



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the minimal requirements for Project SEARCH?

A. Project SEARCH is for adults who:

- Are between the ages of 18-35
- Are receiving services from MDS, or another Area Agency, have NH Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver
- Have a current application for, or are receiving active services with Vocational Rehabilitation New Hampshire (VRNH)
- Can pass the required comprehensive background screening
- Are able to work with some degree of independence
- Have a reliable method of communication
- Have a desire to gain employment skills and are committed to finding employment at the end of the program
- Reliable form of transportation to and from Project SEARCH.

Q. How do I learn more about the program?

A. Project SEARCH frequently offers information sessions about the program. To find out when the next information session is, please contact ProjectSEARCH@mds-nh.org or call 352-1304.

Q. What is the application process?

A. Project SEARCH has a competitive application process; acceptance is not guaranteed. Prospective candidates must complete the application and provide the selection committee with all required documentation including references, resume, photo, and copies of all vocational or related assessments. If selected for an interview, applicants and their family/primary supporters will be contacted. Priority is given to transition aged youth.

Q. What is the timeline for applications?

A. Early Bird Application Deadline: March 5, 2027

Final Application Deadline: May 7, 2027

- If selected for an interview, interviews will be mid-April and mid-May. Conditional acceptance will be sent after the interview sessions.

Q. When does Project SEARCH start? What are the hours of the program?

A. Project SEARCH begins in August, three days a week, five hours a day to orientate students to the program. The full Monday-Friday, 8:00am-2:30pm schedule begins in September and runs through June. The program closes for vacations and staff development days.

Q. What is a typical day at Project SEARCH?

A. The summer session involves orientation to the program including completing required CMC/DH training. The full program days are comprised of 1.5 hours of classroom learning and 4.25 hours in individual internship sites. Interns have a 15-minute morning break and a 30-minute lunch break.

Q. Who pays for SEARCH?

A. The age of the applicant determines who is responsible for funding the Project SEARCH tuition.

- If the applicant is still completing their education and is enrolled in school, they are encouraged to partner with their school to apply for Project SEARCH. The applicant's school district will be responsible for funding.
- For all other applicants, funding for the program is reliant on applicants meeting the minimum requirements and MDS being able to secure Medicaid waived services. Have NH Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver
- Regardless of the age of the applicant, all applicants need to apply for services with Vocational Rehabilitation New Hampshire (VRNH). VRNH will make a determination on funding based on eligibility for services.

Q. What internship sites are available, and how are internship placements determined?

A. Internship sites are selected based on the intern's interests, abilities and employment goal. Possible sites include: Environmental Services, Mailroom, Medical Records, Medical Oncology, Nurse Clinic, Nutrition, Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Physical Therapy, Supply Chain, The Swap Shop, Volunteer Services, and Women's Health.

Q. What are Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth Health's requirements to be in the program?

A. Participants will be required to pass a comprehensive background screening and meet the requirements of CMC/DH Employee Health which may include the following; TB test, immunization records, up to date immunizations & booster shots. Titers will be required if documentation is unavailable. A flu shot will be required.

Q. What if I do not like the program?

A. Interns can withdraw from the program. We ask that interns and their families work with Project SEARCH staff to address any concerns they have prior to giving notice.

Q. What types of jobs have graduates obtained?

A. Graduates work in an office environments, retail, manufacturing, environmental services, food service, and many other fields.

Q. Where do I find and then send my completed application packet?

B. Applications are available at MDS. To receive an application, please contact ProjectSEARCH@mds-nh.org or call 352-1304.