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|  | seal_small  State of Michigan |  |
| GRETCHEN WHITMER  GOVERNOR | DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY  Lansing | SUSAN CORBIN  ACTING DIRECTOR |

**Bureau of Services for Blind Persons**

Transition/Pre-ETS Program List

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) programs are for high school or college students who are blind or visually impaired and who are 14 to 26 years old. Additional age restrictions may apply for specific programs. Please be advised that these are tentative dates/ locations and are subject to change.

\*Statewide Opportunities are offered to students in all areas of the state. Transportation may or may not be offered.

\*\* Regional Opportunities are offered to students residing within certain regions of the state.

# **Statewide Opportunities\***

***YEAR ROUND***

**Bureau of Services for Blind Persons Training Center**

Location: (Virtual, until further notice)

Dates: Year-round

Description: Students are provided training in the areas of workplace readiness skills, travel skills, assistive technology, and other life skills. Students work on pre-employment skills in a residential facility. Students participate in vocational exploration and potential work experiences while at the Training Center.

Target Population: 14 and older

BSBP Contact: Local Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Referral Process: Counselor will complete the BSBPTC Referral Form, this is a Word document that has been shared with field staff, make sure the Eye Report and Medical Report have been scanned into System 7 and send an email to BSBPTC-Referrals with the Referral form attached.

Pre-ETS: Job Exploration Counseling, Counseling for Post-Secondary Education, Instruction in Self-Advocacy, Workplace Readiness Training

**Social Security Benefits Planning**

Location: Virtual or in-person

Dates: Year-round

Description: Students and/or family supports receive counseling regarding how working will impact Social Security benefits. Special emphasis is placed on the Student Work Exclusion.

Target Population: HS/College Students pursuing or considering employment

BSBP Contact: Local Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Referral Process: Counselor will assist with referral to a Social Security Benefits planner

Pre-ETS: Instruction in Self-Advocacy

## ***WINTER 2020***

## **CHILL N’ CHAT**

Location:  Virtual- On going

Dates:  Monthly starting Dec 30th and every 4th Wednesday

Description: Join us for live interactive social hours MC’d by special guest hosts. This will be a safe space social outlet where students can vent, laugh, play games and learn while practicing key skills including communication, active listening, and reducing stress levels during these uncertain times.

Target Population:  High school/ college or another post-secondary education students

BSBP Contact: Niyah Jawo, jawon@michigan.gov

Referral Process: Join anytime, registration here: <https://bit.ly/ChillnChat>

Pre-ETS:  Workplace Readiness Training, Instruction in Self-Advocacy

## **VI Resource Series**

Location:  Virtual- On going

Dates:  Monthly starting Jan 21st and every 3rd Thursday

Description: This monthly series is designed to educate families and student supports about a variety of subjects affecting BVI students. This program will provide information from industry experts on a variety of relevant topics, introduce caregivers to useful community resources and connect students/families to career explorations tools and potential work experiences.

Target Population:  Parent/caregivers of BVI students

BSBP Contact: Niyah Jawo, jawon@michigan.gov

Referral Process: Join anytime, registration here: <https://bit.ly/VISeries2021>

Pre-ETS:  Authorized Activity

## **MDE-LIO/ BSBP “Career Day”**

Location:  Virtual

Dates:  Feb 12, 2021 from 8:30 am -2:00 pm

Description: This Virtual Career Day event will help students ages 14 and up connect what they’re learning in school with the workplace, understand appropriate social behaviors required for employment, learn about a variety of jobs by interacting with business partners, and gain resources that will help them begin identifying career interest areas. A keynote presentation will be given by Leatrice Fullerton, program manager of Disability Network Southwest Michigan.

Target Population:  BVI high school students, parents/ caregivers and support staff

BSBP Contact: Niyah Jawo, jawon@michigan.gov

Referral Process: More info and registration here: [bit.ly/LIOCareerDay](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmdelio.us7.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3De26740868a48453f1cd91a067%26id%3D4cfd91f01f%26e%3Ddcc6a9e9ae&data=04%7C01%7Cjawon%40michigan.gov%7C9f878874450045ae703d08d8a5d1cdb5%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637441667818090966%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5I3qYdSiAbGdHh%2BW2LkFoC9NAwwhUwmYMhhtVodOvg8%3D&reserved=0)

Pre-ETS:  Instruction in Self-Advocacy, Job Exploration Counseling

## **MI Success**

Location:  Virtual

Dates:  NEW DATES TBA

Description: The purpose of this program is to help students prepare for the changes and responsibilities associated with post-secondary education, explore career pathways, and acquire the knowledge and skills that will help them be successful in a post-secondary environment.

Target Population:  High school students 14 and older considering attending college or another post-secondary education program after graduation

BSBP Contact: Shannon McVoy, mcvoys@michigan.gov

Referral Process:

9th- 10th grades Group 1 [https://bit.ly/MiSuccess-Grp-One](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2FMiSuccess-Grp-One&data=04%7C01%7CJawoN%40michigan.gov%7Cca8b4f493fdd45b7906f08d8c16f44f9%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637472031995097404%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=icwgGOZwGMZ%2BxINgNq4Lau8lTkF0H%2Fs8gTz0FR2cDrw%3D&reserved=0)

11th-12th grades Group 2 is [http://bit.ly/MiSuccessGrp2](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2FMiSuccessGrp2&data=04%7C01%7CJawoN%40michigan.gov%7C79fdf42505e249e394cc08d8b7339468%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637460779440750418%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ldfRsyHV0gEoT%2BzWd4LOkceo6iwzRgaDKsn6HBAZuJM%3D&reserved=0)

Pre-ETS:  Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs

## **No Barriers (MTSA Edition)**

Location: Virtual

Dates: Sunday, March 7 thru Tuesday, March 9 from 4pm to 8pm

Description: This PRE- ETS program will focus on providing Workplace Readiness Skills and Self-Advocacy Training. This program will be open to students who have participated in a previous No Barriers Program and will work on furthering the skills students learned previously.

Students will virtually attend the Michigan Transition Services Association (MTSA) conference as well as additional facilitated discussions on the presentations/speakers. Students will utilize and fine-tune their self-advocacy skills by applying them to the conference topics and in their own lives.

Target Population: Students 14-26

BSBP Contact: Maria Peak, [MPeak@asppireofmidmichigan.com](mailto:MPeak@asppireofmidmichigan.com)

Referral Process: Must have attended at least 1“No Barriers” program previously

Pre-ETS: Self-Advocacy, Workplace Readiness Training

## **Social Intelligence- Communication and Social Success**

Location:  Virtual

Dates:  3/10/21, 3/17/21, 3/24/21, 3/31/21, 4/7/21 (Wednesdays)

Description: These sessions will provide opportunities to learn, practice and build social skill interactions that are universal for independence and employment. Focus will be placed on self-esteem, boundaries, teamwork, peer supports/networks, communication, and behavioral aspects of social skill development for students needing additional supports.

Target Population: Pre-Ets eligible students seeking or needing skill development with social interactions

BSBP Contact: Susan Root, [roots@michigan.gov](mailto:roots@michigan.gov)

Referral Process: Complete registration link here: [http://bit.ly/SD-BSBP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2FSD-BSBP&data=04%7C01%7CJawoN%40michigan.gov%7C276c50c1b7a9427f83fd08d8bf079dd1%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637469386714571401%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=BDE9AFAj%2Fevu5A0RgMDgxlIZPxahwa%2FpUbjVnRV97Dw%3D&reserved=0)

\*Program Filled- A waitlist is now forming.

Pre-ETS categories:  Workplace Readiness Training

## **Employment Flex**

Location:  Virtual

Dates:  March 12- April 30 (Fri 6-8pm and Sat 10-12noon)

Description: A comprehensive Work Readiness Bootcamp which aims to prepare students for the world of work and equip participants with tools and the confidence to find and obtain competitive employment within their community. Additionally, students will build a professional portfolio for interviews with resume, cover letter, business cards and other supporting documents.

Target Population:  High school/ college or another post-secondary education students interested in obtaining employment

BSBP Contact: Niyah Jawo, jawon@michigan.gov

Referral Process: Register here: [http://bit.ly/EmpFlex-BSBP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2FEmpFlex-BSBP&data=04%7C01%7CJawoN%40michigan.gov%7C79fdf42505e249e394cc08d8b7339468%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637460779440750418%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2ZrADICvRru8tIswNRplIQqfpf2kWDPqt3YV7GEmCj8%3D&reserved=0)

Pre-ETS:  Workplace Readiness Training, Instruction in Self-Advocacy

## **STARS (Students Transforming to Achieve Readiness with Support)**

Location:  Virtual

Dates:  April 7- June 23 and July 7- Sept 22, 2021 (Weekly, Wednesdays 6-7 pm)

Description: STARS has been developed as a pilot program to address the concerns and barriers of students with complex support needs (CSN) currently receiving transition services through BSBP. The goal of this virtual program will be to develop fundamental strategies and nurture skills needed to maximize potential towards a healthier, happier, and more independent future. The lessons will focus on character and communication development, personal management, community connections, career readiness and responsible career decision making. Sessions will take place weekly for 6 months, each with its own monthly focus. Students will receive “BSBP Bonus Boxes” with supplies, technology and fun activities to support ongoing participation. Each session will be taught/ facilitated by BSBP teachers and counselors from around the state.

Target Population:  High school students with complex support needs

BSBP Contact: Niyah Jawo, jawon@michigan.gov

Referral Process: [**http://bit.ly/STARS-BSBP**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2FSTARS-BSBP&data=04%7C01%7CJawoN%40michigan.gov%7Ccb6ed7e7b9cd4767743e08d8de6cab9e%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637503905641258465%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=MTM%2BuP9Q4kgYCzfLP6wFjZFjYxWIF3brct97nm%2BDDI4%3D&reserved=0)

Pre-ETS: Job Exploration Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, Instruction in Self-Advocacy

**Blind and Socially Savvy Strength Series: Social Integration**

Location: Virtual

Dates: May 14-16 2021

Description: Students examine and experience the importance of connections in social and professional settings. Connections lead to increased happiness, ease of interaction and job prospects.

Students learn how to find opportunities for engagement and find groups that support their skills and interests as well as being introduced to new skills and interests.

Topics include:

Why Social Integration

Places and Opportunities to Meet New People

Conversation Starters

Listening and Savvy Communication

Projecting the Impression You Wish to Create

Do’s/Don’ts for Using Technology During Social Interactions/ in Groups

Hosting a Virtual or In-Person Event

Using Technology to Stay Connected

Target Population: students 14 to 26

BSBP Contact: Niyah Jawo, [JawoN@michigan.gov](mailto:JawoN@michigan.gov)

Referral Process: Register here: [http://bit.ly/BSS-SS](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2FBSS-SS&data=04%7C01%7CJawoN%40michigan.gov%7Cc46acc4208bd48c40b5408d8c2eb94c5%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637473664392474599%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=nvff%2B0b4DpwUfrzpZrQcSviRO9Q4tyiajfU8B6JdexE%3D&reserved=0)

Pre-ETS: Workplace Readiness Training

***SPRING/ SUMMER***

## **Take the Lead #TeamTTL**

Location: Virtual

Dates: Group 1: March 29- April 1, Group 2: May 3-6

Description: Leadership Weekend for students interested in a paid work experience.

Rationale: BSBP has a need for student mentors to assist with camps and programming throughout the state. In the past couple of years, we have been asked to provide a work experience to a variety of programs including Sports Camp, SASS (NFB STEM program), and Camp T. These experiences have allowed students a brief introduction to work skills. BSBP values work experiences for our students but must ensure that the experiences are valuable for both the student and the program. In order to maximize resources and provide a valuable experience, the Transition Team is proposing a 1 year work program with periodic training.

BSBP students who are interested in the work experience will complete the weekend, featuring interactive leadership training and will end with the students being interviewed for approximately 4-6 paid positions. Students will be scored on their leadership abilities throughout the weekend in addition to the interview. The selected students will participate in 2-3 additional training programs throughout the year.

Target Population: College Students

BSBP Contact: Local Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Referral Process: Please complete the registration link:

[http://bit.ly/TTL-BSBP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2FTTL-BSBP&data=04%7C01%7CJawoN%40michigan.gov%7Cecf5e569e5394461d60c08d8bc91632a%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637466679898225497%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=51Y76cqeDmbXb%2FAk5Ccohh2nyseCATs5hGFBKdNkw7I%3D&reserved=0)

Pre-ETS: Instruction in Self-Advocacy, Workplace Readiness Training

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## **Sports Education Camp**

Location:  Virtual- Western Michigan University

Dates: May 2-8 (virtual)

Description: The Michigan Sports Education Camps have been designed for K-12 school aged students so that they can discover their athletic potential.  Students can then take the lessons learned at sports camp and apply them in other areas of life, including school, the world of work, and getting involved in their community.

Target Population:  Students ages 9 to 12 and 13 to 18

BSBP Contact:  Leanne Ford [FordL1@michigan.gov](mailto:FordL1@michigan.gov)

Referral Process:  For more information please email [michigansec@gmail.com](mailto:michigansec@gmail.com). Please go to the SEC Registration Page to Start your Registration Process!   A link to the registration page can be found on the Michigan Blind Athletic Association (MBAA) website <http://misportscamp.org>

Pre-ETS:  Instruction in Self-Advocacy, Workplace Readiness Training

## **Post-Secondary Readiness Program**

Location: BSBP Training Center

Dates: June 6-July 2nd 2021 (2 groups)

Description: This program is designed to prepare students for success in a post-secondary education environment. Students demonstrate and further build skills in the areas of independent living, assistive technology, orientation and mobility, etcetera., all of which they will need to live independently and participate in classes. They also participate in a variety of auxiliary activities related to navigating a college campus, accessing campus resources, using accessible textbook resources, gaining employment while taking classes, and appropriately managing Social Security benefits.

Target Population: students 16 and older considering attending post-secondary education

BSBP Contact: BSBP VR Counselor

Referral Process: Please complete the BSBPTC Referral Form and send to [BSBPTC-Referrals@michigan.gov](mailto:BSBPTC-Referrals@michigan.gov)

Pre-ETS: Workplace Readiness Training

## **College Prep Program- VIRTUAL**

Location: Virtual

Dates: Summer 2021 (June- Aug)

Description: Students who are blind or visually impaired have an opportunity for a college experience prior to becoming full-time students. The program is designed to provide BSBP consumers with training and skills needed to become successful full-time college students. Students will take online academic classes from WMU, and BSBP staff will provide Pre-ETS instruction toward college readiness.

Target Population: students 16 and older who are considering attending college and have already completed the Post-Secondary Readiness Program (PSRP)

BSBP Contact: Chris Roach, [roachc1@michigan.gov](mailto:roachc1@michigan.gov)

Referral Process: Please email for a packet. Students will need to complete a WMU application and provide a copy of HS transcripts. The Post-Secondary Readiness Program must be completed prior to starting College Prep. It is recommended that students complete this one summer before completing College Prep.

Pre-ETS: Job Exploration, Work-based Learning Experience, Post-Secondary Counseling and Guidance, Instruction in Self-Advocacy, Workplace Readiness Training

## **Are You Ready?**

Location: BSBP Training Center

1541 Oakland Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Dates: July 12-16, 2021 (Tentative)

Description: Are You Ready has been established as a first step to prepare students for living independently, establishing career goals, and enhancing the skills and abilities of our students. Participants will reside at the BSBP training center and complete classes/activities on the campus of Western Michigan University and within the local community.  Pre-ETS activities include Self Advocacy Training and Work Readiness.

Target Population: high school students 14 to 26 who have not previously participated in overnight BSBP Training Center Programs or who are unsure about whether they are ready for future participation in in residential training at the Training Center

BSBP Contact Person: Pam Crooks, [crooksp@michigan.gov](mailto:crooksp@michigan.gov)

Referral process: Please email for a packet or to request a packet.

Pre-ETS: Workplace Readiness Training, Instruction in Self-Advocacy

## **STEM Program-Astronomy**

Location: BSBP Training Center and/ or Virtual

Dates: July 12-16, 2021 (Tentative)

Description: Students will be introduced to 3D printing technology while learning about careers in the STEM field and exploring characteristics of the universe. Students will also hear from blind professionals about how to pursue an education and career in STEM.

Target Population: high school students 14 and older interested in exploring STEM careers

BSBP Contact: BSBP VR Counselor

Referral Process: Please complete the BSBPTC Referral Form, make sure the Eye Report and Medical Report have been scanned into System 7 and send an email to BSBPTC-Referrals.

Pre-ETS: Job Exploration

**Transitions In Training (TNT)**

Location: Virtual- Disability Network Capital Area, Lansing, Michigan State University and Firefly Farms, Highlands, Onondaga

Dates: Summer 2021 (August) Virtual

Description: Transitions in Training is a new, customized opportunity for students ages 14 to 23 to help meet their academic and career goals. The 4-day and 3-night program is highly inter-active, and skill focused.

Highlights include:

* Understanding your legal rights and responsibilities regarding accommodations and assistive technology. Includes an AT demo!
* Tour of Michigan State University’s Brody Hall including lunch on campus.
* Day at Firefly Farm for first-hand experience working with horses and other animals!
* An opportunity to hear from local employers about getting a job and the value of getting experience while still in school.

Target Population: students 14 to 23

BSBP Contact: Rosemarie Van Ham [vanhamr@michigan.gov](mailto:vanhamr@michigan.gov)

Referral Process: Completed Pre-ETS packet on file, completed releases for DNCAP, Michigan State University, Selective Case Management, Firefly Farms, BSBP/MRS (as appropriate) and waivers for site visits. Contact your BSBP counselor and email referral packet/information to Rosemarie Van Ham.

Pre-ETS: Workplace Readiness, Career Exploration, Self-Advocacy Training, Post-Secondary Counseling and Guidance, Work-Based Learning Experiences.

## **Camp Transition Zone**

Location: TBD

Dates: Tuesday, August 24 to Saturday, August 28

Description: Students ages 14 - 21 will be learning new vocational skills with the help of BSBP trained staff, Camp Daggett counselors, and volunteers. This Camp includes Pre-Employment Transition Services with a focus on work-readiness, career exploration and independent living. Students have the opportunity to participate in teambuilding activities through Camp Daggett’s Challenge/Ropes Course.

Target Population: students 14 to 21

BSBP Contact: Susan Root, [RootS2@michigan.gov](mailto:RootS2@michigan.gov)

Referral Process: LINK Coming Soon

Pre-ETS: Self Advocacy Training, Workplace Readiness, Career Exploration

## **FALL/ WINTER**

## **Encounter Career Opportunities (ECO)-Hospitality Edition**

Location: Great Wolf Lodge

3575 US-31, Traverse City, MI 49684

Dates: ***Postponed until Summer 2022***

Description: Students will observe the behind-the-scenes operation of a hotel and have the opportunity to learn about the various jobs within the hospitality industry. Students will also participate in a variety of activities to build skills necessary for successfully seeking, obtaining and performing a job.

Target Population: High School Students 14 and older

BSBP Contact: Tim Vallier, [VallierT@michigan.gov](mailto:VallierT@michigan.gov)

Referral Process: Contact your BSBP Counselor or complete the following to receive a referral packet.

Pre-ETS: Career Exploration

## **No Barriers Summit**

Location: Ski for Light, Mac Mullen Conference Center

104 Conservation Dr., Roscommon, MI 48653

Dates: Winter 2022 (Jan)

Description: This weekend retreat will focus on the development of self-advocacy and leadership skills. Students will complete Erik Weihenmayer’s “No Barriers” curriculum focusing on activities that will make them reach beyond their comfort levels to push themselves to achieve their goals and dreams.

This weekend is for a select group of students who exhibit leadership qualities. Students will apply to attend with only 20 students being selected to participate.

Target Population: students 14 to 26

BSBP Contact: Maria Peak, [MPeak@asppireofmidmichigan.com](mailto:MPeak@asppireofmidmichigan.com)

Referral Process: Complete this form to receive a referral packet: <https://forms.gle/47wNDwJEyBDAaDre7>

Pre-ETS: Self-Advocacy

# **Central Region Opportunities\*\***

## **R.E.A.C.H**

Location: Flint-Genesee Co., MI

Dates: 3rd Thursday each Month (School Year)

Description: This is a year-round program focuses on all 5 of the Pre-ETS categories based on the participating students’ needs. Training on job shadowing, interviewing, advocacy, labor market, work experiences, employment soft skills, college plans/possibilities, time management, and disability disclosure.

BSBP Contact: Shelley Basile [basiles@michigan.gov](mailto:basiles@michigan.gov) / Derrick Voltz [voltzd@michigan.gov](mailto:voltzd@michigan.gov)

Referral Process: contact your local BSBP counselor

Pre-ETS: Job Exploration Counseling, Counseling for Post-Secondary Education, Instruction in Self-Advocacy, Workplace Readiness Training, Work Based Learning

## **Ingham ICTA 3-week summer work experience**

Location: Ingham county (various sites will be developed)

Dates: will vary for each student and will work around other summer programming that they will attend.

Description: The culmination of 8 months of job readiness training will be a 3-week summer work experience. Every effort will be made to match students with their areas of interests, strengths, and abilities. It is expected that 6 of the 7 students will participate in a work experience.

Target Population: Ingham students 14 and older

BSBP contact: Rosemarie Van Ham, [vanhamr@michigan.gov](mailto:vanhamr@michigan.gov)

Dan Furton, [furtond@michigan.gov](mailto:furtond@michigan.gov)

Referral process: Ingham students referred to BSBP will participate in monthly job readiness training and preparation, followed by work experience.

Pre-ETS: Workplace Readiness Training, Work Based Learning

**East Region Opportunities\*\***

## **Level Up!**

Location:   Oakland Community College- Southfield Campus,

22322 Rutland Dr., Southfield, Michigan (or Virtual)

Dates:  TBD

Description:  This three-week program is to help students understand themselves as well as their disability. Students will learn how their visual impairment impacts them in different situations and the type of barriers they encounter as a result. In addition, students will learn how to accommodate for barriers and identify their needs in order to request appropriate accommodations.

Target Population: 11th and 12th grade students

BSBP Contact:  Talitha Heard, [HeardT1@michigan.gov](mailto:HeardT1@michigan.gov)

Referral Process:  Through your BSBP counselor or Talitha Heard, [HeardT1@michigan.gov](mailto:HeardT1@michigan.gov)

Pre-ETS: Workplace Readiness, Self-Advocacy, Counseling for Post-Secondary Readiness

## **Gauging Resources, Optimal Ends (GROE)**

Location:   Southfield, Michigan

Dates:  4-week sessions- ongoing, dates TBD

Description:  Focus on financial literacy, soft skills and self-advocacy.

Target Population:  Students 14 to 16

BSBP Contact:  Stephanie Kimmons

Referral Process:  Through your BSBP counselor or Contact Stephanie Kimmons at 313-456-1658 or [kimmonss@michigan.gov](mailto:kimmonss@michigan.gov)

Pre-ETS: Workplace Readiness, Self-Advocacy

## **Equipped for Transition**

Location:  Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired

16625 Grand River Avenue Detroit, MI 48227

Dates: TBA

Description: A series of workshops designed to build students’ transition skills.

Target Population:  students 14 to 26

BSBP Contact:  Shawnese Laury [LauryS@michigan.gov](mailto:LauryS@michigan.gov)

Referral Process: Contact your BSBP counselor

Pre-ETS:  Workplace Readiness Training, Job Exploration Counseling, Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs

## **Detroit Summer Youth Program**

Location: Detroit

Dates: TBD

Description: For over 25 years BSBP has had a comprehensive work/ skill building and enrichment program for blind and visually impaired youth.  Presently any Detroit Public School blind or visually impaired student is eligible to participate in a 2-week enrichment camp that usually covers Technology, Cooking, Soft skills, Work Readiness and Leisure activities. The students are provided 6 weeks of paid work experience. They have worked in such diverse job settings as a hospital, golf course, pharmacy, horticulture program, and a stable. They work Monday through Thursday with Fridays being a mix of fun and employment related activities. Examples of previous activities have been college visits, studying the changes that technology has brought to the workplace by touring Greenfield Village, and learning financial literacy and adapted ATM usage at the headquarters of PNC Bank.

Target Population: any Detroit Public School blind or visually impaired student

BSBP Contact: Detroit Regional Office

Referral Process: contact your local BSBP counselor

Pre-ETS: Workplace Readiness Training, Work Based Learning

## **Macomb ISD**

Location: Virtual

Dates: Year-round

Description: This is a year-round program funded through an ICTA. During the summer there is a 3-week work/skill building program for regular transition aged youth and a 1-week program for more multiply impaired students. The enrichment experiences have been revamped to better provide an expansion and continuation of skills and experiences taught during the school year. The ICTA allows for more individualized programming to meet the unique needs of each student with a dedicated Rehabilitation Assistant to do the legwork involved. This has resulted into a true, strong partnership between BSBP, the ISD, the Macomb VI TC’s and O and M who also actively participate in the planning and implementation of the programs.

Target Population: Macomb ISD students 14 to 26

BSBP Contact: Anita Vanschaikmartinet [VanschaikmartinetA@michigan.gov](mailto:VanschaikmartinetA@michigan.gov)

Referral Process: Contact your local BSBP counselor

Pre-ETS: Workplace Readiness Training, other areas as appropriate

# **West Region Opportunities\*\***

## **Disability Network Lakeshore-Transition Program**

Location:  Virtual / In-Person

Dates:  Winter-Spring 2021

Description: To prepare youth for employment and provide life skill education that promotes independence.

Target Population:  High school (14-26 year old) youth who are interested in employment preparation and life skill instructions. Youth may be at various stages of development related to employment readiness and ability to live independently. The program sessions are once every other week during the school year via in person or virtual platforms.

BSBP Contact: Jereme Vanden Heuvel, [vandenheuvelj4@michigan.gov](mailto:vandenheuvelj4@michigan.gov)

Referral Process: Contact your BSBP counselor

Pre-ETS:  Job Exploration Counseling, Work-based learning, Counseling on Post-Secondary Options, Workplace Readiness Training, Instruction in Self-Advocacy.

## **STEPS**

Location: Depends on location of students – either Kent, Muskegon, or Ottawa counties

Dates: TBD

Description: Successful Teens Exploring Positive Skills (STEPS) - Students participate in a series of independent living and employment readiness activities twice a month throughout the school year. This program is intended as a precursor to Summer in the City.

Target Population: students 14 to 26

BSBP Contact: Jereme Vanden Heuvel, [VandenHeuvelJ4@michigan.gov](mailto:VandenHeuvelJ4@michigan.gov) for Kent and Ottawa counties, or Karyn Silky, [SilkyK@michigan.gov](mailto:SilkyK@michigan.gov) for Muskegon county

Referral process: Contact your local BSBP counselor

Pre-ETS: Workplace Readiness Training

**Summer In The City**

Location: Grandville High School (Tentative), Grand Rapids area

Dates: TBA

Description: Students participate in a series of independent living and employment readiness activities. Students will complete an “amazing race” around Grand Rapids using public transit and participate in a job shadow experience.

Target Population: students 14 to 20

BSBP Contact Person: Jereme Vanden Heuvel, [VandenHeuvelJ4@michigan.gov](mailto:VandenHeuvelJ4@michigan.gov) for Kent and Ottawa counties, or Karyn Silky, [SilkyK@michigan.gov](mailto:SilkyK@michigan.gov) for Muskegon county

Referral Process: Contact your local BSBP Counselor

Pre-ETS: Workplace Readiness Training, Job Exploration Counseling

## **Michigan Works! Employment Transition Program**

Location: Michigan Works! West Side Complex,

215 Straight Ave NW Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Dates: Summer 2021 (TBA)

Description: Michigan Works! Transition Employment Readiness program is a 20-hour job readiness program intended to provide transition instruction to visually impaired high school students. The program’s focus is on career exploration, networking, disability specific instruction (ADA Regulations, Disability Disclosure, Self-Advocacy and Elevator Speech), and steps to gain employment such as completing applications, writing resumes, and interviewing facilitated by area employers.

Target Population: high school students 14 and older

BSBP Contact Person: Dan Mitchell, [mitchelld12@michigan.gov](mailto:mitchelld12@michigan.gov)

Referral process: Complete referral form and contact Dan Mitchell

Pre-ETS: Job Exploration Counseling, Instruction in Self-Advocacy

# **Additional Programs BSBP Students can participate in:**

## **Learning Ally’s College Success Program**

Location: Online

Dates: On-Going

Description: College Success Program to help college students who are blind or visually impaired get the support they need to make the most of their college experience. Learning Ally provides support by:

* Designing and developing a holistic support system for college students who are blind or visually impaired.
* Creating a network of mentors to coach students in building advocacy and resource management skills.
* Assisting students in identifying the right tools and technology that will help them thrive in college.

Target Population: students 18 and older who are about to start college or who are already in college and would benefit from additional support

Contact: Mary Alexander at [mAlexander@LearningAlly.org](mailto:mAlexander@LearningAlly.org) (214) 732-5469

Referral Process: Email the following information to Mary Alexander malexander@learningally.org, cc Shannon McVoy, [mcvoys@michigan.gov](mailto:mcvoys@michigan.gov)

* Name of student
* cell phone #
* Email address (multiple if they have them)
* mailing address
* birth date
* vision impairment
* Name of counselor and contact info

Pre-ETS: Peer Mentoring, Post-Secondary Counseling and Guidance

**National Association of Blind Students 2021 Midwest Student Seminar: Marching Towards Your Authenticity**

Location: Virtual

Dates: March 19-20, 2021

Description: This virtual program is dedicated to equip students with the knowledge and expertise to emulate their authentic selves in all facets of life, including academic settings, the workplace, and social environments. We know that the year 2020 has taken a tole on the mental health of our members, many of whom have experienced difficulties maintaining their academic successes, social groups or environments, and even parts of their identities. Our program, rife with interactive activities, guest speakers, and opportunities to grow, aims to help each and every attendee reaffirm the elements of their authentic self. Registration deadline March 1, 2021

Target Population: students 14 to 26

BSBP Contact: Chris Roach, roachc@michigan.gov

Referral Process: contact your local BSBP counselor

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BqYesJ-tuLEi9zfjqd2X99vgvbQ5dOm8KludfibGpp8/viewform?edit\_requested=true](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fforms%2Fd%2F1BqYesJ-tuLEi9zfjqd2X99vgvbQ5dOm8KludfibGpp8%2Fviewform%3Fedit_requested%3Dtrue&data=04%7C01%7CJawoN%40michigan.gov%7Ce50de375ae5644b3f38a08d8b244d029%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637455355911088749%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=C2vjNjejfuaZ6emVBuFmG7GuzUOdbknxu%2Bz7dkpBZ0Y%3D&reserved=0)

Pre-ETS: Self Advocacy

## **WMU/Michigan Rehabilitation Services Summer Transition Program**

Location:  Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

Dates:  TBD- 2 different week options

Description:  Students will participate in a residential college experience at Western Michigan University (WMU).  Students will live on campus for 1 week in the summer and develop skills in transition, independent living, pre-employment, social skills and college readiness.

Target Population:  High School Sophomores or Juniors

BSBP Contact: Shannon McVoy, [mcvoys@michigan.gov](mailto:mcvoys@michigan.gov)

Referral Process:  Contact your BSBP Counselor or Kourtney Bakalyar at WMU at 269-387-4349 or [Kourtney.k.bakalyar@wmich.edu](mailto:Kourtney.k.bakalyar@wmich.edu)

Pre-ETS: Post-Secondary Counseling and Work Readiness

## **Leader Dog-Summer Camp Experience**

Location: 1039 S. Rochester Rd Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Dates: June 22-29, 2021(In Person)

Description: Students will enhance their independent travel skills, leadership and self-advocacy skills and have an introduction to guide dogs.  Students will also receive a free GPS device with instruction.

Target Population: High School Students ages 14 to 17

Contact: client services at Leader Dogs for the Blind at 888-777-5332.

Referral Process: Visit the Leader Dog website for an application <https://www.leaderdog.org/programs/summer-experience-camp/>

Pre-ETS: Workplace Readiness Skills Training and Self-Advocacy

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# **Work Experiences**

## **Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Summer Work Opportunity Program**

Location: Various Michigan BEP locations

Dates: TBD- Summer/Ongoing

Description: This food service and vending internship in BSBP’s Business Enterprise Program is for blind and visually impaired high school and college students ages 15 to 21.  Students are paid minimum wage and typically work 20 - 30 hours each week, for up to 10 weeks.  The program will provide participants with an opportunity to experience working under supervision, learn work requirements, develop work skills and determine if the BEP is a viable vocational option for him/her.

Target Population: high school and college students ages 15 to 21

BSBP Contact: Local BSBP counselor

Referral Process: BEP will identify Operators who are willing to provide a work experience and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors will connect interested students to available opportunities. Interested students submit a resume to his/her VR Counselor. The VR Counselor will provide resumes to the BEP Operator. BEP Operators are encouraged to require participants to complete a job application and sit for a job interview. The Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor can provide sample interview questions if requested.

Pre-ETS: Work Based Learning- Work Experience

## **DNR Summer Work Program**

Location: 44 sites across the State, including the Upper Peninsula and Upper Lower Michigan.

Dates: TBD- Summer 8-week program

Description: This Summer work program with the DNR through MRS is typically an 8-week program and the student earns $8.90/hour. BSBP would pay wages (Pre-ETS) as well as possibly part of the trainer cost (also Pre-ETS). There may be additional costs associated with the position, including but not limited to work attire, transportation, etc. (Not Pre-ETS).

Target Population: High school students

BSBP Contact: Local BSBP Counselor

Referral Process: Please contact the Local MRS counselor for the site you are interested. The local MRS counselor will know if there are slots available as well as the referral process.

Pre-ETS: Work Based Learning- Work Experience

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