

Unlock Your Potential

NextWork is the newest program in Columbus Community Center's 50+ year history. We observed a need in our community and researched autism and best practices in providing services for neurodivergent adults. We continue to focus on data collection and program evaluation for continuous improvement. NextWork will help you navigate autism and adulthood, increase your independence, and unlock your potential. We connect you with community employment, help you identify and learn the skills you need for your greatest level of independence, and teach you to build your community.

**Challenge Your Limits,
Don't Limit Your
Challenges**

For questions about our NextWork autism program, please contact:

Amy Wadsworth
NextWork Program Director

TheHub NextWork
3848 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT84115

Phone: (801) 262-1552, ext. 210
Direct Line: (385) 715-5376
FAX: (801) 262-2066
awadsworth@columbusseves.org

**To apply, register, or inquire,
visit our website:**

www.nextworkacademy.org

Our Partners Include:



**NextWork Academy of
Independent Living**

NEXT WORK
Columbus Community Center Autism Program

*"Autism acceptance is realizing
I am a normal version of me, not
a broken version of normal"*

Anonymous

NextWork Academy of Independent Living

Every individual is unique, with their own strengths, desires and needs. Definitions of independence are just as diverse. There are so many questions in the lives of young adults, and autism only adds to that list. We want to help you reach your greatest potential.

The Program

NextWork is a Columbus Community Center Program, designed to help adults with autism (formerly Asperger's) take steps into independence. This scalable, individualized program provides opportunities for our participants to establish the foundation of independence through competitive, inclusive community employment, education and training in key areas for adulthood, and supported living services to maintain independence through life's daily challenges.

You define your program

You can choose the elements of the program you are ready to take on—Take one class at a time while you live at home, or jump in with both feet and live in a NextWork training apartment.



The Classes

As a licensee of the Learn4Independence curriculum, we collaborate with people all over the world to learn best practices and creative new ways to teach independent living skills such as Finance, Safety, Nutrition and Relationships. We have a set schedule we follow with instructors from the University of Utah, and you can take one class or three classes or seven per term. Whenever possible, our classes include a community component so that what you learn is meaningful and applies to your life.

The Supports

We have discovered that supported living services may be the key to maintaining independence. With 1-3 hours per week of support and guidance from trained professionals who understand the world of autism, you learn how to set and accomplish goals, use your anxieties as a source of strength, and manage your adulthood like a CEO. Group supports help you build a community with people who share your concerns and challenges, and remain a touchpoint for you after you move beyond NextWork.

For more information, visit our website at www.nextworkacademy.org

Employment Focused

- Employment is key to independence. Work brings you a group of people to interact with, a new environment and change of scenery, a schedule to keep you busy, and a place to learn and grow. As an added bonus, it gives you money to do the other things you want to do, like learn a new hobby, see a movie or a live show, buy your favorite clothing styles and eat at your favorite restaurants. Independence is much more difficult (and boring!) when you don't have a job.
- Working with Vocational Rehabilitation, we help you create your resume, practice job interviews, network with potential employers, then get and keep a job.
- We also partner with Optimizing Autism, a group created by autists for autists. People with autism will teach you how they achieved success. Together, we will even train your employers on successful management techniques to help you tap into your strengths on the job.



Alexis worked with NextWork and Vocational Rehabilitation to get her job at Jared Jewelers.