

As many of you are probably aware, the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) in collaboration with the National Project SEARCH office, Florida Department of Education Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Project 10, and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities have been working to expand Project SEARCH to counties/school districts that do not currently have a Project SEARCH site. Applications were released, received and reviewed seeking five new counties/school districts that would receive training and technical assistance during 2017-18 with the intent of fully implementing Project SEARCH by beginning of the 2018-19 school year. After review and notification of acceptance, four of the five applicants selected have committed to moving forward, leaving an opening for one additional site.

Project SEARCH is an immersion / internship program that teaches skills with the goal of meaningful employment! This evidence based model has a national employment outcome of over 75% - better than any other transition program in the country. The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) contracted with the National Project SEARCH office in 2016 to work toward expansion of this successful program to a greater number of Florida counties/school districts that do not have a Project SEARCH site. The contract between the National Project SEARCH office and the FDDC covers all costs for the training and technical assistance needed to implement a successful Project SEARCH program. It also covers the \$16,000 licensing fee in order to use the Project SEARCH model, curriculum, database and other resources.

*We are seeking one additional county/school district to fill the opening under this contract. **Only** districts who do **not** have a Project SEARCH site and have written commitment from the School District ESE Director will be eligible to apply. Eligible districts are listed on the attached along with the application. Please submit your application by December 15, 2017 to Susie Rutkowski, Project SEARCH Co-Founder, at susie.rutkowski@cchmc.org. If you have any questions regarding Project SEARCH or the application, please reach out to Carly Detlefsen, Project 10 at cdetlefsen@usfsp.edu.*

Districts Eligible to Apply for Project SEARCH

Baker County
Bay County
Bradford County
Calhoun County
Citrus County
De Soto County
Dixie County
Franklin County
Gadsden County
Gilchrist County
Glades County
Gulf County
Hardee County
Hendry County
Hernando County
Highlands County
Hillsborough County
Holmes County
Indian River County
Jackson County
Jefferson County
Lafayette County
Leon County
Levy County
Liberty County
Madison County
Manatee County
Monroe County
Okaloosa County
Okeechobee County
Pasco County
Putnam County
Sarasota County
Sumter County
Taylor County
Union County
Wakulla County
Walton County
Washington County