



The STARability Foundation supports people with disabilities by providing life-transforming opportunities that emphasize **T**eamwork and connection to the community to build **A**wareness and **R**espect for individual abilities. STARability serves individuals with intellectual and developmental challenges in Southwest Florida, where we provide lifetime support and opportunities. STARability opens up a whole calendar of engaging activities with innovative and creative programs that focus on continuing education, teamwork, and community involvement.

Position Summary:

The Trailblazer Academy is a community-based vocational training and educational program for post-high school individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Program Instructor will support the Program Director and the Virtual Program Manager in developing, implementing and evaluating all the components of the Trailblazer Academy.

Program areas include job training and readiness, nutrition & health, life skills, personal finance & budgeting and creative expression. The Program Instructor should have a passion for mentoring participants to help them reach their individual goals while recognizing their unique abilities and for advocating for the participants while out in the community.

This position is a full-time, hourly position with a minimum of 32.5 hours per week. Regular attendance and punctuality are a crucial and important part of this position. Additional program hours and/or attendance at events on evenings or weekends may be required. The hourly rate is based on experience, starting at \$17 dollars per hour.

How to Apply:

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to madison@starability.org.

Responsibilities:

- Supervises, engages and participates with the participants during all activities while out in the community or in virtual classes.
- Gathers materials and supplies for weekly lesson plans for in-person or virtual programming.
- Evaluates the participants when identifying their job readiness, job skills and employment goals. Observes and assesses participants' behaviors, interactions and attitudes while engaging in classes/activities.



- Works with participants out in the community at vocational sites implementing employment-readiness curriculum that includes activities of daily living and community awareness.
- Maintains data on participants while at specific vocational sites, virtual classes/activities, and other components of the program using a provided electronic data collection program.
- Communicates effectively using appropriate tools and techniques. Interacts and develops positive and professional relationships with individuals with disabilities, their families and members of the community.
- Connects with individuals with I/DD over virtual platforms.
- In collaboration with the Virtual Program Manager and the Individual Academy Plan Specialist, develops and participates in lesson planning to create and update the curriculum catalogs for classes/activities that are offered for both in-person and virtual programming.
- Works closely with the Individual Academy Plan Specialist and Academy Program Specialist to develop IAP's (Individual Academy Plans).
- Researches and evaluates information and situations from multiple perspectives in decision-making regarding health promotion and physical activity for individuals with disabilities and applies advocacy skills for a healthy lifestyle.
- Additional duties with this position include attending STARability social events to support staff and our participants. Participation in support of our annual signature fundraising gala as part of the event logistics team is also expected.

Qualifications:

- Associates Degree in Special Education, Occupational Therapy, Therapeutic Recreation, Physical Therapy, Adapted Physical Activity, Physical and Health Education or a related field, **or** two years of experience providing education, social, or direct care services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Ability to apply general principles of education, vocational training and socialization for individuals with developmental challenges and similar needs seeking and maintaining employment, and those seeking to develop skills that could eventually lead to employment.



Job Description
Instructor | Trailblazer Academy

- Ability to be flexible, patient and handle a variety of situations.
- Ability to communicate with a wide variety of individuals within the community.
- Candidates must have a valid state driver's license, be eligible to drive STARability vehicles, and pass a criminal background screening.
- Candidates must have competency in virtual platforms (e.g., Zoom) and have the ability to learn new technology that focuses on educational instruction.