

## **Innovative Training and Employment Programs for Legally Blind Residents of New York**

New York State's Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, a division of the Office of Children and Family Services, has seven new training and employment programs for legally blind residents of New York. These programs, which are funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will be conducted by CBVH community partners. They offer training and employment in the arts, customer service, food service, and residential care in various locations around the state, including home-based employment following training. All programs will assist graduates in locating employment. Read the information below and if interested, contact your local Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped office for more information.

Voice: 1-866-871-3000

TTY: 1-866-871-6000

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/cbvh/distoffices.asp>

### **ABVI Goodwill "Project Job Connect"**

Jobs in customer service, information and referral and e-commerce will pay \$9.19 to \$14.11 per hour. Seven-week training program includes classroom or internet classroom training, with a two-week mandatory onsite internship in Rochester for those who completed training from home. Candidates must have a H.S. diploma or equivalent; typing speed of at least 30 wpm; computer skills including Word, EXCEL, Outlook and Internet Explorer, plus adaptive technology proficiency in JAWS, MAGic or Zoomtext if applicable; ability to take notes; good communication and independent travel skills. Those training from home must be able to participate in training from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in an uninterrupted training environment. They must also have a Windows XP computer with standard Microsoft Applications and access software installed.

### **Aromatic Refreshment Services**

Jobs in food service and food service management will pay \$10.50-\$15.25 per hour. Twelve-week training program includes three-week home-based computer training (computer and software supplied by Aromatic) plus nine-weeks onsite training at an Aromatic facility. Jobs are concentrated in Albany and New York City, with additional opportunities in Buffalo, Hempstead, Syracuse and White Plains. Candidates must have a H.S. diploma or equivalent; willingness to learn, grow and succeed in a fast-paced environment; and personal presentation skills for success in a high profile food service setting; computer skills including knowledge of adaptive software; and ability to take notes.

### **Center for Assistive Technology, University of Buffalo SUNY Buffalo Research Foundation**

Home-based self-employment for scopists, individuals who proof and edit legal transcripts. Page rate of \$.85 to \$1.25 per page, paid by number of pages edited, time frame for completion and complexity of assignments. Four-month internet-based interactive training (self-paced in home). Trainer provides remote access software and Case CATalyst software. Candidates must be computer literate with good keyboarding skills; have their assistive technology (JAWS, Zoomtext, Braille display as appropriate) and be proficient in its use; have high-speed internet access; have the ability to use a headset to listen to audio recordings; and have an uninterrupted work environment.

### **Goodwill Industries of Greater NY and Northern New Jersey “Project Call Forward”**

Travel-related customer service jobs beginning at \$9.15 per hour. Four month training in Long Island City, Queens; some positions may be home-based following training. Candidates must have a H.S. diploma or equivalent; minimum 25 wpm typing; proficiency in use of assistive technology (JAWS, Zoomtext) and standard Microsoft applications including Outlook and internet; note-taking skills; interest in the travel industry; good interpersonal skills including communication and problem solving ability.

### **Helen Keller Services for the Blind**

Jobs as direct support assistants in OMRDD-certified day and residential facilities at \$10-\$12 per hour. Training takes place at Helen Keller facilities on Long Island and in Brooklyn. Candidates must have a H.S. diploma or ability to pass a competency exam; have a courteous and caring manner and good communication skills; have the ability to lift 25 pounds; be able to successfully pass a criminal background check; have appropriate assistive technology skills to be able to meet the demands of the curriculum; and have note-taking skills.

### **Olmsted Center for Sight “Train Today, Hired Tomorrow”**

Customer service and customer contact jobs offering \$13-\$14 per hour. Seven-week training in Buffalo. Candidates must have a H.S. diploma or G.E.D.; be able to read, write and comprehend English at a 9<sup>th</sup> grade level; have the ability to type 25 words per minute; submit an application with copies of credentials and two letters of professional recommendation; demonstrate interest in the program, maturity, assertiveness and decisiveness; have good communication skills.

### **The Visionary Media Company**

Positions in music, entertainment or media performance, production, audio engineering, sales, music composition or instruction, copywriting, screen and playwriting, broadcast, research. Pay rates set by hour, day or project, with entry-level pay \$8-\$24/hour. Individual intake and training for approximately four-six weeks, including entrepreneurship training in New York City. Most job opportunities are in the New York City area.

