



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why did you start Wide Horizons?
 - The founders' son with Autism "aged out" of school-based programs. When he entered Adult Day Programs, they saw a big drop in his vocational support and aspiration. That is why they decided to start a program that focused on participants getting permanent jobs in the community.
2. When does the program start?
 - EVOLVE starts in October 2021. We are taking enrollments now and will begin intake and assessments in July.
3. How does someone get into the program?
 - You can fill out an interest survey and a representative will contact you next week. Interest surveys are found on our website.
4. How much does it cost?
 - Being part of Wide Horizons or its community service events cost nothing. For those who wish to enter the EVOLVE Program and use the My Full Life™ learning system, Wide Horizons negotiates its services with the local Center that provides support for the participant.
5. How do I pay for services?
 - Funds can come from many sources such as Regional Centers, Dept. of Labor, private pay, and needs-based-scholarships. A Wide Horizons representative will discuss financial options during intake.
6. What is the ratio of participants to staff?
 - The typical classroom size is 5:1. Every situation is different, and Wide Horizons is concerned about the quality of what is taught and the attention that each participant needs.
7. What is EVOLVE?
 - Participants work in an "apprenticeship-style" program with various community employers to learn how to work and engage in the workforce and develop higher levels of independent living.



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8. How long is the program?

- The EVOLVE model is 3 – 7 years. This allows us to get to know our participants and fully explore their vocational desires and interest and then pair that with potential employers.

9. What does EVOLVE stand for?

- Elevating Vocational Opportunities by Leveraging Valuable Experiences.

10. How soon will a participant begin to work and earn money?

- We begin to seek employment opportunities in the 2nd or 3rd year of the program. The first step is getting to know the participant and developing a plan, which starts off with the My Full Life™ assessment.

11. What is My Full Life™?

- My Full Life™ provides a skills assessment individuals access to a comprehensive life skills curriculum to support their individual growth and offer direct support an array of learning resources to aid their individualized lesson planning and integration of technology-based learning.

12. Is transportation available?

- Yes. Transportation is part of the services we provide. We also develop permanent transportation solutions as part of the independent living courses.

13. How do you keep your participants safe?

- The participant's safety is of paramount importance. In addition to a comprehensive safety policy, Wide Horizons provides ongoing training for staff and participants, conducts complete background checks of all volunteers and employees, and eliminates any one-on-one encounter opportunities.

14. How will this affect the participant's benefits (SSI)?

- Wide Horizons cannot say how employment of the participant will affect their SSI benefits. We recommend that you notify SSI benefits coordinator and work openly and honestly to determine the best outcome.

15. How can I help?

- Please give us your information today! We would love to talk about how you can help



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with our mission and the success of our participants. Your involvement is key.

16. What are the hours of operation?

- Our services will be offered between 9am to 3pm Monday through Friday. Class cycles vary between sessions depending on the collective needs of the participants.

17. Are the classes online or in person?

- Classes are a mixture of both. We have live learning-labs, complete-at-home activities, group remote sessions, and live community participation events.

18. Where are the in-person classes being held?

- We anticipate occupying a location in the City of Manteca. Some live learning-labs could be at various locations throughout the City and surrounding areas.

19. Do you have Spanish-language courses available?

- Some courses are available in Spanish, and we have staff that speak Spanish as well. The Hispanic / Latino Community is important to us, and we are working to expand our services to this group.

20. Is this program for everyone that has a disability?

- No. Wide Horizons is currently staffed to support individuals with mild to moderate levels of intellectual and developmental disabilities. However, a diagnosis is not required. We work with individuals on a case-by-case situation.

21. I do not have Regional Services. Can I still participate?

- Yes. Our intake specialists will explore your unique situation to determine how we can best support your goals and aspirations for vocation and higher levels of independent living.

22. What is Self-Determination?

- The CA Self-Determination Program provides consumers and their families with more freedom, control, and responsibility in choosing services and supports to help them meet objectives in their Individual Program Plan. Participants may choose their services and pick which providers deliver those services.

23. What classes are being offered?



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- My Full Life™ offers over 800 unique resources including PDFs, interactive modules, videos, graphic organizers, visuals, and experiential learning checks. Learning labs include wood working, STEM modeling, and community involvement.

24. What kind of vocational training do you offer?

- We believe in Learning-by-Doing. Therefore, we participate in as many community activities as possible to help explore what vocations participants like. Once we find out what that is, we train to bring it out in the participants.

25. How big is Wide Horizons?

- Wide Horizons has 4 Board Members, 8 staff and will be hiring 4 educational and business professionals in the next year. There are many volunteers who help as well. Our goal is to support 30 participants with the appropriate number of staff within the next 3 years.

26. How can my business benefit from working with Wide Horizons?

- Employers who hire individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities find them to be dependable, engaged, motivated, have great attendance, have high attention to work quality, and offer high productivity.

27. Do you take donations?

- Yes. We are registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Ask one of our Advocates how you can contribute today.

28. What are the ages that you support?

- We support individuals who have or soon-will age-out of school-based programs. Our typical ages range from 23-39 years of age. But we deal with each person individually regardless of age.

29. How do you handle medications?

- Wide Horizons is nor its staff are licensed to distribute medications. Participants are responsible to self-medicate. Our staff will provide reminders but cannot insist that medications be taken. It is required that participants follow their medication regime as directed by their doctors to continue with us.

30. Do you allow individuals with “behavioral” issues or history?



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- Wide Horizons avoids putting labels on people. Everyone deserves a chance to reach their fullest potential. We want to talk to you about what your goals and aspirations are and see how we can help.

31. If the individual cannot speak, can they still participate?

- Functional communication does not have to be only verbal. We are developing the tools that help our participants succeed in the community. Talk to one of our intake professionals. We want to work with you to overcome your unique barriers to employment.

32. How do I find out more?

- Visit our website at www.widehorizons4u.org. Provide us your information today and we will be sure to follow up with you to talk more about what we offer and how we can help.

33. Who do I talk to if I have a problem?

- We have an open-door policy. Our board members are also a part of the working staff. We are available for you to sort through any situation. Our CEO's personal phone number is also published on our website.

34. How does Wide Horizons give back to the community?

- We plan many volunteer activities throughout the year. From assisting the elderly, to packing food and goods at the local food bank, to helping a local nursing school, our team is always looking to give back to the community that supports us.