



216 West State Street. Third Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08608
www.NJChamberFoundation.org
P 609-989-7888 F 609-656-0697

NJ Chamber of Commerce Foundation Pre-Employment Transition Services Grant

The NJ Chamber of Commerce Foundation (NJCCF) has received a Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) grant from the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Funding from this grant will provide paid summer internship opportunities for 25 Jobs for NJ's Graduates (JNJG) students with disabilities in Newark, Camden and Vineland in 2019. NJCCF serves as the managing unit for the state's Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program, the nation's largest dropout prevention and recovery program serving young adults (ages 12-24) since 1979. The program targets NJ high school students who have at least 5 of 38 different academic, environmental, physical or work-related barriers to success, and offers real-world learning experiences that demonstrate how staying in high school and earning a HS diploma can enhance their lives.

In partnership with county DVRS offices, the NJCCF would like to work collaboratively to identify at least three local business locations to place students into an integrated community-based paid internship, based on each student's job interests, strengths and abilities as follows:

- 1) Prior to internship placement, JAG Specialists (certified classroom teachers) will serve as a "job skills trainer" and work one-on-one with participants, who will receive career guidance, job training services such as interviewing skills, resume writing, dressing for success, teamwork strategies, and career exploration through the JAG model program. They will also provide 2 hours of weekly job coaching throughout the internship. JAG Specialists will be compensated through grant funding.
- 2) Participating JNJG students must provide all necessary documentation for placement (ex: working papers, age-related or other eligibility status if required by employer, W-9, Pre-ETS Student Referral Form). Students will select their internship locations based on employer written descriptions of work environment and job responsibilities and their interests. They will work 20 hours per week for six weeks anytime between July 8 and August 30, 2019 and be compensated \$10 per hour, paid directly to the students on a weekly basis. Additional funding is available to provide bus passes and/or Uber rides to and from work. Stipends and transportation costs are provided through grant funding.
- 3) Prior to placement, the NJCCF will meet with employers to gain a better understanding of internship responsibilities, determine a specific point of contact to monitor student progress and provide additional job coaching as needed, and clarify roles and responsibilities. If an employer has an internal standard to pay more than \$10 per hour, the NJCCF can cover the first \$10 of compensation and the employer can cover the remaining difference.

Employers interested in learning more should contact Donna Custard at 609-789-5274 or donna.custard@njchamber.com.