



The Commission on
INDEPENDENT
Colleges & Universities
in New York

2024 SUMMER WEBINAR SERIES

Resources for Students with Disabilities

JULY 9, 2024

Resources for Students with Disabilities

New York State offers a wide variety of programs, services, and resources for students with disabilities from entering college to completing college to finding employment post-graduation.

Today's presenters:

- Kim Hill Ridley, Chief Disability Officer, Office of Governor Kathy Hochul
- Julie Hovey, NYS Office of Children and Family Services
- Ceylane Meyers-Ruff, ACCES-VR
- Andy Sink, NYS Office of Mental Health
- Marybeth Schneider, NYS Department of Labor
- Nichole Harden, NYS Department of Civil Service

New York State Commission for the Blind

Mission Statement

The New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) empowers individuals who are legally blind, deaf-blind, or low-vision to lead independent, fulfilling lives through comprehensive vocational counseling, advocacy, rehabilitation training and employment services. By enhancing their employability, maximizing independence, and nurturing personal and professional growth, the NYSCB enables individuals to secure and maintain meaningful work in a competitive integrated employment setting.

About Us

The NYSCB is one of New York State's two Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies, dedicated to empowering individuals of all ages to acquire new job skills or sustain their current employment. The other VR agency is ACCES-VR, which is part of the NYS Education Department. Both agencies are federally funded and state-operated.

NYSCB was established by law in 1913 to maintain a "census of the blind" in New York State and to help individuals who are legally blind find suitable employment. NYSCB was also charged with researching the causes of blindness and advancing blindness prevention.

In 1920, the state/federal partnership in vocational rehabilitation (VR) was created under the National Vocational Rehabilitation Act. This law created a system of state VR agencies and established federal funding of VR services. In addition, the law allows for separation of state VR agencies into those that serve individuals who are legally blind and those that provide services to all other disabled groups.



New York State Commission for the Blind

Service Populations

NYSCB serves legally-blind New Yorkers from birth to end-of-life. The NYSCB programs serve children, transition-aged youth (14-21), adults, and older blind (over 55). We serve individuals with blindness as well as other disabilities including people with physical, sensory and emotional disabilities. We also serve people with medical complications resulting in their blindness including diabetes.

Programs & Services

NYSCB works closely with not-for-profit agencies for the blind throughout New York State to provide technical, educational and resource assistance to our consumers.

Programs:

- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program
- Adaptive Living Program (ALP)
- Independent Living Program
- Business Enterprise Program (BEP)
- Job Save Program
- Children's Program
- Transition Program
- Summer Recreation Program

Other Programs/Services:

- Deaf-Blind Services (Helen Keller National Center)
- Low-Vision Services
- NYS Preferred Source Program (NYSPSP)
- Equipment Loan Fund (ELF)
- NYSCB Small Grant Program



New York State Commission for the Blind

Services Continued:

- Consultation and Diagnostic services
- Low vision (Certified optometry)
- Vision rehabilitation therapy
- Orientation and mobility
- Social casework
- Vocational training-technical schools, college
- Employment Services: work experiences, job placement, supported employment
- Adaptive equipment
- Computer evaluation and training
- Computer software and hardware
- Assistance with determining reasonable accommodations
- On-the-job technical support for employee/employer
- Job matching
- Disability awareness training for organizations/businesses

NYSCB Staffing

NYSCB has over **120** staff with **1** home office location in Rensselaer, NY, as well as **7** district offices and **9** outstation offices statewide.

District Offices:

- Albany
- Syracuse
- Buffalo
- Westchester
- Harlem
- Lower Manhattan
- Garden City

Outstations:

- Plattsburgh
- Utica
- Binghamton
- Rochester
- Chautauqua
- Geneva
- New Windsor
- Queens
- Hauppauge

NYSCB Contact Information

Toll-Free Telephone 1-866-871-3000

TDD 1-866-871-6000

<https://visionloss.ny.gov>



**Office of Children
and Family Services**

ACCES-VR Mission

ACCES-VR assists individuals with disabilities to achieve and maintain employment and to support independent living through training, education, rehabilitation and career development.

Mental Health
Physical Injury
Chronic Illness
Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Alcohol or Drug Addiction
Developmental Disability

Locations- 25 District Offices

ACCES-VR Services

Services to Individuals

- Vocational Counseling and Guidance
- Assessments and Evaluations
- Rehabilitation Technology
- Transportation
- Adaptive Driver Training
- Work Readiness
- Training including tuition, related fees, required textbooks (Vocational or College)
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Tutor, Reader and Note Taker services
- Modifications to homes and vehicles
- Job Development and Placement
- Work Try Out & On the Job Training
- Job Coaching
- Occupational tools and equipment
- Goods, inventory, equipment and supplies for self-employment
- Peer Mentoring

Services to Businesses

- ADA Training
- Pre-screened job-ready applicants
- Disability Etiquette Training
- Consultation, recommendations and training for retention of current employees who acquire a disability



- NYESS is a collaborative resource led by OMH in partnership with DOL, and ***our core mission is to improve employment and quality of life outcomes for people of all abilities!***
 - Resource for all things employment and disability for job seekers, families, businesses, state agencies, and provider partners...and anyone else seeking information or related support
 - OMH specific program models to support people with psychiatric barriers to achieve their goals
 - Heavy emphasis on data infrastructure, systems enhancement, collaborative initiatives, and essential subjects like working while receiving public benefits
 - Employment 1st and related initiatives

OMH Workforce Initiatives

- OMH promotes Cultural Modeling: *Our workforce should reflect the diverse makeup of our community!*
- The OMH workforce plan seeks to explore and create multiple pathways to employment at both the state agency level and within our services community
- From entry level positions to psychiatrists and everything in between
- Including people who do not have professional licensing or education
- Upskilling and pathways to credentialing
- Not specific to people with disabilities but inclusive thereof

***Confused? Interested?
Let's Talk!***

Andy Sink
NYESS Director
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www.nyess.ny.gov

Partnership for Inclusive Internships

Not your grandmother's PII

- ❑ Developed by AHRC NYC to foster inclusive hiring within New York City and State government through an inclusive internship program.
- ❑ In her 2023 State of the State address, Governor Hochul made the commitment to bring the program to State agencies.
- ❑ Working on the NYS Dept. of Labor and Chief Disability Office team, the statewide Inclusive Internship Coordinator began in April 2024 to:
 - Develop internship opportunities within State agencies
 - Create a pipeline of qualified interns with disabilities who have an open case with Access-VR or NYS Commission for the Blind.
 - Conduct the placement, follow-up and evaluation of each internship experience
- ❑ Project goals include:
 - Provide critical experience for people with disabilities seeking to enter the workforce
 - Stable, long-term employment for people with disabilities in the NYS workforce
 - Advance the State's effort to become a model employer

WE ARE YOUR DOL

Partnership for Inclusive Internships

- ❑ Internships can be developed around any:
 - Meaningful need
 - Project
 - In demand position
- ❑ Acces-VR or NYS Commission for the Blind pays the intern via an approved vendor
- ❑ Internship are generally 320 hours long over 3-4 months

For more information, please contact:

MaryBeth Schneider

Inclusive Internship Coordinator

New York State Department of Labor | Division of Employment and Workforce Solutions

MaryBeth.Schneider@labor.ny.gov

(518) 457-1139

WE ARE YOUR DOL





**Department of
Civil Service**

The Governor's Program to Hire Individuals and Veterans with Disabilities (55-b/c Program)

Office of Diversity and Inclusion Management (ODIM)

July 9, 2024

WWW.CS.NY.GOV/RP55/

StateJobsNY – Home

55-b/c Application Packet

Interested 55-b/c candidates must submit a formal application, which includes the following:

- Application (55-b/c)
- Current resume
- DD-214 (VETERANS)
- VA Disability Rating Document (VETERANS)
- (or) Purple Heart documentation (VETERANS)
- VA determination Letter showing 10% or more of total disability will substitute for the DPM-60(VETERANS)
- Restoration of Honor Act determination (VETERANS)

****Applications take 4-6 weeks for a final determination to be made.**

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Samad Raatib

Diversity & Inclusion Specialist 1

(518) 473-5903

SSDRecruitServices@cs.ny.gov

55-b/c Unit Contact Information

Additional Resources

The Office of the Chief Disability Officer

Disability Rights & Employment Awareness Month (DREAM) Symposium

October 1, 2024.

More information will be posted shortly: <https://www.ny.gov/programs/office-chief-disability-officer>

ACCES-VR

Readers Aid Program (RAP): <https://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/readers-aid-program-rap-glance>

NYS Department of Civil Service

- 55-b/c Program landing page: www.cs.ny.gov/rp55
- New York State Jobs: www.statejobsny.com

Additional Resources

New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB)

Contact Information: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/nyscb/contact.php>

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

Toll-Free Phone: 1-866-871-3000

TDD: 1-866-871-6000

District Office Locations: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/nyscb/district-offices.php>

District Manager List: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/nyscb/district-managers.php>

Program Information: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/nyscb/programs/>

Youth Programs and Resources

Youth Transition Program: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/nyscb/programs/transition.php>

LGBTQ+ Resources: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/nyscb/lgbtq-resources.php>

Additional Resources

New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB)

Forms

Application for Services (English, PDF): <https://ocfs.ny.gov/forms/ocfs/ocfs-1002/OCFS-1002.pdf>

Other NYSCB Forms: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/nyscb/forms.php>

Voter Registration Form: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/nyscb/assets/docs/Voter-Registration.pdf>

Additional Resources

Private Agency Listing: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/nyscb/assets/docs/NYSCB-Private-Agency-Listing.pdf>

Independent Living Centers (ILCs): <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/nyscb/ILC-directory.php>

Other Popular Resources: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/nyscb/links.php>

Contact Information

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Please complete the survey:
<https://forms.office.com/r/JgHx2cN5CZ>

And join us next Tuesday to learn more about

***FACULTY AND STAFF
COMPENSATION STUDIES***



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Lola W. Brabham
President