

Learn About...

Deaf Job Readiness Program

What is the Program?

The Deaf Job Readiness program prepares clients for successful employment in the community through classes taught by a Deaf Instructor. The intensive three-week curriculum includes resume and cover letter preparation, job search skills, interviewing skills and practice, employer expectations, common workplace rules and etiquette, and communication in the hearing work environment.

Who Does the Program Serve?

The Deaf Job Readiness program began in the summer of 2010, and to date has served 10 clients, all either Deaf or Hard of Hearing, communicating in their native language of ASL. They are referred to Goodwill through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.



A Personal Story:

Jennefer has been a client of Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania for some time. She first successfully completed Goodwill's GETC program in medical office skills. Jennefer was then referred to Goodwill's Disability Services Department for work with an Employment Specialist, focusing on placing Jennefer in an employment opportunity appropriate to her recently learned skills and employment goals. When the Deaf Job Readiness program began, Jennefer was placed in one of the first classes. She completed the course with very high praise from her instructor, and the improvement in her interviewing and other soft skills are very apparent, increasing her chances of successful placement in the community.

How Does the Program Benefit Participants and the Community?

Program participants generally do not have a lot of community work experience, and therefore are in need of assistance in soft skills required to succeed in competitive employment; which is provided by this program. The community benefits by providing employers with a larger pool of qualified, dedicated employees from a typically underemployed subset of the community.

Special Program Accomplishments

Unique to this program is instruction in the native language of the participants, American Sign Language, which is presented by an instructor whose native language is also ASL. The culture and conventions within the learning environment are, therefore, appropriate to the participants, and learning is significantly enhanced.