The Office of Disability Employment Policy indicates the employment rate for youth with disabilities is significantly less than youth without disabilities (60 - 70 % less).

Work-based learning promotes problem solving and adult thinking.

Young people with disabilities have limited access to many of the venues for teens such as sports, clubs or after school jobs that build employment skills.

Establish three registered apprenticeships.

Expand Workforce options for youth ages 14-21 through Pre-Employment Transition Services through collaborative efforts between two local public-school systems and North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Improve employment prospects and job search skills for post-secondary students living with IDD through career mentorship program and the development of stronger linkages between career services and disability services offices.

Demonstrate the impact of post-secondary career mentoring programs that connect local business professionals with current post-secondary students living with I/DD.

Established Register Apprenticeships as employment options for people living with I/DD in North Carolina at Well Spring Retirement Center, Your Local Greens, and talks under way for potential partnership with Freeman’s car stereo Inc. In total 6 individuals are currently working.

Leveraging Pre-Employment Transition Services funding through facilitation of two local public school and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services partnerships.

Stronger collaborations between career and disability supports offices, and development of mentorship opportunities with business leaders to facilitate higher employment placement rates for postsecondary students living with IDD.

August 2019-2020 Established registered apprenticeships in agrotechnology through partnership with a hydroponic agribusiness, Your Local Greens in Burlington, NC. Ongoing partnership with Well Spring Retirement Center. In total 7 completed training and 6 individuals are currently working.

November 2019 third registered apprenticeships talks began with Freeman’s Car Stereo Technical Assistance aided in the development of the Pre-Employment Transition Services Contract with Chapel Hill Carrboro (CCS) Schools which began in January 2018.

Technical Assistance provided to Cleveland County Schools for their submission of Pre-ETS proposal to NCVR completed April 2018. CCS’s Pre-ETS READY program initiated in Jan 2019.

Approx. 60 students receive Pre-ETS services through the READY Program in 2018-19; target for 2019-20 is 100 students. CCS is gearing up to serve over 150 students in the READY program in 2020-21!

Leadership is currently being engaged, and business volunteers identified, for College Mentoring Program demonstration activities in with UNC-Charlotte and Central Piedmont Community College.

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