

# EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

For people who are blind, visually impaired, disabled or Veterans

## **If you are looking to find a job,**

- Are you a Veteran or do you have a disability?
- Do you want to enhance your employability and job retention?
- Do you want to learn about assistive technology?

## **If you are an employer,**

- Are you seeking job-ready candidates?
- Do you need help with retaining employees?

## **WE CAN HELP!**

The Chicago Lighthouse has a highly educated and experienced team that includes Certified Rehabilitation Counselors. We offer a variety of programs to prepare you for employment, every step of the way.

### **Job Readiness**

Certified Rehabilitation Counselors are available to assess clients' employment needs and goals. Assessments include computer and customer service skills. Staff also help identify clients' career interests, assist with resume writing and conducting mock interviews. Coaching is provided on how to apply for a job and answer questions related to one's disability.

**70%** of people who are disabled are not employed

**TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE THIS!**

### **Training**

**Job Club** is a weekly series of meetings where clients are exposed to presentations held on topics of interest such as job readiness, Social Security, public transportation and money management.

The **Computer Literacy Program** offers individualized training using computers equipped with assistive technologies (ZoomText and JAWS specifically). Materials are available in alternative formats if needed. The Program meets a variety of vocational goals that include: keyboarding, Microsoft Office and internet usage as it relates to the job search.

The **Customer Care Centers** allow clients to apply transferable job skills after completing training. Our Customer Care Service Centers employ more than 600 team players, problem solvers, and great listeners. We are always looking for talented team members to join us and be the voice of our high-profile partners.

The **Transitional Jobs Internship Program** provides paid internships in various Chicago Lighthouse departments including the Low Vision Clinic. Each intern receives coaching and job search support from a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor.

## Job Placement and Retention

Once job ready, staff work with clients on an individualized plan for employment to secure a competitive position, either in The Chicago Lighthouse or an outside business. For the first 90 days of starting a new job, staff meet with clients to discuss their progress and solve any issues that may arise to ensure long term success.

The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is nearly 70%. The Chicago Lighthouse works with employers to find jobs and educate them about the types of tasks that can be performed by persons with vision impairments, other disabilities and Veterans. In addition, staff can perform work-site evaluations to assess the types of accommodations needed.

## Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology help individuals meet their accommodation needs both on and off the job. Tools for Living Store specialists can assist in selecting appropriate equipment and identify funding sources. Assistive Technology Specialists research new advances in technology to better address clients' needs.

## Resources

The Chicago Lighthouse offers many programs to help clients optimize remaining vision, meet educational milestones, and find employment. Examples include Orientation and Mobility training to assist an individual to get to the job or arranging an appointment with the Low Vision Clinic to obtain an updated eye exam.

## Youth Transition Program

The **Youth Transition Program** provides teens and young adults who are blind or visually impaired (ages 15–24) with the tools they need for independence. The **First Jobs Program** is a unique vocational program that combines classroom learning, on-site orientation and paid work experience for youth who are blind or visually impaired. Students attend classes to learn job readiness skills and how to function independently in their jobs with the possibility of competitive employment after a 6 week paid internship.

### **For more information about Employment Services, contact us at:**

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The Chicago Lighthouse is a world-renowned social service organization serving the blind, visually impaired, disabled and Veteran communities with comprehensive vision care and support services.