



Office of Community Justice JOB READINESS TRAINING

Providing Job Skills for a Bright Future



About Job Readiness Training

Job Readiness Training (JRT) is an employability training program of the Department of Juvenile Justice designed for at-risk high school students. JRT's mission is to improve the overall functioning of at-risk high school students at home, in school, and in the community. The program provides job skills training, career exposure and community internship/work experience for participants from eight sites located throughout South Carolina.

JRT programs are a supplement to DJJ's Teen After-School Centers (TASC), which are operated statewide. Annually, each JRT site provides up to 60 high school students, ages 14-17, with comprehensive job readiness skills training, career exposure, and paid community internships at local businesses for a "real life" work experience. The goals and objectives of the JRT are to:

- Increase the employability of at-risk high school students;
- Improve school attendance and academic performance, decrease school dropout rates, and increase the likelihood of high school completion and enrollment in secondary education, or the military;
- Reduce the recidivism rate for students served by the program that are involved with DJJ by preventing further delinquency and/or violence.

How the JRT Program Operates

Each JRT provider site operates the 10-week program after school hours in spring, fall, and summer cycles, with up to 20 students attending in each cycle. In the fall and spring cycles students attend three days per week for the first four weeks, and then once per week for the final six weeks of the program. Students receive 15 hours of job readiness skills training (20 hours in the summer cycle) using the *Tackling the Tough Skills* curriculum, earning a stipend of \$7.25 for each hour of successful participation.

After successfully completing the first four weeks (one week in the summer) students begin working their 40 hour community internships (80 hours in the summer cycle), where they also earn \$7.25 for each hour worked. Students typically work at their internships two days each week for about three to four hours each day over a six week period.

Referral and Acceptance into the Program

Students can be referred to the JRT program by a variety of sources including the Family Court, law enforcement, a local TASC site, school resource officers, school staff, DJJ staff, the student themselves, or their parents. All applications are screened to verify that students meet the criteria for admission to the program. Once it's determined that the student meets the eligibility criteria, the JRT site coordinator will then provide the following services:

- An orientation on the program for the student and their family, parent or guardian will sign all required consent forms;
- Transportation arrangements with the student and family to ensure the student can safely get to and from the program;
- Schedule student to attend the next phase of the program.

Funding & Support

Each selected JRT site receives up to \$60,000 per year (contingent on available funding in future years) to provide job readiness skills training for 60 students completing the program, along with other contractual responsibilities and program requirements. Additionally, each contract JRT site coordinator receives initial training provided by DJJ before beginning work at their respective locations. Additional training for JRT coordinators will be required as identified by DJJ's regional Prevention Specialists.

JRT *Job Readiness* Training

For more information please contact your local DJJ County Office (full listing on next page) or:

Harold Mayes

Statewide Job & Career Development Director

Office of Community Justice

1600 Shivers Road, PO Box 21069

Columbia, SC 29221-1069

Phone: (803) 896-2359 ♦ Email: hbmeye@scdjj.net

For additional DJJ resources please visit our website:

<http://www.state.sc.us/djj/>

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age.

THE FOLLOWING OFFICES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED TO HANDLE INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NONDISCRIMINATION POLICIES:

Title IX – Inspector General's Office – 803-896-9595, Title II & 504 – Special Education Office – 803-896-8484

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DJJ County Office Directory

Abbeville
864-366-5312

Darlington
843-393-5641

Lee
803-484-4550

Aiken
803-641-7735

Dillon
843-774-4147

Lexington
803-359-5526

Allendale
803-584-4751

Dorchester
843-832-4265

Marion
843-431-1110

Anderson
864-260-4041

Fairfield
803-712-6533

Marlboro
843-479-2961

Barnwell
803-259-7114

Florence
843-665-3080

Newberry
803-276-8243

Bamberg
803-245-5184

Greenville
864-467-5875

Oconee
864-638-9537

Beaufort
843-525-1351

Greenwood
864-229-6648

Orangeburg/Calhoun
803-533-6270

Berkeley
843-761-8194

Georgetown
843-546-8723

Pickens
864-878-7560

Charleston
843-740-1649

Hampton
803-943-4296

Richland
803-253-4050

Cherokee
864-487-2564

Horry
843-915-8969

Spartanburg
864-562-4200

Chester
803-377-8104

Jasper
843-726-5666

Sumter
803-778-2368

Chesterfield
843-623-2378

Kershaw
803-432-9171

Union
864-429-1640

Clarendon
803-435-8587

Lancaster
803-285-9447

Williamsburg
843-355-2772

Colleton
843-549-1509

Laurens
864-984-2518

York
803-909-7500

Tri-Counties
(Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda)
864-445-8138

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is the state cabinet agency responsible for providing custodial care and rehabilitation for the state's children who are incarcerated, on probation or parole, or in community placement for a criminal or status offense. Our mission is to protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community services, education, and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.