

WORK ABILITY CLASS OF 2021 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Department of Workforce Services' Office of Rehabilitation completed its first year of the Work Ability Internship (WAI) Program by providing paid workplace learning opportunities to 14 individuals with disabilities.

The WAI program serves to help residents with disabilities learn new skills, establish a network of professional contacts, explore career paths in state government and prepare for permanent employment. This program is available to individuals of all disability types and includes varying entry-level internship opportunities.

Interns are paid \$11.00 per hour and are eligible to work up to 32 hours per week. These internships range from 12 to 20 weeks. Upon successful completion, interns receive a letter of recommendation, certificate of completion and assistance with applying for state jobs that match their skills, interests and abilities.

Here are a few highlights of the 2021 Class of Interns:

14 internships were provided by the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

10 VR Office Technicians

2 VR Student Transition Assistants

2 College and Employment Assistant Instructors for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Internship sites were located in Ogden, Salt Lake City, Taylorsville, South Jordan, Provo and Spanish Fork.

13 of the **14** individuals successfully completed their internship (92% success rate)

13 individuals obtained employment after completing their internship (85% employment)

4 internships were hosted by the Department of Technology Services which resulted in **2** interns being hired for permanent positions.

4 individuals obtained employment with state agencies

2 with the Department of Workforce Services

1 with the Department of Environmental Quality

1 with the Office of Recovery Services

Post Internship employment outcomes included Receptionist, Case Manager, Office Clerk, Customer Service Representative and Security Guard

Median Hourly Post Internship Wage: \$13.50 or
Average Hourly Post Internship Wage: \$13.00

USOR's goal in 2022 is to continue hosting internships and expanding the program to other state agencies.

For more information, contact Aaron Thompson, Rehabilitation Services Director, athompson@utah.gov or Leah Lobato, Business Relations Director, leahlobato@utah.gov