

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Early Reach Initiative

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” This is a question many of us were asked as we were growing up. For youth with disabilities, this is often a daunting question that is filled with uncertainty and lack of information.

In order to assist youth with disabilities better prepare for their transition in to the world of work and independence, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) has started a new initiative called **“Early Reach.”** Early Reach is an outreach initiative intended to promote successful outcomes for youth with disabilities by increasing awareness of OVR services and the benefits of early career planning. The initiative adds an **Early Reach Coordinator** to the rehabilitation team in OVR’s fifteen district offices.

The Early Reach coordinator will reach out to youth with disabilities, their parents, local schools and community agencies that serve youth. The purpose of this outreach is to connect with youth with disabilities early, beginning at age 14, so that they know more about OVR services and can better prepare for vocational choices and living independently. In addition, Early Reach coordinators will know about other services that are available to youth with disabilities who are transitioning from school to adult life.



Photo of Early Reach Coordinators

L to R Back: Allison Raike, Sarah Stuckey, Hillary Hubbell, Brett Glavey, Natalie Vester, Stacy Shirk, Sarah Vogel,
Stephanie Perry, Melissa Franklin, Andrea Merrick
L to R Front: JamieLynn Palumbo, Joni Henry, Kimberly Pakech, Jill Grossberg, Jacki Thornton, LaRonda Moorefield
Not Pictured: Allison Cave, Andrea Sodaro, Deanna Trick, Chervelle Weatherley, Angelica Webster

Questions can be directed to the OVR Early Reach Initiative Manager, Michele Bornman,
at 717-787-6005 or mbornman@pa.gov.

Overview

Group Services

- Informational presentations and consultation to school personnel, community agencies, youth with disabilities and families to outline the services offered by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).
- Education and consultation on the benefits of early career planning and the development of independent living skills; including Pre-employment Transition Services for groups of students.

Individual Services

- Assistance for youth with disabilities in planning for and making application to OVR for services.
- Consultation and linkages to resources that will assist youth with disabilities pursue participation in the workforce and independence.
- Pre-employment Transition Services for individual students.

District Office	Counties Served	Early Reach Coordinator	Phone	Email
DuBois	Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean	Melissa Franklin	814-371-7340	mfranklin@pa.gov
Harrisburg	Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry	Stacy Shirk Allison Raike	717-346-2783 717-346-2773	stshirk@pa.gov araike@pa.gov
Norristown	Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery	Stephanie Perry Angelica Webster Danielle Miller	484-250-4340 ext 161 484-250-4340 ext 101	stperry@pa.gov angwebster@pa.gov
Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Jill Grossberg Kimberly Pakech Chervelle Weatherley	215-560-4193 215 560-3109 215-560-3106	jgrossberg@pa.gov kpakech@pa.gov cweatherle@pa.gov
Wilkes Barre	Bradford, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming	Allison Cave	570-826-2011 ext 124	acave@pa.gov
Allentown	Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton	LaRonda Moorefield	610-821-6441	lmoorefiel@pa.gov
Altoona	Bedford, Blair, Centre, Fulton, Huntingdon	Jacki Thornton Tina Masters	814-946-6994	jacthornto@pa.gov
Erie	Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, Warren	Hillary Hubbell	814-651-9000	hhubbell@pa.gov
Pittsburgh	Allegheny	Sarah Vogel Brett Glavey	412-392-5973 412-209-4416	svogel@pa.gov bglavey@pa.gov
Washington	Fayette, Greene, Washington	Natalie Vester Greg Troup	724-223-4430 ext 241 724-223-4430 ext 245	nvester@pa.gov gtroup@pa.gov
York	Adams, Franklin, Lancaster, York	Sarah Stuckey Andrea Sodaro	717.771.4407 ext 241 717-771-4407 ext 207	sstuckey@pa.gov asodaro@pa.gov
Johnstown	Cambria, Indiana, Somerset, Westmoreland	Joni Henry	814-255-6771 ext 3005	jonihenry@pa.gov
New Castle	Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence	JamieLynn Palumbo	724-656-3070	japalumbo@pa.gov
Reading	Berks, Schuylkill	Andrea Merrick Traci Kowalick	610-621-5800 ext 117 610-621-5800 ext 128	amerrick@pa.gov trkowalick@pa.gov
Williamsport	Clinton, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Tioga, Union	Deanna Trick Laura Taylor	570-505-7220 570-505-7203	detrick@pa.gov laurtaylor@pa.gov