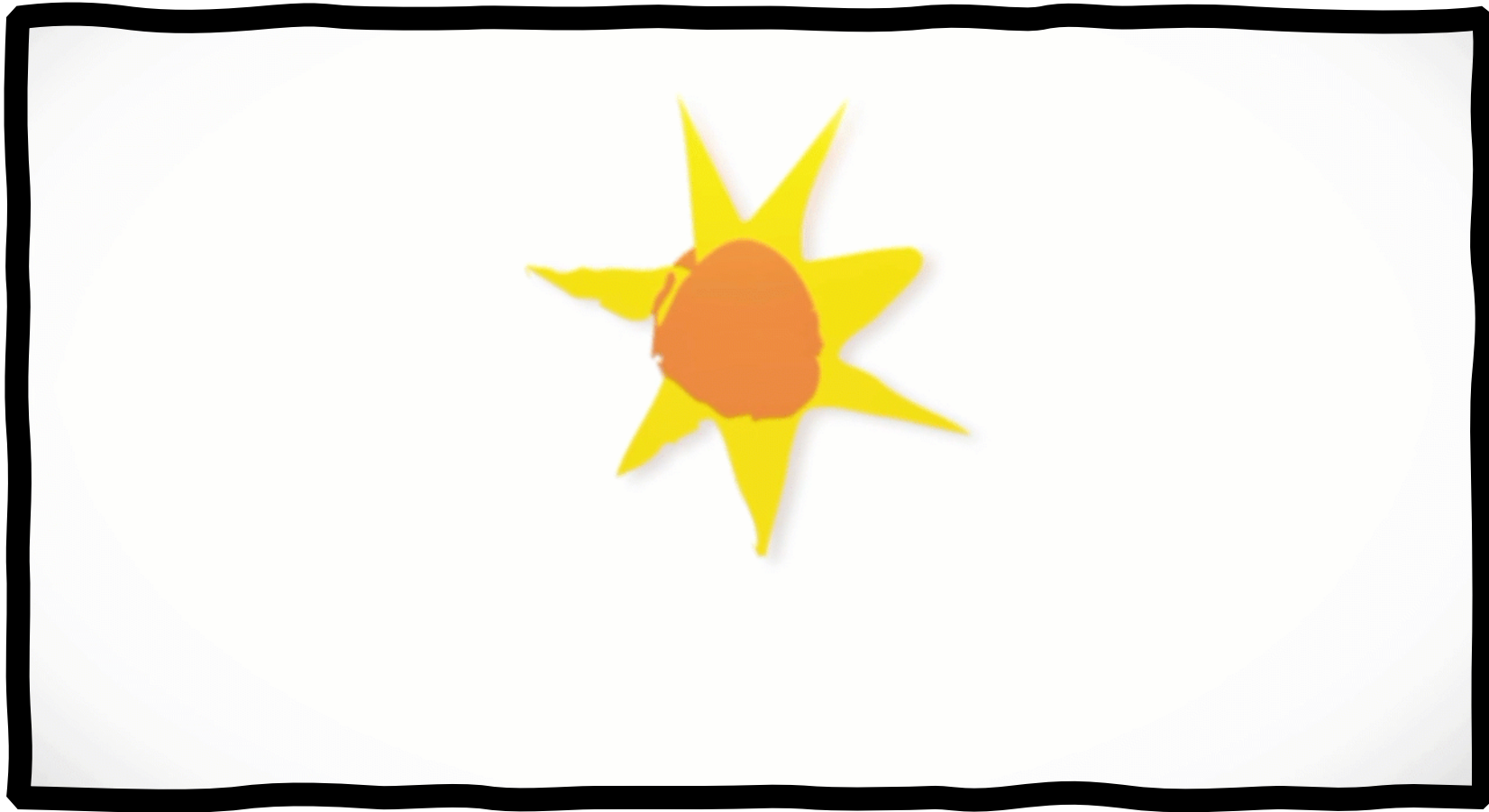


State of Project SEARCH 2026

Outcome Data 2024-2025



Project SEARCH Mindset



“Breathe out the furious,
breathe into curious!”

– Kay Clancy

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kay-clancy/>

What if???

History of Project SEARCH

- 1996 – Erin Riehle felt patients with disabilities should have training opportunities
- Erin contacted Susie Rutkowski
- Some students started working
- 1997 – Erin and Susie built the training program
- 1998 – 1999 School year
 - First Project SEARCH cohort of 8 interns



Our Story in Stats

Trends, Triumphs, & Outcomes
2024-2025 Program Year Data

Global Perspective



Project | SEARCH®

800

Program Sites

48

US States

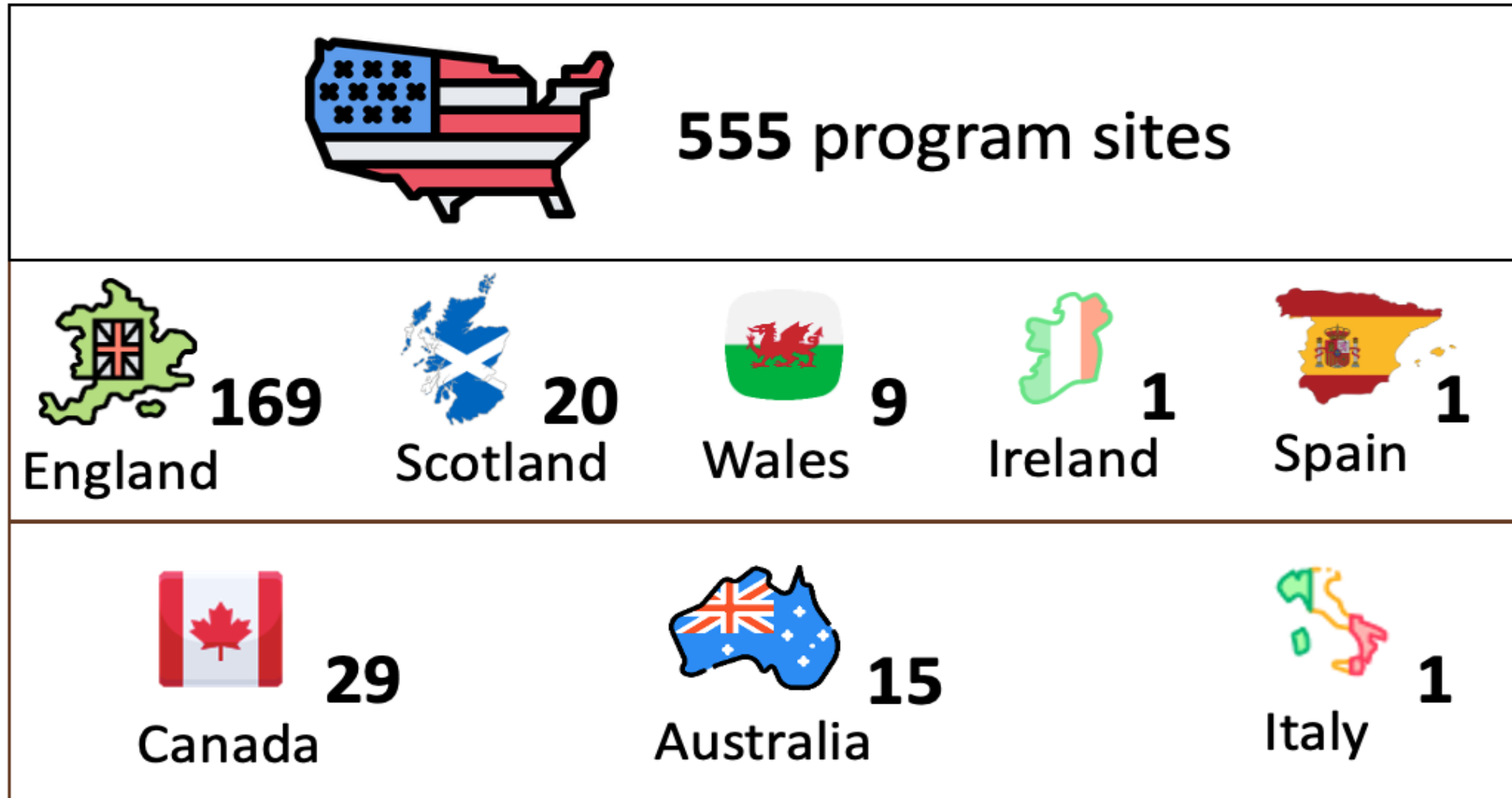
9

Countries

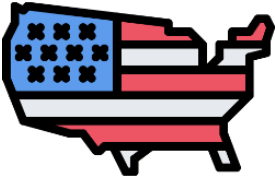
54,756

People Served
since 2010

Program Sites per Country (as of June 10, 2026)



New Sites in 2025-2026*

						Total
USA	Australia	Canada	England	Scotland	Spain	
25	6	8	46	3	1	89

**Program Site Inaugural Dates July 2025 - June 2026*

Global: Host Business Industry Sectors



Healthcare
60%



Hospitality/
Resort 8%

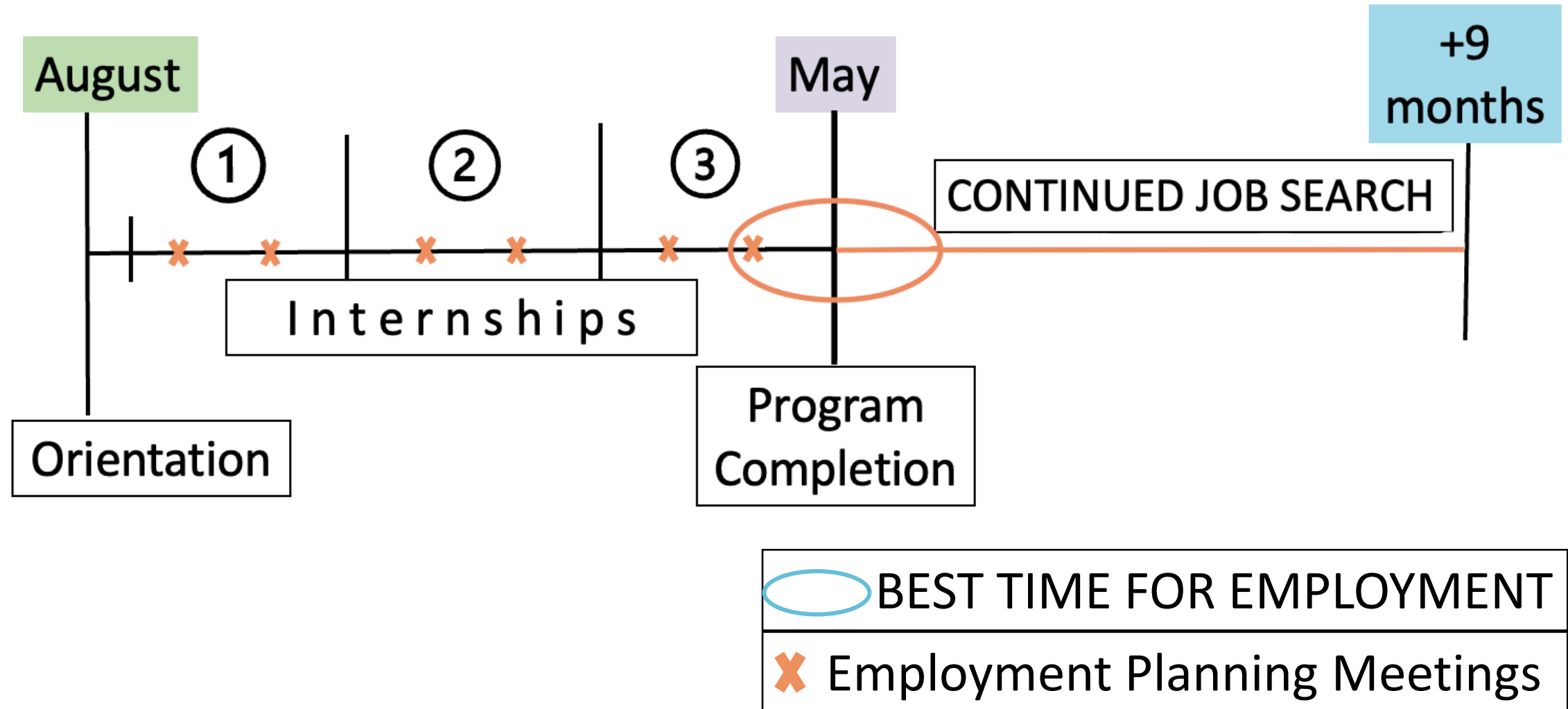


Government
8%



Other Types
24%

Project SEARCH Timeline



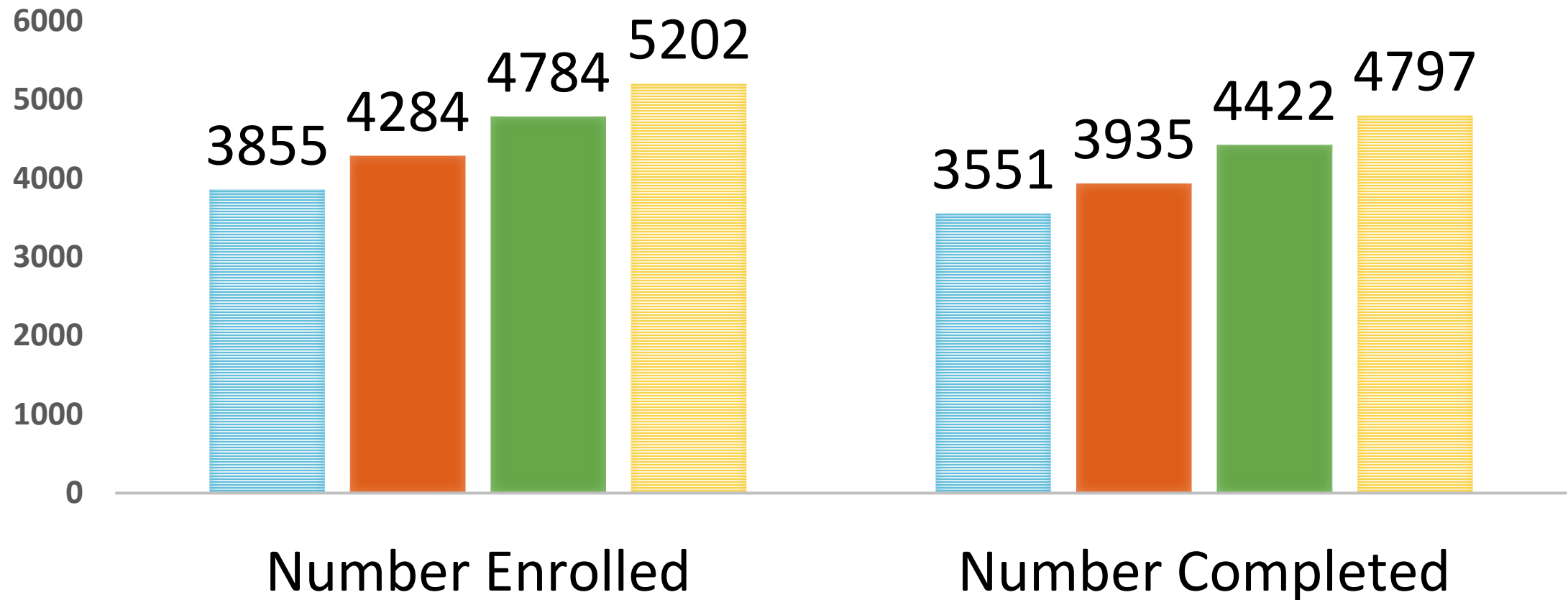
Graduate Outcomes 2024-2025



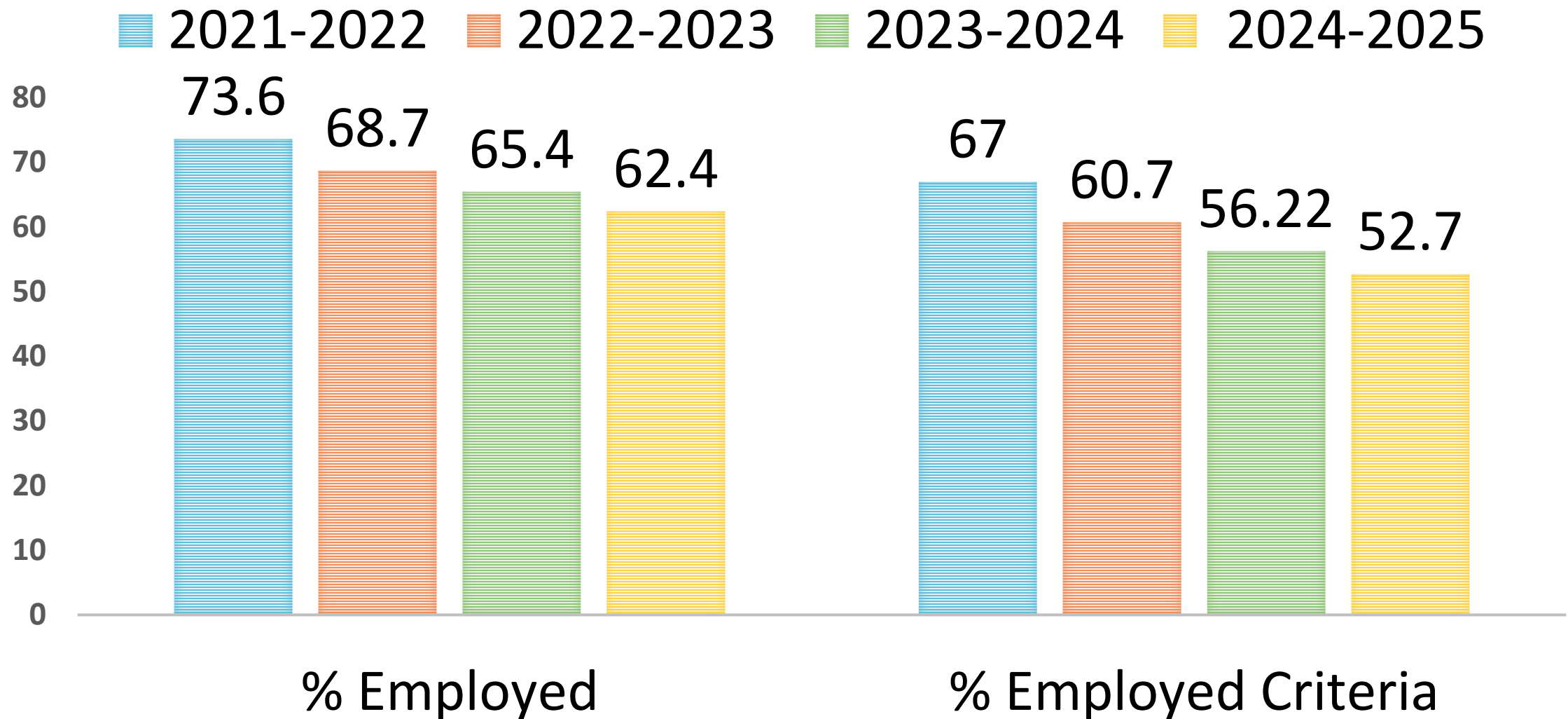
Employment outcomes are reported nine months after program completion

Global Completion Rate of 92%

■ 2021-2022 ■ 2022-2023 ■ 2023-2024 ■ 2024-2025



Global Employment Outcomes



Competitive Integrated Employment



At least 16 hours per week



Pays a typical wage



Non-seasonal



In an integrated setting

Project SEARCH Criteria

Employment Outcomes

Original Reporting Deadline: 02/28/2027

**16+
Hours/Week
Yes**

**Typical
Wage
Yes**

**Non-Seasonal
Job
Yes**

**Integrated
Setting
Yes**

**All Criteria
Yes**

Employment Outcomes

Original Reporting Deadline: 02/28/2027

**16+
Hours/Week
No**

**Typical
Wage
Yes**

**Non-Seasonal
Job
Yes**

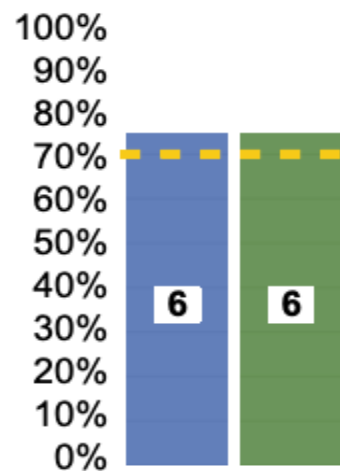
**Integrated
Setting
Yes**

**All Criteria
No**

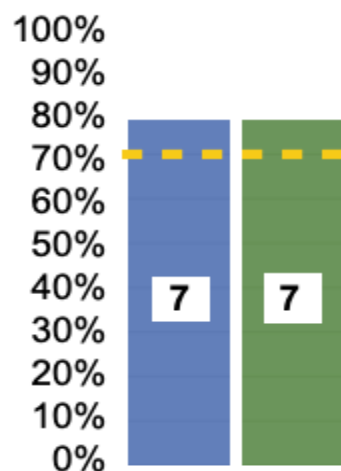
 Summary

Employment Outcomes

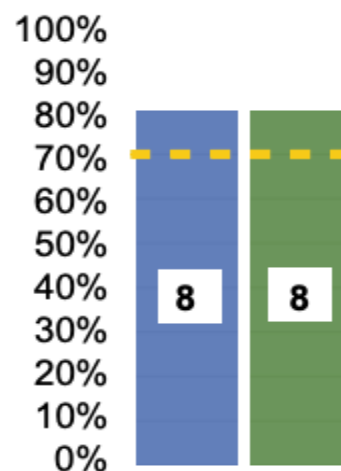
Outcome Year
Sep 2021- Aug 2022
8 Enrolled 



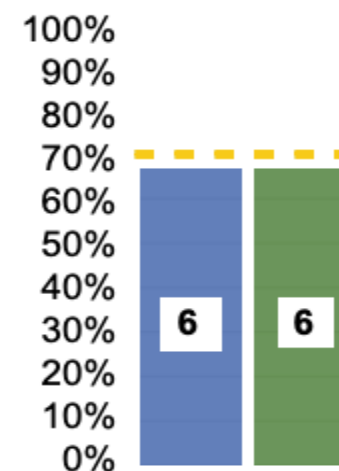
Outcome Year
Sep 2022 - Aug 2023
9 Enrolled 



Outcome Year
Sep 2023- Aug 2024
10 Enrolled 



Outcome Year
Sep 2024- Aug 2025
9 Enrolled



 Interns With Jobs  Interns With Jobs That Meet Criteria  Outcomes Award % Threshold

U.S. Employment Outcomes 2024-2025



58% Meeting Criteria

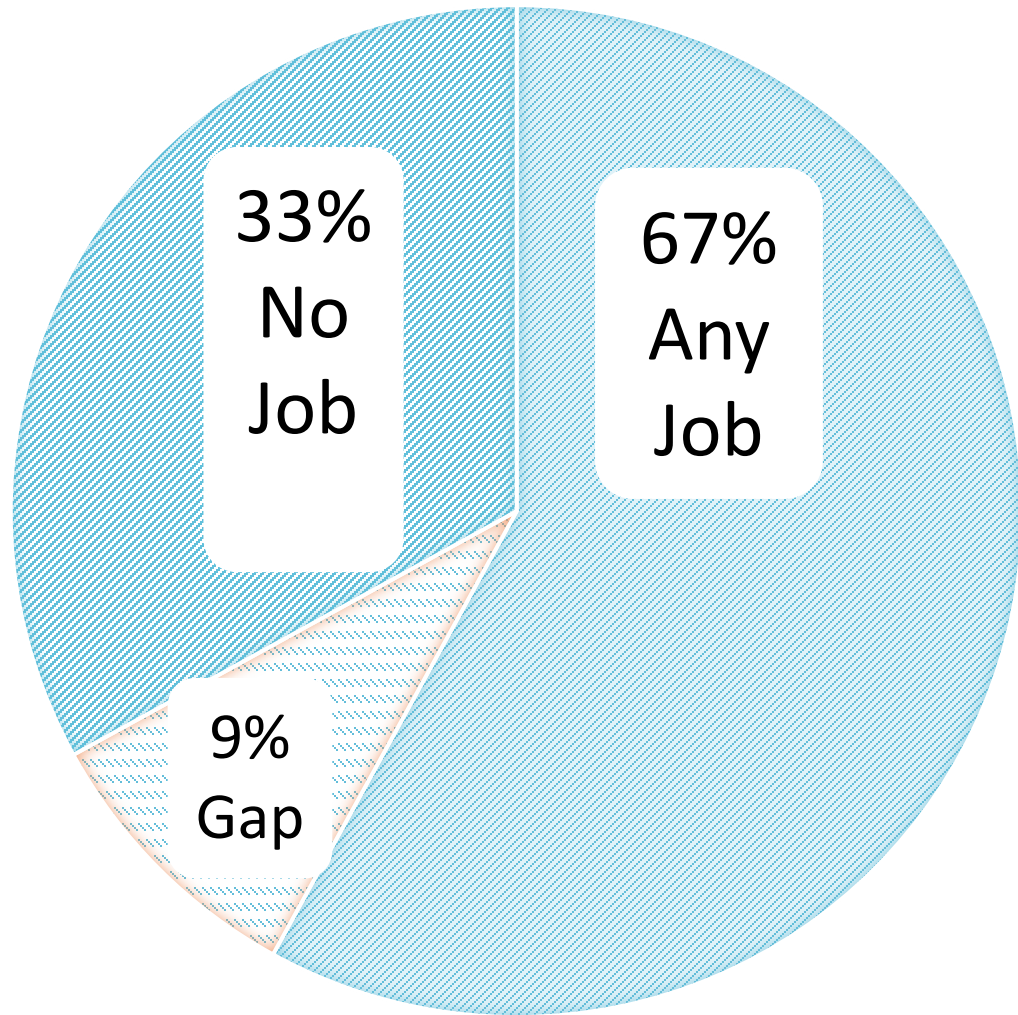


\$15.62 Per Hour



23.5 Hours/Week

U.S. Employed



**58% Met
Criteria**

**What can YOU do to
close the 9% gap?**

U.S. Host Business Success

28% of all jobs are in the host business!



U.S. Graduate Guardianship



59% of Project
SEARCH
graduates are
their own
guardian!

Top States with Employment Meeting Criteria

**9 or fewer sites*

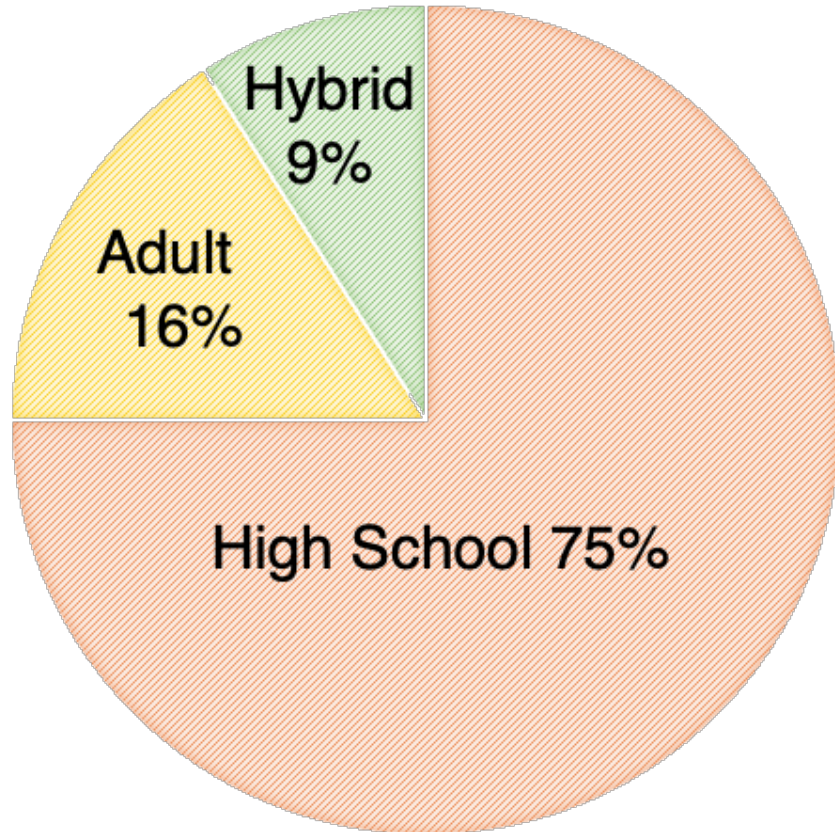
State	# of Programs	# Employed	% Employed
1. West Virginia	1	8	100%
2. Alaska	3	14	87.50%
3. Idaho	1	7	87.50%
4. South Dakota	5	23	76.67%
5. Illinois	9	55	74.32%
6. Vermont	2	8	72.73%

Top States with Employment Meeting Criteria

**10 or more sites*

State	# of Programs	# Employed	% Employed
1. Tennessee	19	108	86.40%
2. Alabama	12	62	77.50%
3. Arkansas	10	64	74.42%
4. Michigan	19	81	72.32%
5. South Carolina	15	48	71.64%

U.S. Program Categories

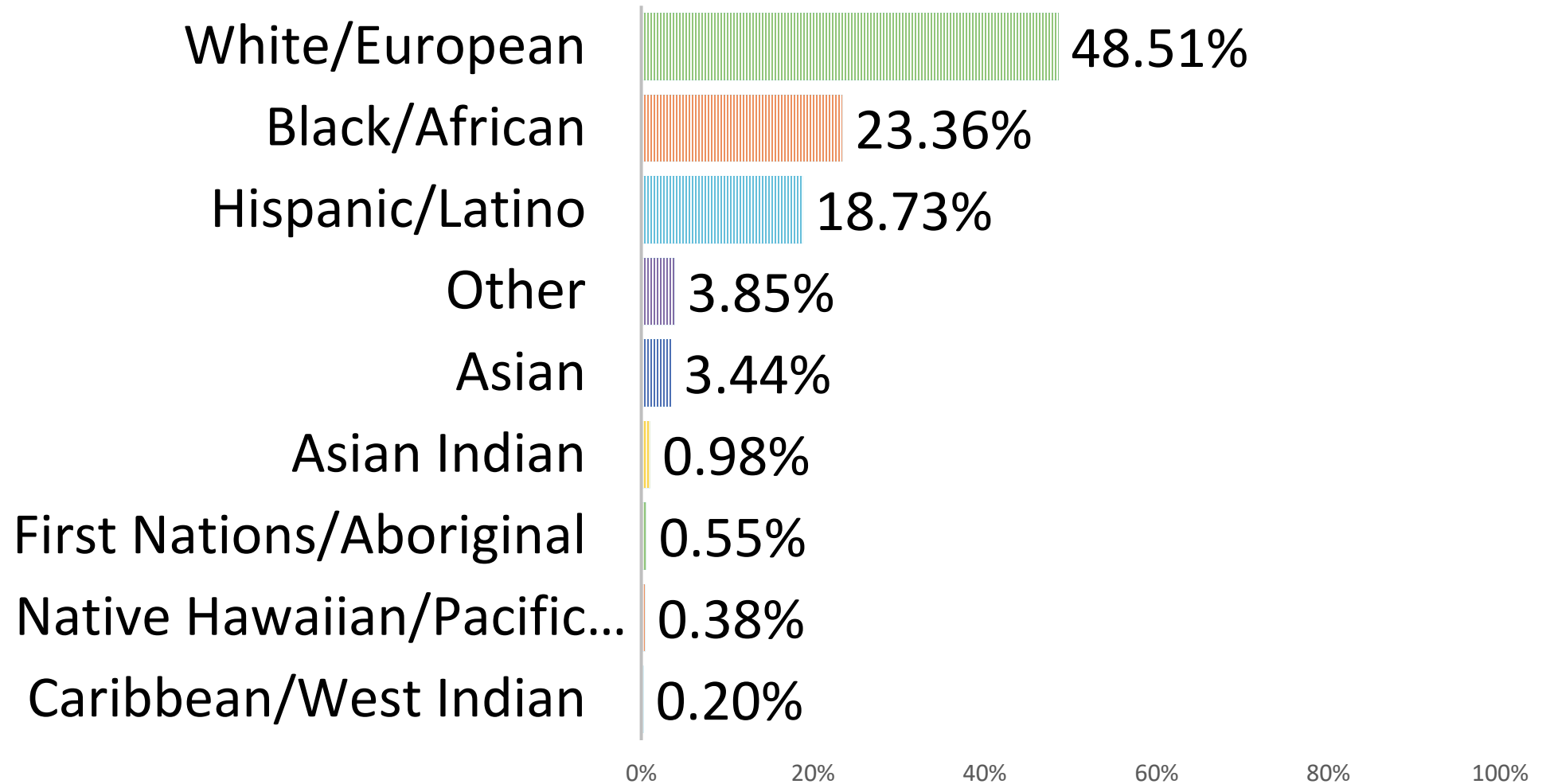


U.S. Average Cohort Size

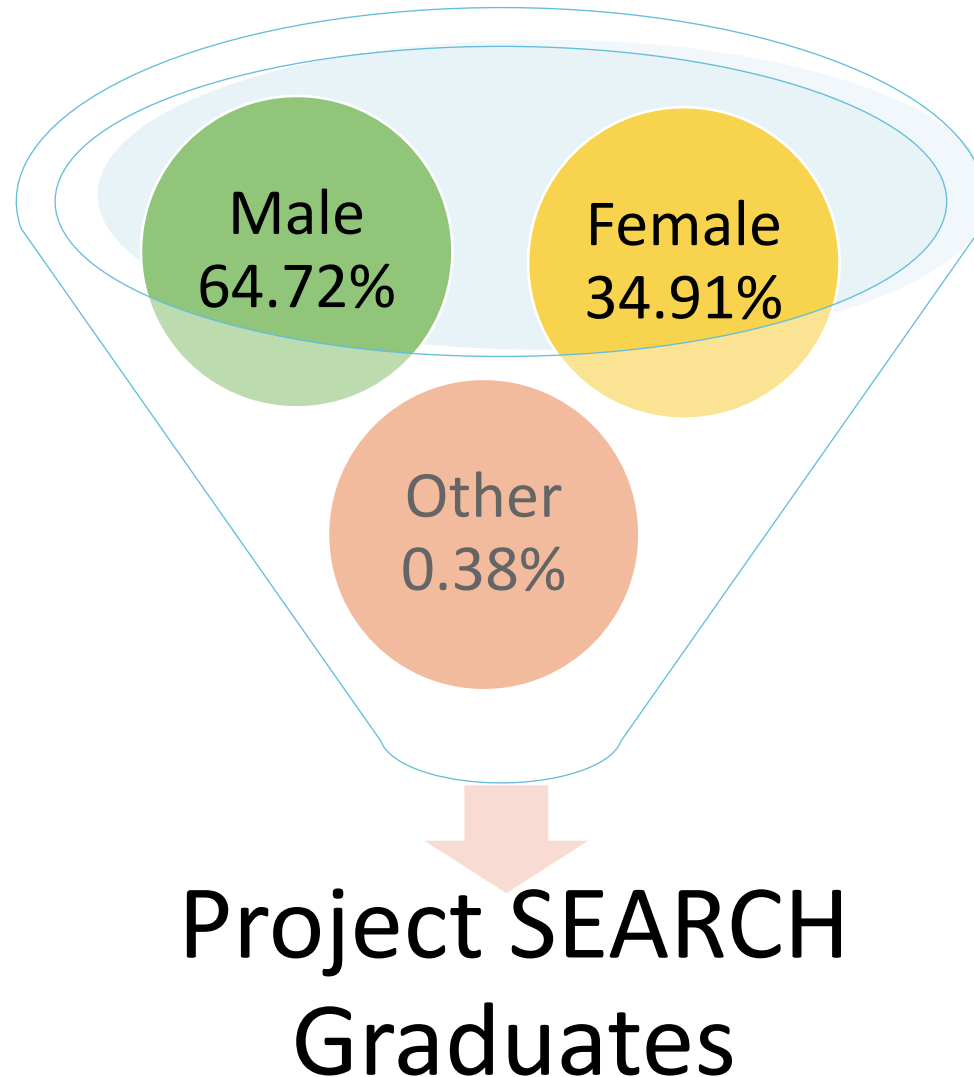
6.7 Interns



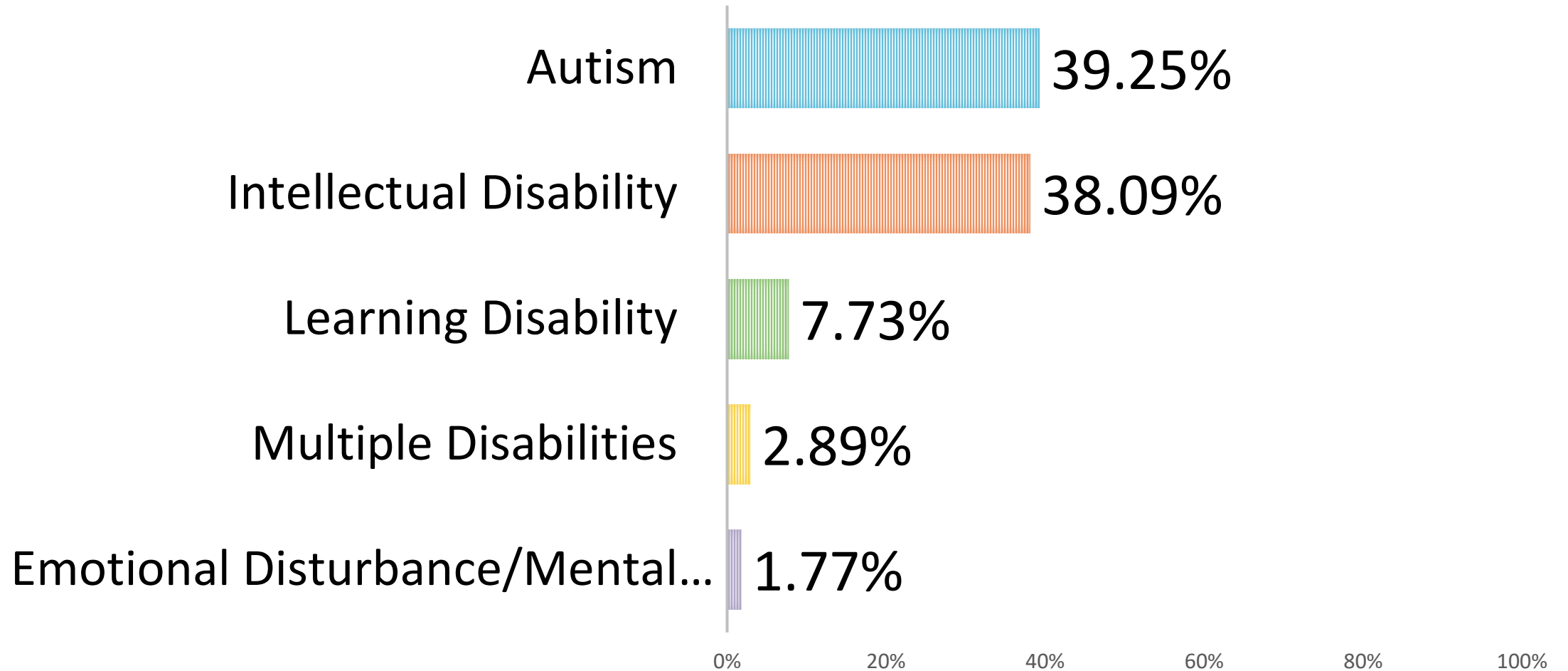
U.S. Ethnicity & Racial Demographics



U.S. Gender



U.S. Primary Disability Demographics

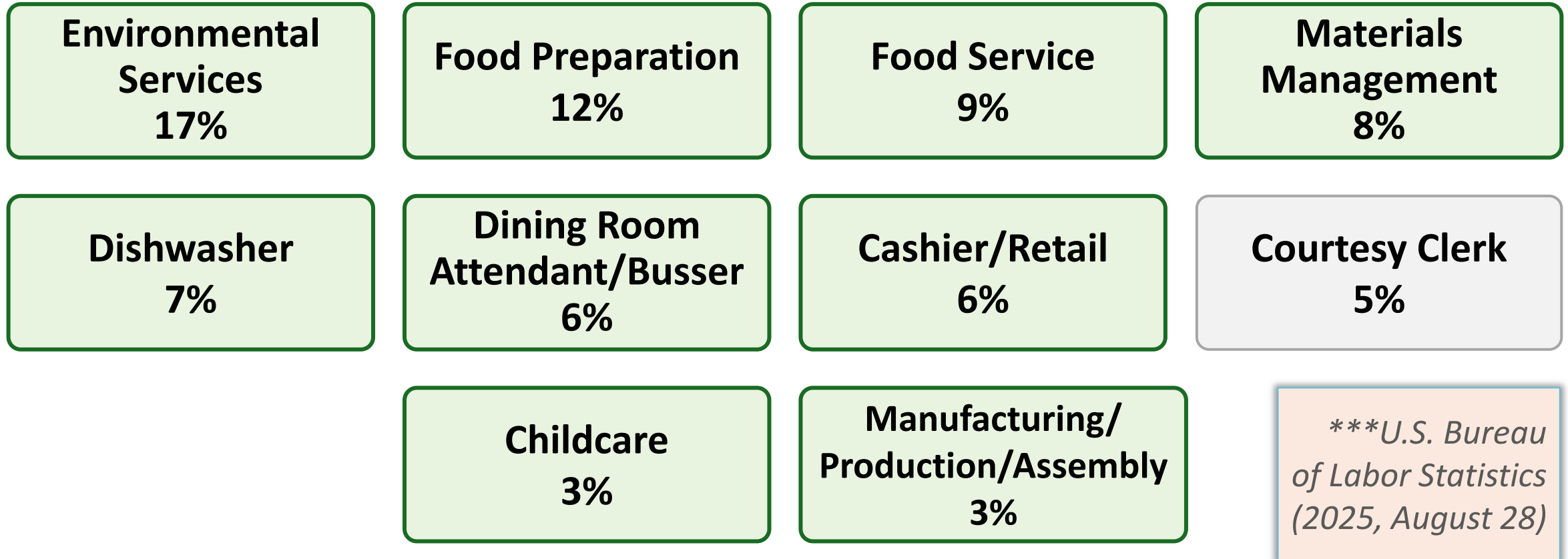


U.S. Data: Age at Program Start

90% ages 18-22

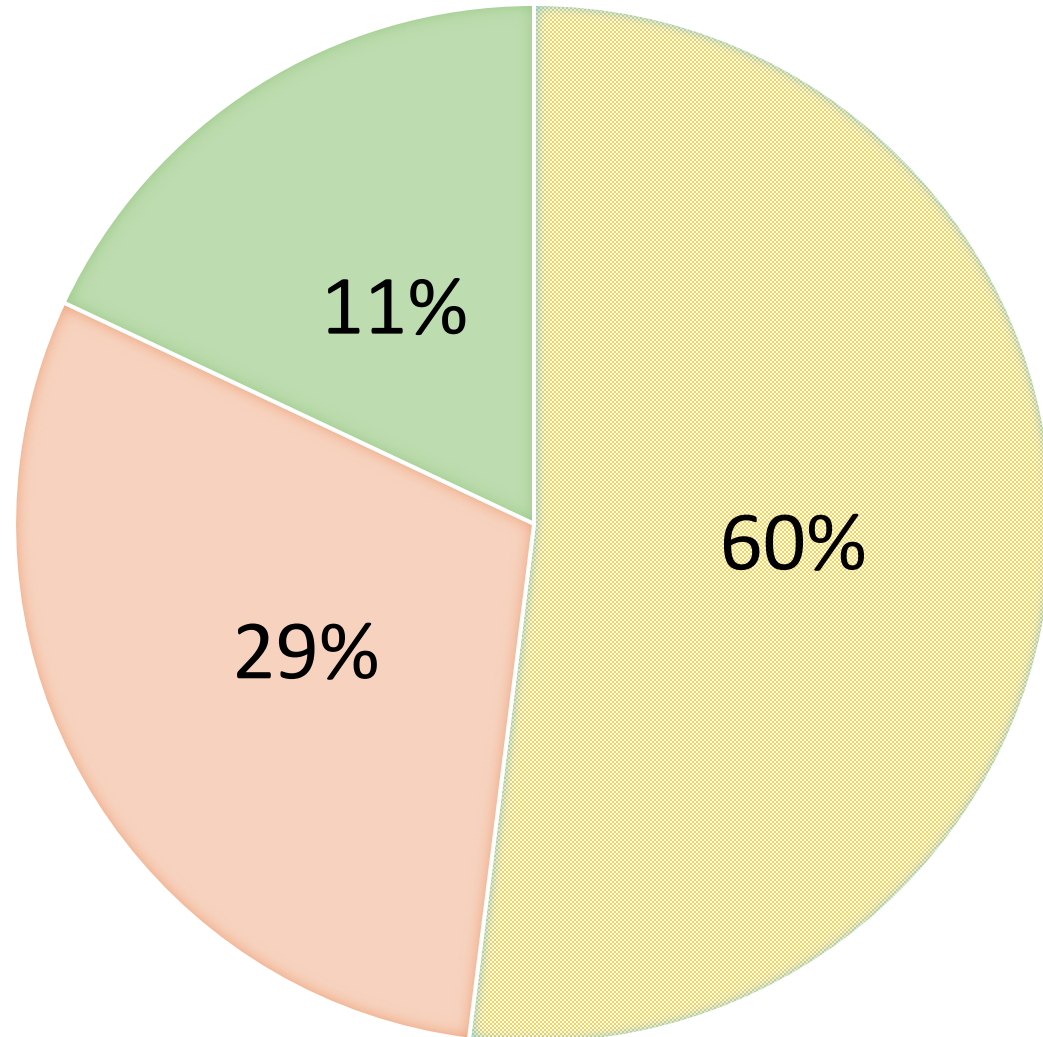


Top 10 Project SEARCH Employment Job Types: 9 of 10 Are Growing Professions in Demand



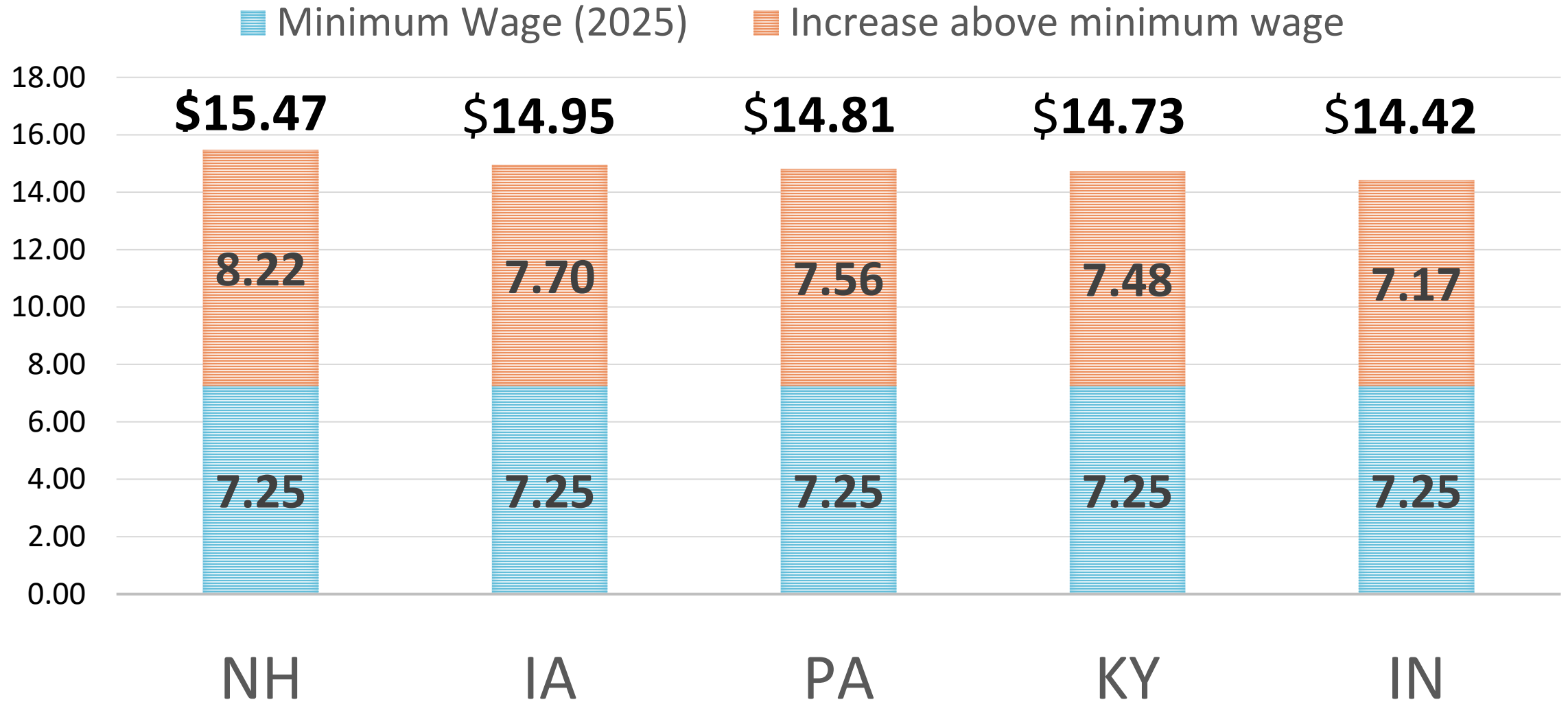
■ Growing profession (in demand) ■ Not a growing profession

Reasons For Any Unemployment

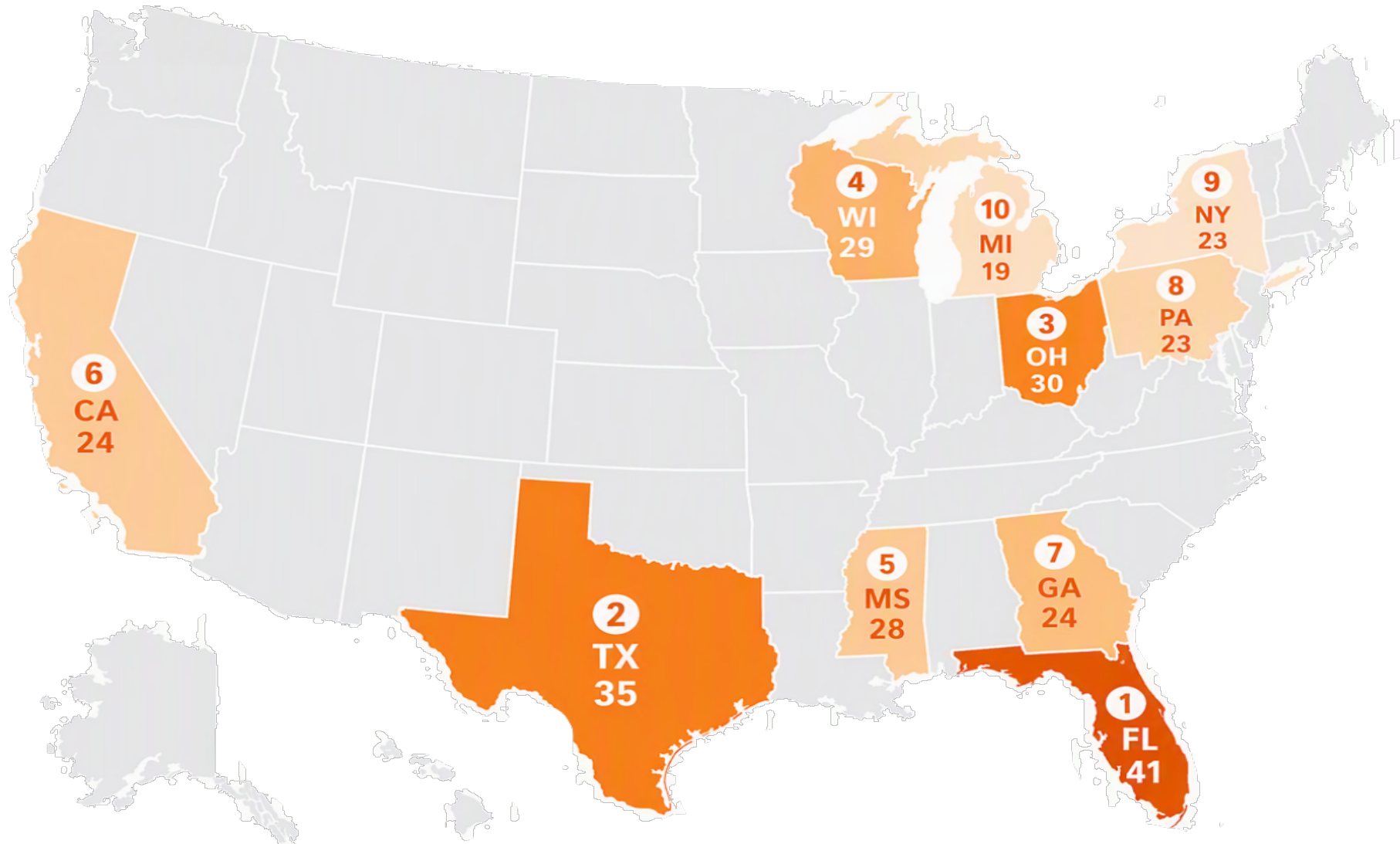


- 60% - Job Search Unsuccessful
- 29% - Other
 - Lack of family support
 - Lost to follow up
 - Voluntarily left job
 - Relocation
 - Medical Leave
 - Termination - only 1.5% reported being fired
- 11% - Pursuing Additional Training/Education/Credential

From Minimum Wage to Meaningful Wage

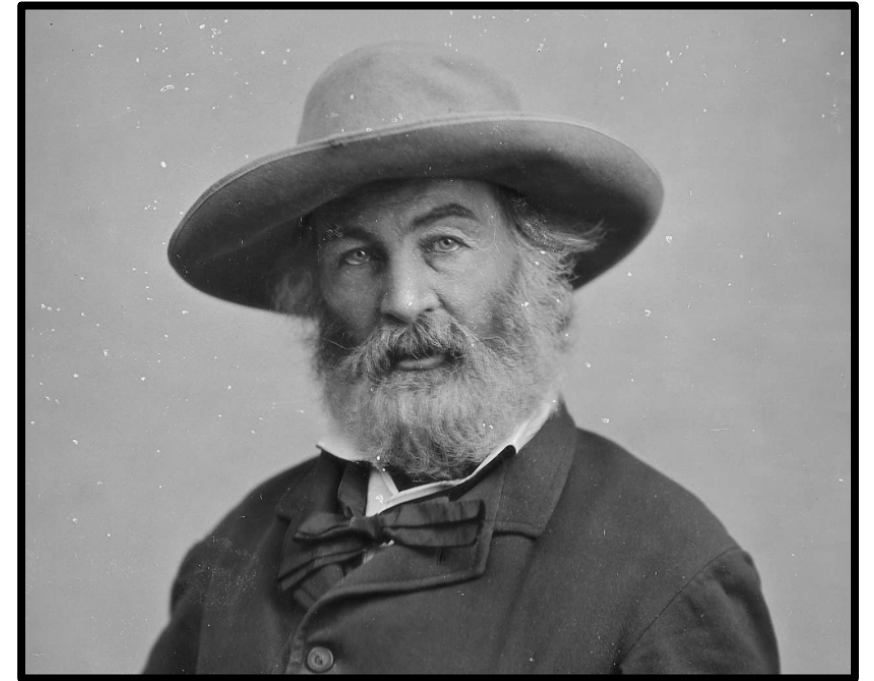


Top 10 States by Active Program Count 2024-2025



“Be curious,
not
judgmental.”

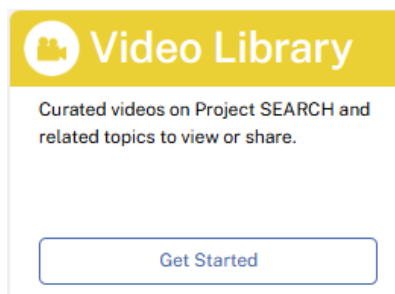
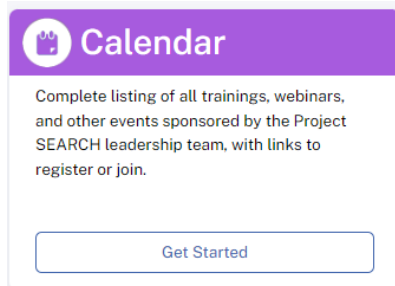
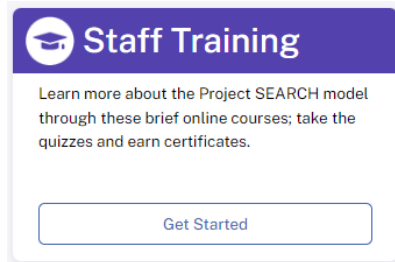
-Walt Whitman



What if???

Understanding the Project SEARCH Training Calendar

Required Trainings



- Project SEARCH Academy Trainings (Staff Training Tab)
 - 7 modules (required) + 3 Advanced Topics (optional)
 - 20-30 minutes each to complete/printable certificate available/CRCC eligible
- Introduction and Planning: Parts 1 & 2 (Calendar Tab)
 - Offered monthly, virtually
- Project SEARCH Fundamentals (Calendar Tab)
 - 8 Topical sessions, offered quarterly
- Enhanced Learning: Pre-Recorded Trainings
 - In the Video Library – not required but highly recommended for additional key topics of the program model

Training Calendar



Welcome!

Carly Detlefsen
Program Specialist

[My Profile](#)

[My Training](#)



Project | SEARCH[®]
Member Portal

794
Program Sites

48
US States

9
Countries

54,927
People Served
since 2010

 **My Program**

 **Calendar**

 **Curriculum**



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Project | SEARCH[®]

38

Training Dashboard

My Training Dashboard [New here? Take a tour](#)

Welcome back, Carly

You're making great progress! Keep going!

Please complete all required courses. You're also welcome and encouraged to complete any optional courses. When you complete a course, please record the date below.

Required Courses
10

Required Courses Completed
8

Project SEARCH Introduction and Planning

50% Required Courses
50% All Courses

Courses

Open the [Calendar](#) to find and register for available courses.

Training Title	Required?	Completed?	Enter Date Completed	Certificate Available
Introduction & Planning Part 1: Model Overview and Introduction to Additional Tools & Concepts (3 hours)	Required	Completed	06/16/2026	No
Introduction & Planning Part 2: Deep Dive into Model Fidelity (3 hours)	Required	Missing	mm/dd/yyyy	No

Training Dashboard



Project SEARCH Fundamentals

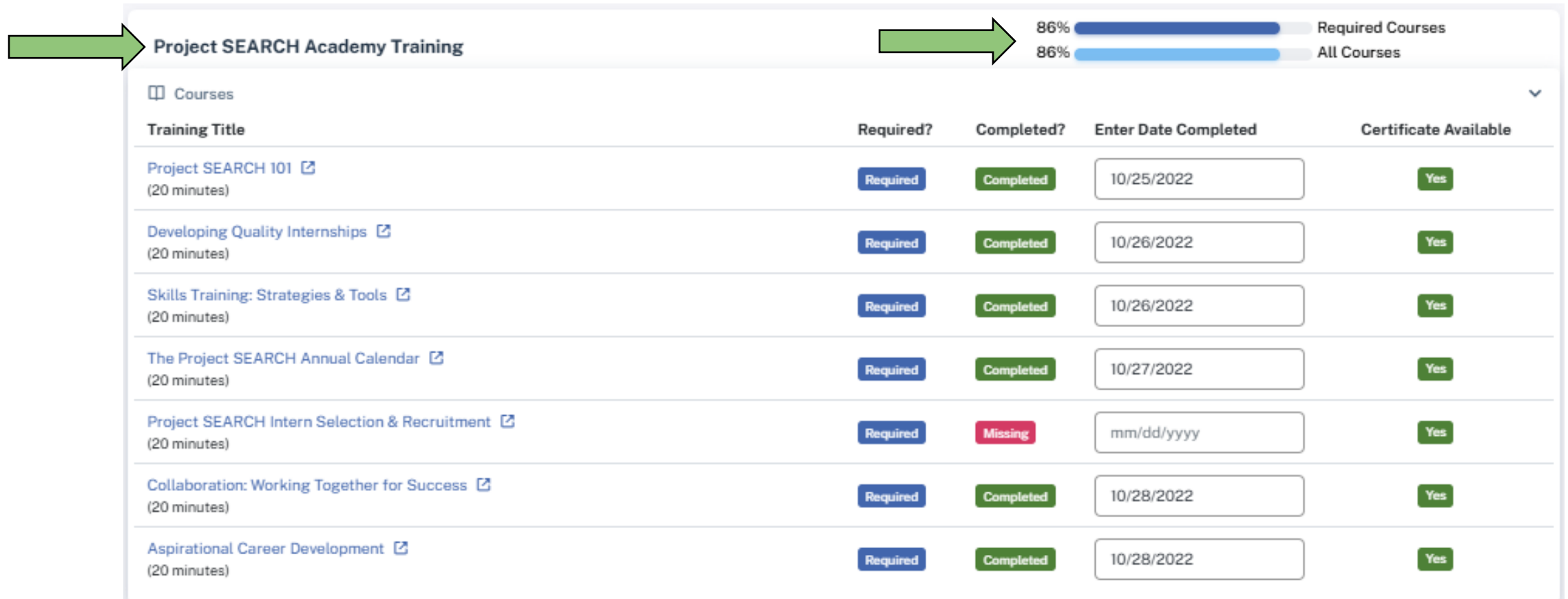
100%  Required Courses
38%  All Courses

 Courses 

Open the [Calendar](#)  to find and register for available courses.

Training Title	Required?	Completed?	Enter Date Completed	Certificate Available
Steering Committee: Guiding and Learning the Program  (1 hours)	Optional		mm/dd/yyyy	No
VocFit: How to Tie into the Program and Leverage for Program Success  (2 hours)	Optional		mm/dd/yyyy	No
Employment Planning Meetings  (1.5 hours)	Optional		mm/dd/yyyy	No
Creating the Just Right Internship  (1.5 hours)	Optional	Completed	02/05/2026	No
The Model and The Mindset  (1 hours)	Optional		mm/dd/yyyy	No
Long-Term Employment Support  (1 hours)	Optional	Completed	05/27/2026	No
Job Search  (2 hours)	Optional		mm/dd/yyyy	No
Recruitment (2 hours)	Required	Completed	01/08/2026	No

Training Dashboard



Member Portal Calendar

- Introduction & Planning Parts 1 & 2
- Fundamentals (8)
- Member Portal Help Sessions
- VocFit Help Sessions

Event Calendar - Project SEARCH



< July 2026 >

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

FILTER

☐ View All

☒ Annual Conference

☐ DFN (UK, Ireland, Iberia)

☒ Meetings

☒ Reminders

☒ Trainings

☒ Webinars

< > May 2026

Month Week Day List

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27 10a Introduction and 1p VocFit Training an	28 10a Introduction and	29 2p Employment Plan	30 11a Employment Plan	1	2
3	4	5 11a The Model and th	6 2p The Model and th	7	8	9
10	11 1p VocFit Training an	12 11a Introduction and I	13 11a Steering Committ	14 11a Introduction and I 2p Steering Committ	15	16
17	18	19 1p Creating the Just I	20	21 10:30a Creating the J	22	23
24	25	26 11a Long Term Emplo	27 2p Long Term Emplo	28	29	30

What if???

*What if all new team members
completed their required trainings
within the first 6 months?*

30% Outcome Outreach and Learnings

Big Goal for Headquarters Staff

- Targeted outreach to teams below 30% for three years or more with interview
- Shared key findings with team members
- Addressing barriers and developing action plans to improve employment outcomes



What if???

What if all interns were able to achieve the outcome of employment?

Project SEARCH Contact Us Inquiries

Inquiries increased nearly twofold since the website redesign

Topics include:

- Password resets
- How do I start a program?
- How do I/my son/daughter participate in Project SEARCH?
- Recruitment is a challenge, yet 33% of our inquiries focus on enrolling in Project SEARCH.
- However, many are ineligible. For instance, we receive emails like, "I just learned about Project SEARCH, I'm 18, just graduated high school, and had an IEP. How do I enroll?"

Project SEARCH in the NEWS

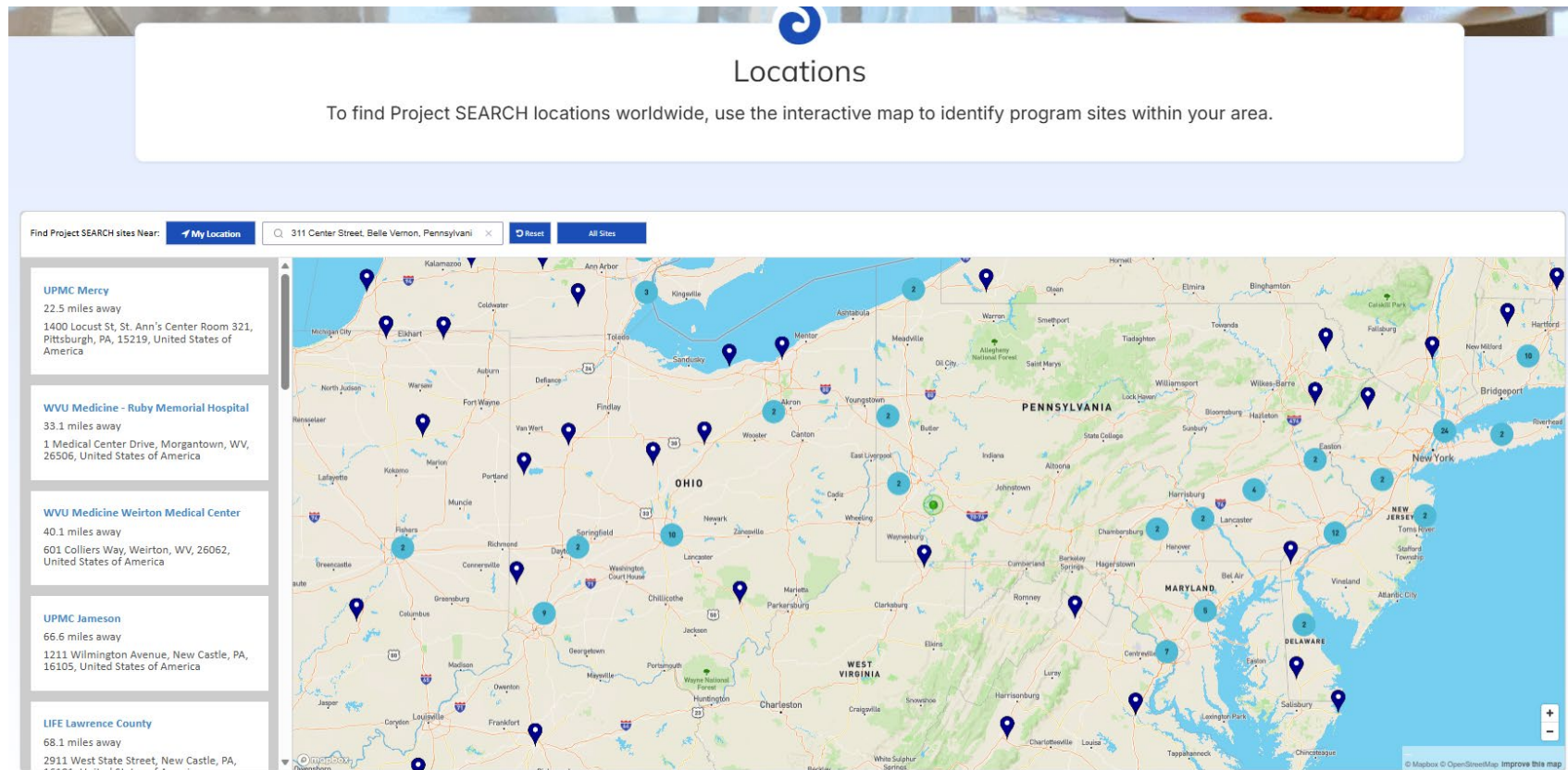
Ensure all communications protect the Project SEARCH brand, mission, and partnerships and include the following:

- Project SEARCH started at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and is based there
- The trademarked name: Project SEARCH
- The use of the approved terms: Intern, Instructor, Internship, Skills Trainer, and Host Business
- All partner organizations full legal names
- The Project SEARCH website: *www.projectsearch.us*

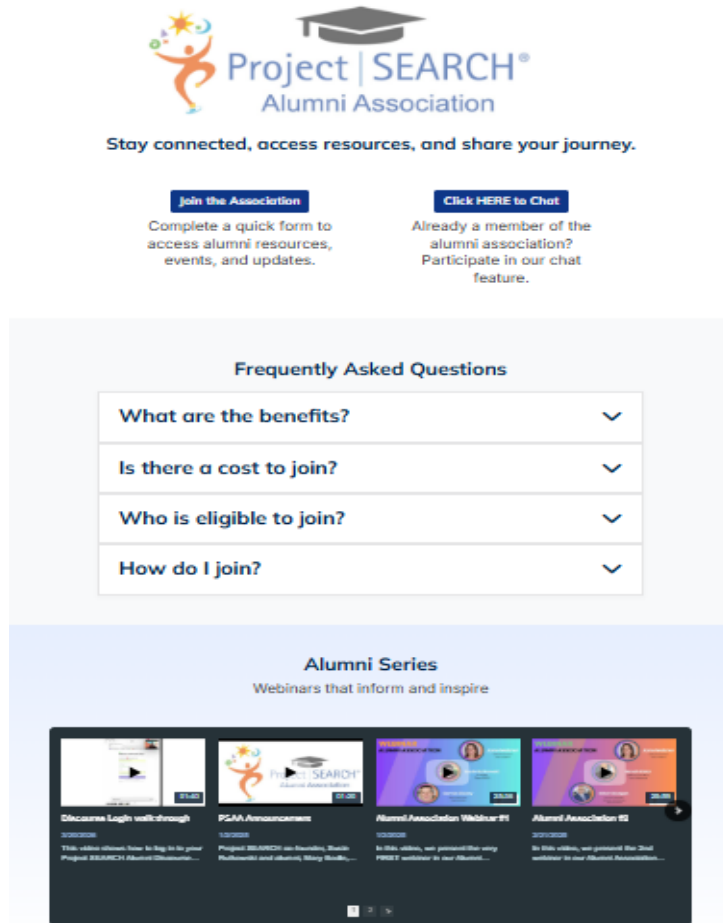
Source: Member Portal Toolkit: Project SEARCH Media & Publication Guidelines

Project SEARCH Website Updates

New map design and functions



Project SEARCH Website Updates



Alumni Association Page Refresh

- Redesign for easy accessibility
- Alumni Series Webinar Carousel
- New Chat Button
 - Connects to private Discourse Channel for Alumni ONLY

Alumni Association Discourse Private Chat

Purpose

- Keep in touch with Project SEARCH graduates
- Share job successes, resources, and opportunities
- Support each other and build a network
- Promote professional growth and involvement in the community

Key Benefits

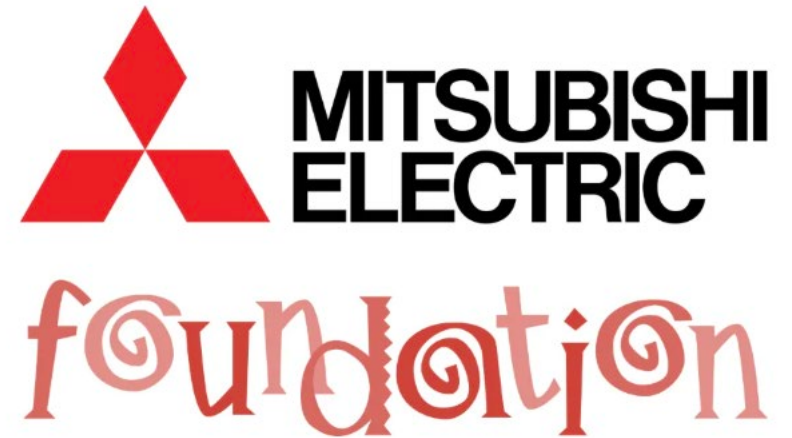
- Talk with other alumni
- Discuss career development
- Share work experiences and advice
- Celebrate achievements and milestones

What if???

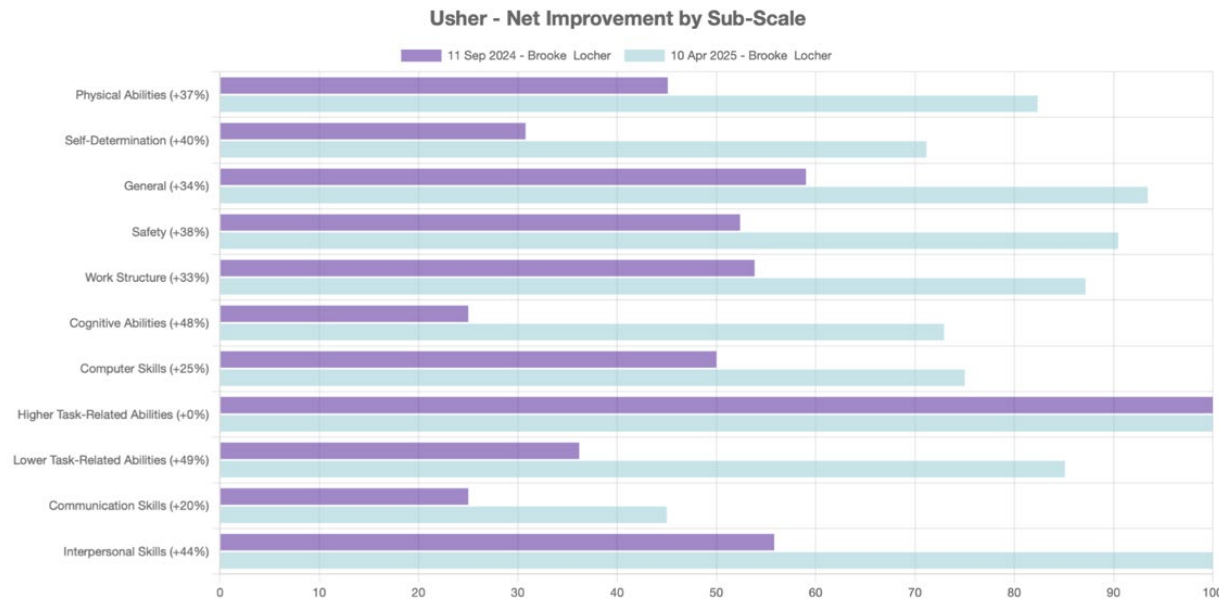
What if instructors walked every intern through the login process before graduation as their official entry into an exclusive club, proving that the end of the program is just the beginning of their Project SEARCH international community?

Alumni Association

- Current members: 6214
- Connect with your Alumni
- Create opportunities for alumni to connect with each other in the future!



VocFit.com

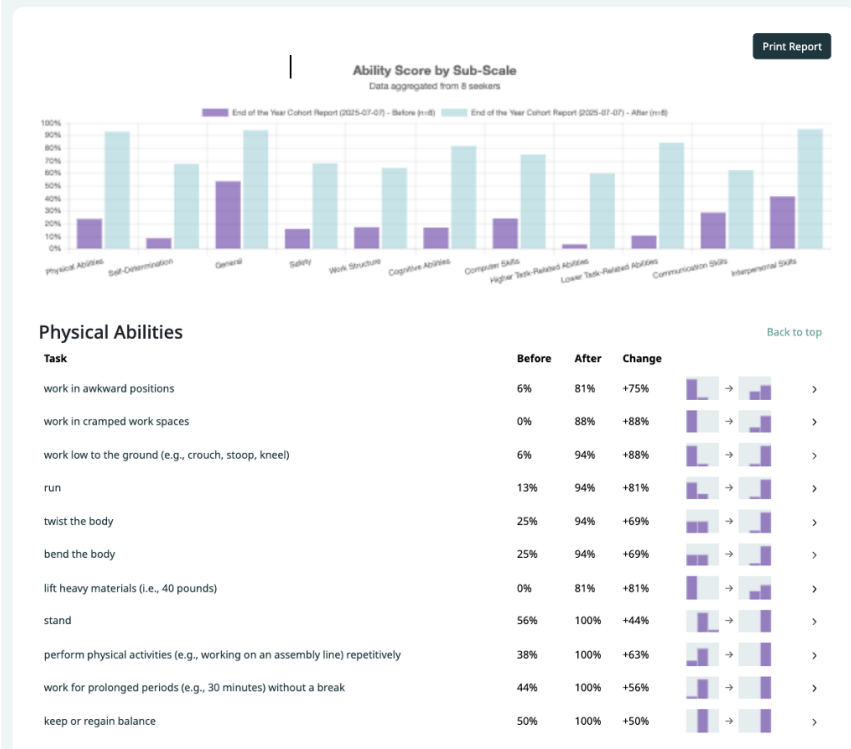


HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
VOCFIT.COM!

Tools You can use

New VocFit Cohort Analysis Tool - PRE-POST

End of the Year Cohort Report



Note. The new VocFit Cohort Analysis Tool allows Pre-Post testing to see how the cohort improved as a whole over the year.

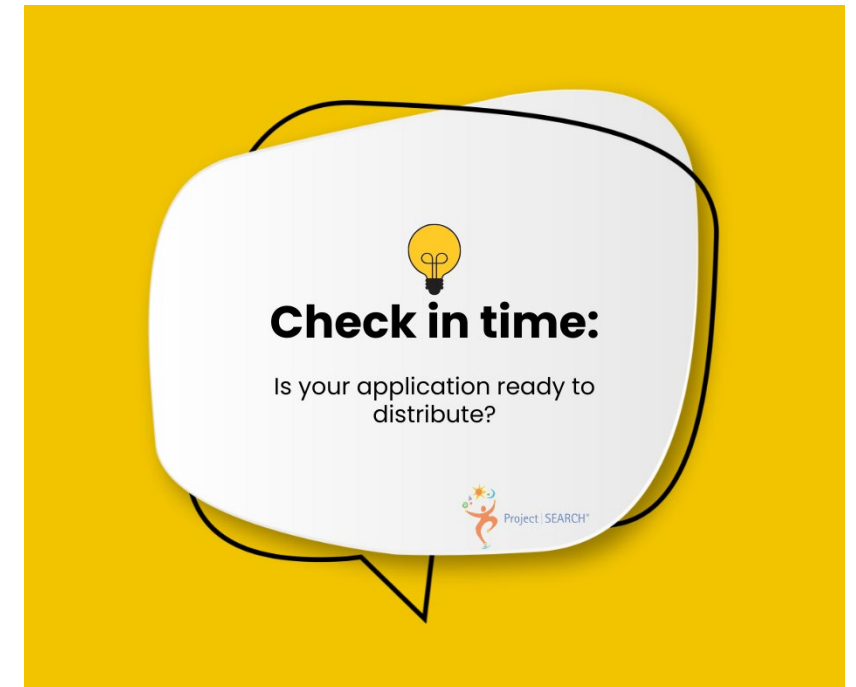
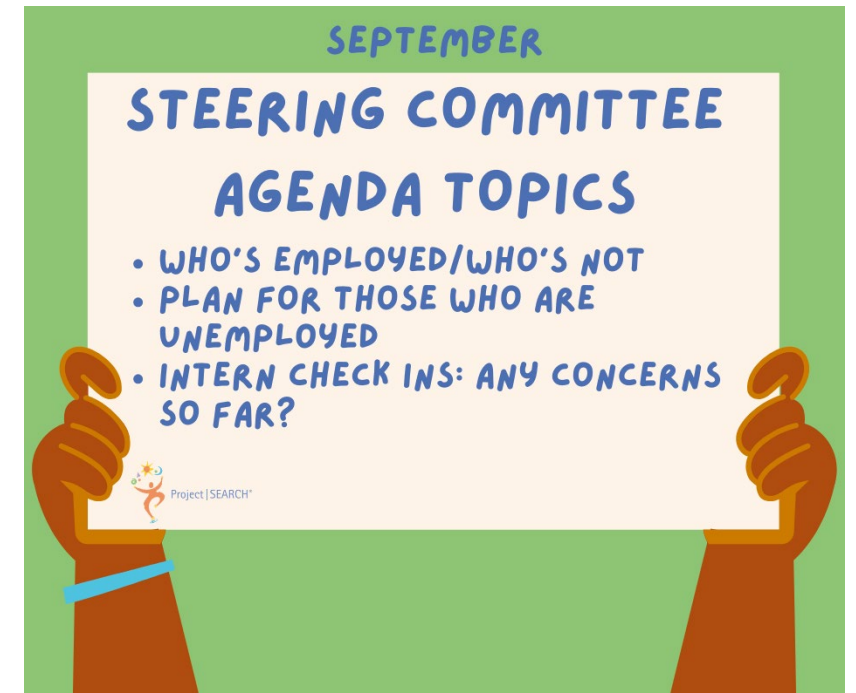
- Link to [Mynextmove.org](https://mynextmove.org)
- Artificial Intelligence for Job Goals, Adaptations, Accommodations, and Learning Support
- Cohort Tool for Curricular Decisions & Outcomes
- VocFit.com Planning Tool
- Statewide Data Reports

What if???

We all used VocFit.com to it's full potential?

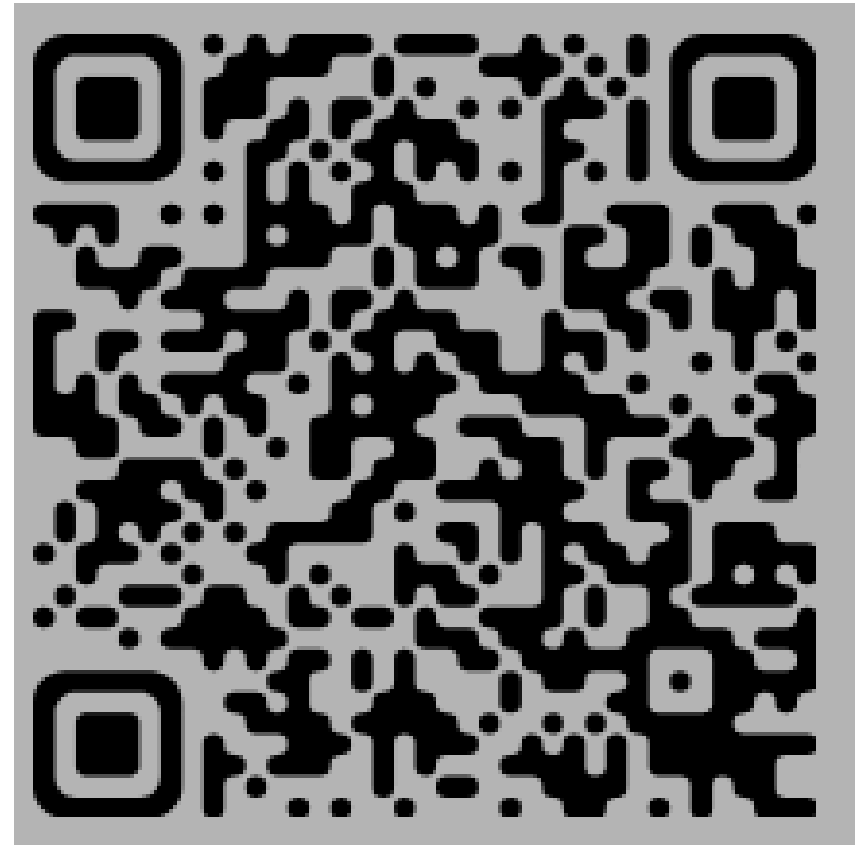
Social Media

- Tools for success
- Reminders for trainings
- Follow us
 - Facebook: Project SEARCH
 - Instagram: ProjectSEARCHHQ



What if???

*What if each of you
followed
Project SEARCH on
social media?*



Model Fidelity

- Clarifications to Model Fidelity
- One-hour Sessions Coming to Review Clarifications in the Fall
- Model Fidelity:
 1. The outcome of the program is competitive integrated employment.
 2. The focus of the program is on serving young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who CAN BENEFIT FROM PERSONALIZED SUPPORT in an intensive year of career development and internship experience.
 3. The program is a collaborative partnership.
 4. The program is business focused.
 5. The program leads to the acquisition of competitive skills.
 6. The program is committed to continuous improvement.

What if???

What if you understood Model Fidelity well enough to know exactly what to focus on to improve your employment outcomes?

Member Portal

In the past year, we focused on:

- Feature refinement
- Troubleshooting
- User experience discovery
- Planning for updates to reports and exports

Warning to users to avoid using Intern name in Internship Notes to protect intern data

1

Department
Add Department

2

VocFit 1
Add Skills

3

VocFit 2
Add Skills

4

VocFit 3
Add Skills

5

Skill Description
Add Notes

Specific Skill Description* ⓘ

Please do not include the intern's name in your notes or description.

List other skills. Please do not include the intern's name in your description.

Additional Notes (Optional)

Add any additional notes. Please do not include the intern's name in your notes.

Pending status for jobs that have not started

Ongoing Employment

Disability Services

Started	Ended	Last Updated	
07/20/2026	Ongoing	07/08/2026	
16	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hours/Week	Typical Wage	Non-Seasonal	Integrated Setting

[EDIT](#)[VIEW](#)

3
Internships



Pending
Status

Phone numbers allow office extensions

Add a New Contact

Complete the form to add or edit a Contact in your Partner Organization.

First Name*

Last Name*

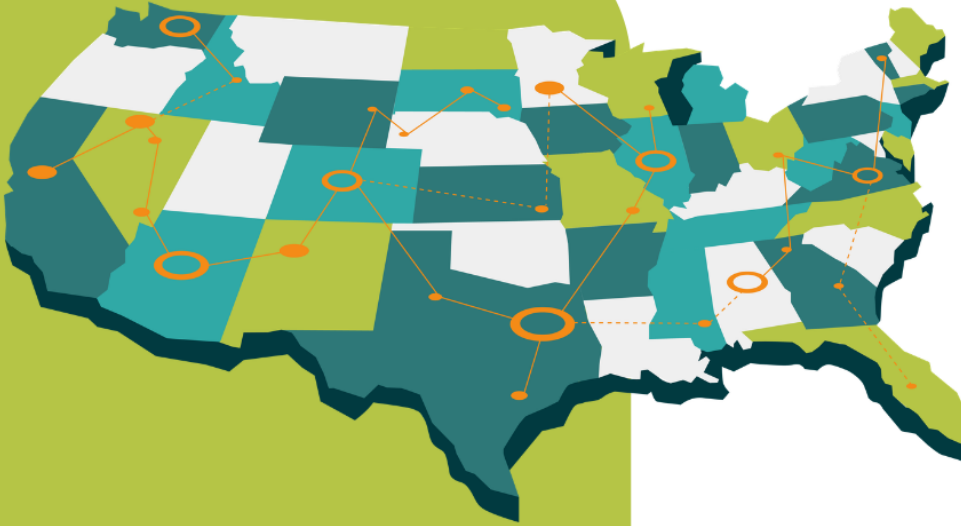
Office Phone

Ext.

Mobile Phone

What if???

*What if the Member Portal
met all users' needs?*



**Interested in bringing
website portfolios to your
Project SEARCH program?**

**Support interns in showcasing their skills, experiences, strengths,
and career goals through personalized digital portfolios.**



ANNOUNCING:

National Website Portfolio Pilot Project

2 Year project with funding and support from Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation

Supporting Project SEARCH sites through training and a national Community of Practice to implement website portfolios.



Project | SEARCH®



gowise.org

What if???