

April: Spring Has Sprung..Kinda 🤔🌷

Workplace Readiness: Extended Employment

April Awesomeness 📌

🌸 April is Autism Acceptance Month! 💖

This April, we're all about **acceptance**! Autism Acceptance Month is a time to honor the diverse and wonderful ways people experience the world.

It's a reminder that **everyone deserves respect**, understanding, and the opportunity to thrive. Let's spread kindness, embrace differences, and keep pushing for a more inclusive community. 💖🌸
Because **acceptance is more than awareness—it's action, compassion, and connection.** 🌱🌟🌟🌟

🌱 Please join me in welcoming our new Adult Transition Skills Trainer, Kierah!

We're so excited to have her on board and can't wait to see all the great things she'll bring to the team!

✉️ Email: krhodes@cea-nj.org

📞 Phone: 908-782-1480 ext. 242

Welcome to the team, Kierah! 🌟👋

⚠️ Important Update: Proposed Changes Could Impact Extended Employment Programs in NJ

Governor Murphy's administration is considering **major funding changes to the Extended Employment Program** in New Jersey.

If these changes go into effect, here's what it could mean:

🚫 Reduced Support for Sheltered Employment

The state may shift funding and focus away from Extended Employment programs and toward only **competitive, integrated employment**. While CIE works for most people, it's **not the right fit for everyone**—especially those who need extra structure, supervision, or support throughout the day.

🏠 Fewer Choices for Families

These changes could **limit options for families and guardians**, especially those who know their loved ones thrive best in a safe, predictable work setting like CEA. Taking away these programs reduces **individual choice and flexibility**.

🗨️ Concerns from Parents & Guardians

Many families are worried that pushing individuals too quickly into community employment could lead to **stress, job loss, or safety concerns**. Not every person is ready—or wants—to leave the supportive environment of a workshop job.

🏠 What You Can Do

We encourage families to **stay informed and speak up**. Share your concerns with your local legislators and let them know how vital Extended Employment is for your loved one. These programs are more than just jobs—they're **community, routine, and purpose** for many.

☁️ April Chaos: Weather Edition! ☁️

One minute it's sunshine and blue skies, the next it's rain and wind—April just can't make up its mind! 🌦️ Spring is here (kind of), but winter refuses to take the hint. ❄️ Dress in layers and expect the unexpected!

- With the unpredictability of our winter weather, please remember: if you're ever unsure whether we're open or not, don't hesitate to give us a call at **908-782-1480, Extension 8** for the latest updates!

📅 Past Due: Action Needed! 📅

The **January 13th deadline has passed**, which means your paperwork is officially **overdue!** ⌚ If you haven't submitted it yet, now's the time!

📄 **What's needed?** Don't forget to turn in all required forms, including the **Participant Health Form**, which must be completed by a **physician**. 🏥

📎 **Forms are attached**, but let me know if you need a physical copy sent home.

? **Questions?** Feel free to reach out—we're happy to assist.

👤 Join Our Extended Employment Program!

Our Workplace Readiness Extended Employment Program is growing, and we're looking for new **Extended Employees** to join the team! 🌱 If you know someone who's ready to gain work skills, build confidence, and be part of something great, we'd love to hear from them!

Have them reach out to me, **Kyra Horn, Director of Workplace Readiness and Adult Transition** to learn more.

- 📞 **Office:** 908-782-1480 x282
- 📱 **Cell:** 848-333-2985
- ✉️ **Email:** khorn@cea-nj.org



Yearly Paperwork 2025.pdf

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Here's the Latest!



📸🌟 Check out Monu living her best retail life! 🌟📸

📸🌟 Check out Monu living her best retail life!

She's been job sampling at **Twisted Ink** and getting a feel for the day-to-day—trying on “A Day in the Life” to see if retail is her vibe! 📸👕❤️
Go Monu! 📸👕👕



📸🌟 Jen's Job Sampling Adventure! 🌟📸

Guess who's been busy *serving up smiles* at the Hunterdon Medical Center Cafeteria? That's right — **Jen**! 🌟 She's been job sampling like a pro, learning the ropes, and bringing her A-game!
And guess what made her shift even more exciting? She ran into our very own **Norrie** while on the job! 😊💬 What are the chances?! A surprise coworker cameo makes everything more fun! 😊👩🏻‍🍳👩🏻‍🍳



A Day in the Life 📸

Look who stopped by for a hands-on CEA experience — **Sergeant Louis Hribik**! He spent the day with our very own **Erica**, who gave him the full VIP tour of what it's like to work on our cosmetics packing jobs! 📸📦👩🏻‍🍳

Erica did an *amazing* job showing the Sergeant how we get things done — packing not one, but **two** different cosmetic jobs like a total pro! 📸👩🏻‍🍳

Thanks for joining us, Sergeant! And major shoutout to Erica for being such an awesome guide! 🌟

CEA NEWSLETTER

Contact