



## **Project SEARCH Overview**

Project SEARCH provides a comprehensive approach to employment training and career advancement for individuals with developmental disabilities. It provides real world skills training through a series of internships all designed to teach marketable skills that will transfer to a variety of employment settings. The program in the Monadnock region takes place at Cheshire Medical Center (CMC). CMC offers a wide variety of opportunities for employment training, everything from stocking to housekeeping to food service to office tasks. The program runs on an academic calendar.

Project SEARCH participants are between the ages of 18 and 34 years of age.

- Students between the ages of 18 and 21, are encouraged to partner with their school in applying for Project SEARCH. This is to ensure students have maximized the benefit of their entitled education services.

The program lasts one school year. It is a competitive application process where interested candidates must apply and interview in order to be considered for acceptance. Those accepted learn employability and technical skills by participating in three internship rotations. During the program, individualized career development and job placement services are provided based on the intern's experiences, strengths and skills. Interns are given support with accommodation, adaptations and on-the-job coaching. Total immersion in the workplace facilitates the teaching and learning process through continuous feedback and the application of new skills.

Those interested in Project SEARCH need to meet the following minimal requirements:

- Are receiving services from MDS, have Medicaid and are, or can be, open for the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver
- Have current application for, or are receiving active services with Vocational Rehabilitation New Hampshire Services (VRNH)
- 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
- Have reliable transportation to and from Project Search
- For more information, please review the Frequently Asked Questions sheet