HKNC Helen Keller NATIONAL CENTER for DeafBlind Youths and Adults

For Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services Counselors

Summer Youth Vocational Program (SYVP)

Pre-Employment Services for Transition Age Youth

HKNC works closely with schools, Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services programs to ensure youth who are DeafBlind benefit from the services provided under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA provides the means for students to receive Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). Specifically, the HKNC Summer Youth Vocational Program (SYVP) prepares youth for competitive integrated employment and incorporates the five (5) areas under WIOA: Job exploration counseling, Work based learning experiences, Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in post-secondary education, Workplace readiness and instruction in Self Advocacy.





Helen Keller National Center offers a premier summer work program for transition age youth: ages 16-24. The Summer Youth Vocational Program (SYVP) at Helen Keller National Center offers a dynamic blend of experiential learning and enrichment activities designed to build essential skills while creating lasting memories. Participants will engage in:

- STEAM projects that spark creativity and problem-solving through hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math activities.
- They'll experience adaptive surfing, combining physical activity with social-emotional learning, self-determination, resilience, and persistence while practicing clear communication in a team setting as well as problem solving and critical thinking skills which are all essential for employment.
- Inspiring motivational speakers will share stories of resilience and success, while self-empowerment and advocacy workshops help youth develop confidence, communication skills, and strategies for independence.
- Real-world work experiences provide opportunities to practice job tasks and workplace readiness skills, building a strong foundation for future employment.
- Outdoor Education encourages goal setting and exploration through outdoor adventures and nature-based learning.

Beyond these activities, participants will develop executive functioning skills as they prepare each day, planning their schedules, organizing tasks, and even planning and making their own meals. Together, these experiences ensure participants gain practical skills, discover new interests, and enjoy a well-rounded, empowering summer experience.

The Helen Keller National Center will provide participants with a comprehensive vocational experience designed to meet their interests and aspirations. This four-week program will offer opportunities to gain knowledge and practical experience in the following areas: *Vocational Exploration, Building Work History, Self-Determination and Advocacy, Communication Methods, Orientation & Mobility, Assistive Aids & Devices, Interviewing Skills and Employment.*

Outcomes: Participants will have the opportunity to:

1. Job Exploration Skills
- Identifying career interests and strengths
- Exploring different industries and roles
- Understanding workplace expectations

2. Workplace Readiness Skills
- Time management and punctuality
- Professional behavior and workplace etiquette
- Teamwork and collaboration

3. Self-Advocacy Skills
- Communicating needs and requesting accommodations
- Understanding rights and responsibilities at work
- Building confidence to speak up in professional settings

4. Mobility and Independent Living Skills Related to Employment
- Planning transportation to and from work and activities
- Managing schedules and personal responsibilities
- Problem-solving in real-world situations

5. Social and Communication Skills
- Interacting effectively with supervisors and coworkers
- Practicing clear and respectful communication
- Navigating workplace culture

6. Career Preparation Skills
- Resume building
- Interview preparation and practice
- Learning how to apply for jobs
- Attend college panel and learn about the disability services office

7. Technology and Accessibility Skills
- Using assistive technology and devices
- How to maximize vision and hearing at work
- Adapting tools for workplace success

HKNC offers a variety of work sites carefully selected to match each participant's interests, talents, abilities, and aspirations. In addition to hands-on work experiences, participants will take part in group classes and activity debriefs that focus on exploring career options, maximizing vision and hearing at work, practicing self-advocacy, understanding workplace culture, and applying communication and mobility skills on the job. The participants will gain both practical skills and tools for future employment in a unique, individualized, experiential way.

Program Cost

Four-week program

Item	Rate	Cost
Tuition	$1,500 per week × 4 weeks	$6,000
Facilities usage fee	$650 per week × 4 weeks	$2,600
Total cost of the program		**$8,600**

Optional Two-Week Extension

Item	Cost
Tuition	$750 per week
Facilities fee	$650 per week
Total cost per week	**$1,400**

Enjoy the full CVRP experience with an additional two weeks of immersive programming.

Session: July 5, 2027 – July 30, 2027 (Application deadline: May 21, 2027)

For further information, contact your Regional Representative:
www.helenkeller.org/hknc/nationwide-services

If you are a state VR agency that already has a contract with HKNC, please inquire with us regarding your pre-existing fee schedule.