



AUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism

Texas

Access Austin: Access Austin is a partnership between the City of Austin and The Autism Society of Texas which encompasses the Autism Society of Texas' support, social skills, and recreation groups. The partnership provides adults with autism a variety of opportunities to find meaningful connections. Access Austin now includes our path-building employment program, a pre-employment training program with a focus on identifying assets and self-advocacy in the workplace and beyond.

What is the Path-Building Employment Program? This six month long pre-employment program is designed to support adults with Autism in Travis County as they explore pathways toward meaningful employment and sustained professional growth. The cohort will meet for monthly sessions over the course of the six month program and will also meet in the monthly social and recreation groups.

To be eligible for the Path-Building Employment Program, you must:

- Live in Travis County
- Have a diagnosis of autism
- Have a total household annual income of less than \$25,200
- Be over the age of 18

Benefits for Participants:

- Acquiring and applying workplace-related soft skills across multiple environments.
- Developing tools for being an effective self-advocate.
- Preparing for job interviews.
- Building your resume.
- Pursuing individualized professional development opportunities.
- Plugging into current networks and building new ones.
- Participating in a reverse job fair and giving a public presentation.
- Collaborating and engaging with community members.

Program Objectives:

1. Develop Self-Awareness
2. Identify What Sustainable Employment Looks Like For You
3. Navigate the Job Search
4. Explore Flexible Thinking
5. Build Self-Advocacy Skills
6. Gain Experience
7. Expand Your Capacity
8. Think Ahead

Benefits for Employers:

- Increasing diversity in the workplace. Having people who experience the world differently will bring new perspectives and novel solutions to the most challenging problems.
- Receiving designation as an Autism Friendly Business from the Autism Society of Texas.
- Continued support and training from the Autism Society of Texas.
- Better decision-making: Having diverse perspectives will enable better-informed decisions and lead to improved results for the organization.
- Increased profitability and productivity: Neurodiverse people are often ambitious as well and are attracted to organizations who value inclusivity. The result is a more motivated workforce, which will lead to increased productivity and profitability.
- Enhanced employee engagement and retention: Workplace cultures that are more welcoming of diversity attract people who are more loyal and tend to stay longer. These organizations also tend to recognize and respect the unique contributions that diverse employees bring.
- Improved company reputation: Organizations that promote and are known for valuing diversity are perceived as more relatable, socially responsible, and humane by a greater number of people, which leads to an improved brand, new customers, new partnerships, and larger markets.

Contact Us - Please email us at employment@texasautismsociety.org if you or your loved one might be interested in participating in either the Adult Social Recreation Groups or the Path-Building Employment Program. You can also fill out the interest link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdttvt4IEDOmDssixzygwzrTHsEUokA-dHMY6mJ7fe2IVfow/viewform>