

SERVICES FOR TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

HKNC  **Helen Keller**
NATIONAL CENTER
for DeafBlind Youths and Adults



JOURNEY TO SUCCESS:

Navigating Employment
Opportunities

Overview

HKNC's Youth Services Coordinators and DeafBlind Employment Specialists deliver **Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)** to individuals aged 14-21.

Our dedicated Youth Services Coordinators and Employment Specialists, strategically located across different states, actively collaborate with participants in career exploration. Through this partnership, participants discover lifelong career interests and identify the necessary steps to achieve these goals. Working hand-in-hand with Vocational Rehabilitation and the participant's school team, **HKNC's** specialists offer comprehensive support in fulfilling the necessary steps to reach the identified career objectives.

DeafBlind Youth Employment Services include:

- **Career Exploration:** Participants uncover their career interests and bring their dreams to life through career planning in consideration of work opportunities and training options to support informed decision-making.
- **Counseling in Post-Secondary Opportunities:** Participants gain an awareness of the wide range of career pathway options, educational training options, and research in accommodations, financial, and housing options.
- **Workplace Readiness Training:** Participants build knowledge and abilities through training to learn how to search for a job and to interact with supervisors and co-workers at work. Students will explore and develop a wide range of skills to facilitate accessible lifestyle and work experience.
- **Work-Based Learning Experience:** Participants gain knowledge and exposure to real-life experiences through volunteer or paid work, connecting school activities to actual work environments and future career opportunities. These experiences are designed to engage, motivate, and amplify growth to prepare for employment.
- **Instruction in Self-Advocacy:** Participants develop self-confidence with training in effective communication and strategies to convey, negotiate or assert their interests and desires. Participants learn how to take responsibility, solve accessibility barriers, and identify resources to solve a problem.

Our Focus

These five pre-employment transition areas concentrate on skill development and exposure to post-secondary education, independent living, and the workforce. In addition, the Youth Services Coordinator and/or other Employment Specialists can provide alternative communication strategies and assistance with transition planning.



Our specialist facilitates collaboration with many agencies such as families, schools, and state vocational rehabilitation to provide DeafBlind youth with skill development training and increased opportunities to pursue their vocational aspirations. Individualized services in a one-on-one format, small group training, and peer learning groups are examples of how accessible Pre-ETS services are provided.

Purpose:

- Provide individualized training to high school students to identify and develop life and work skills to facilitate entry into the workforce.
- Enhance local educational and vocational rehabilitation transition programs and services to support learning among DeafBlind youths.
- Collaborate with families and school professionals to access services and resources to develop and facilitate person-centered learning.

Ready to work? Connect with your DeafBlind Employment Specialist and embark on your journey to success.

Visit our website to explore additional programs and services for DeafBlind individuals: <http://www.helenkeller.org/hknc>



SCAN HERE



Regional Representatives

If you would like to speak with a regional representative about resources & services in your area, go to the Regional Network webpage for contact information:

www.helenkeller.org/regional-network

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| 1 New England Region
CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT | 2 Mid-Atlantic Region
NJ, NY | 3 East Central Region
DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV |
| 4A Southeast Region A
AL, FL, GA, MS, VI | 4B Southeast Region B
KY, NC, PR, SC, TN | 5 North Central Region
IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI |
| 6 South Central Region
AR, LA, NM, OK, TX | 7 Great Plains Region
IA, KS, MO, NE | 8 Rocky Mountain Region
CO, AZ, ND, SD, UT |
| 9 Southwest Region
CA, HI, NV, GU, AS, CNMI | 10 Northwest Region
AK, ID, OR, WA, MT, WY | |

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