills, qualified for competitive employment.
- ▶ Support staff include a full-time teacher, job coaches, and a vocational counselor.

Eligibility to Participate in Project SEARCH

Students from DC schools:

- ▶ 18 – 21 years old, and in their last year of high school
- ▶ Have appropriate personal care, social, and communication skills
- ▶ Demonstrate ability to follow directions and modify behavior
- ▶ Demonstrate ability to access public transportation

Profile of Federal Project SEARCH Program Supporters

- ▶ Business Liaison
- ▶ Teacher
- ▶ Coach
- ▶ Operating Division Managers and Mentors
- ▶ Office of Administration Consultants
- ▶ Office of Human Resources
- ▶ Office of Department Secretary

Profile of Project SEARCH Student Trainees

- ▶ Enrolled in DC Public Schools (DCPS)
- ▶ Last year of high school
- ▶ Majority with diagnosis of Intellectual Disability
- ▶ Representative of Lower Socio-Economic Status
- ▶ Functioning with limited family support
- ▶ Limited “soft skill” development

Contact Information

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