**Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley, Inc.**

15-17 Third St. Troy, NY 12180

**Job Title:** Peer Advocate-Youth Transition Specialist

**Job Type:** Full-time

**Description:**

The Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley is a consumer-led community organization providing direct services and advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities. We envision a world in which people with disabilities enjoy the same right for self-determination, economic freedom and full and equal participation in community life as their non-disabled peers. The Peer Advocate-Youth Transition Specialist serves as a role model and will work with both adults and young people to promote independence.

**The responsibilities of the Peer Advocate-Youth Transition Specialist are to**:

* Provide ACCES-VR Pre-ETS services including Work Readiness Training to Develop Social Skills and Independent Living, Introduction in Self-Advocacy, Postsecondary Counseling and Job Exploration Counseling to students with disabilities
* Engage young people in middle and high school, who are in need of assistance transitioning from school settings to work, post-secondary education, and living independently;
* Address employer concerns and negotiate resolutions;
* Assess and monitor the ACCES-VR customer’s progress;
* Write clear and concise reports and document service outcomes
* Conduct outreach activities that will inform consumers of the availability of peer advocacy services;
* Assist consumers in identifying their future goals and laying out a plan to achieve them;
* Both advocate on behalf of consumers to ensure they receive all the services to which they are entitled and teach them how to become their own advocates;
* Create a series of after school programs that will hone youth leadership skills. Programs may include on-site skills training, off-site visits to community settings such as work places, recreational areas, and cultural venues;
* Work with other youth serving organizations in the community to ensure the needs of youth with disabilities are addressed.

**Requirements**

**The qualifications are:**

* A bachelor’s degree in Human Services or Human Resources; and one year of experience working with people with disabilities or four years of such experience
* Ability to work independently, be creative and self-directing, have strong communication skills
* Must be a person living with a disability.
* Competent with Microsoft Office Suite including Word and Excel.
* Knowledge of Independent Living and the disability service system are essential.
* Desire to work with students with disabilities and their families, ability to engage, work with and communicate with students
* Must demonstrate an ability to provide vocational services for individuals with disabilities and have knowledge and understanding of the intent of Pre-Employment Transition Services