

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who is REACH for?**

Adults 18+ with intellectual and developmental disabilities looking for continued learning, community engagement, and meaningful daily experiences.

- **Do you provide transportation?**

No, but we're happy to share transportation resources.

- **Is there a waitlist?**

Waitlists vary throughout the year. Families should participate in CEL programs and complete quarterly interest surveys to ensure a smooth transition into REACH.

- **How early should we start the process?**

We recommend beginning up to two years before transition from school to allow time to join the waitlist, build familiarity, and stay engaged with CEL programs.

- **What if a spot opens before we're ready?**

You may defer and remain on the waitlist. Please note our three-offer policy.

- **Can members also participate in other CEL programs?**

Yes - many members also attend Catalyst, find jobs with Employment Opportunities, and have fun in Social/Recreational programs too!



Program Details

- **Ages:** 18+
- **Schedule:** Monday-Friday, 10am-3pm
- **Flexible attendance:** 1-5 days per week
- **Can discuss options to extend the day**
- **Commitment options:**
6- or 12-month enrollment
(6-month minimum to start)
- **Support ratios:**
6:1 - \$130/day, 3:1 - \$160/day
(Prices subject to change)



Take the Next Step

Visit ExperienceCEL.org/REACH or
Contact Cassara@ExperienceCEL.org.
ExperienceCEL.org/REACH



CEL REACH DAY PROGRAM

Designed to empower adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in building meaningful lives filled with connection, growth, and purpose within the community.

About REACH

REACH members spend much of their time out in the world, building relationships, developing skills, and exploring new experiences. Through partnerships with organizations like Bernie's Book Bank, Elawa Farm, Chicago Puzzle Club, Deerfield Library, Feed My Starving Children, Chicago Botanic Garden, and more, members participate

in a wide variety of opportunities from volunteerism and skill-building to recreation and social connection.

No two days - or people - are the same. **That's why CEL's member-directed approach ensures each person is actively engaged in experiences that matter to them.**

Working closely with staff, members help shape monthly activities and excursions based on their interests.

Experiences may include:

- Relationship building & social connection
- Volunteer opportunities
- Current events & group discussions
- Culinary & life skills
- Creative expression & the arts
- Community exploration

Sample Schedule

REACH members have a variety of options for how to spend their day.

A REACH day might look like this:

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
Morning	Club Fit in the Gym	Games Club/ Trivia In the lounge	Volunteer at Deerfield Library	Botanic Garden Orchid Show	Dinosaur Adventure Exhibit at Donald E. Stephens Convention Center
Lunch	Lunch in Building	Lunch in Building	Lunch in Building	Purchase Lunch at the Cafe	Picnic Lunch at the Exhibit
Afternoon	Craft Corner in the Art Room	Nickel City Extreme	Raupp Museum	Botanic Garden Orchid Show	Dinosaur Adventure Exhibit at Donald E. Stephens Convention Center



What Makes REACH Different

A program built around an individual, not a one-size-fits-all system.

- **Community connected**

Members are actively engaged in the community - not just within the building.

- **Choice-driven experiences**

Members help decide what they do and where they go.

- **Individualized support**

Support ratios range from 6:1 to 1:1 based on needs, ensuring safety and success.

Members needing 1:1 support must come with a PSW.

- **Dedicated, creative staff**

A passionate team committed to building relationships and unlocking potential.

- **REACH for Success Plan**

Each member works with staff to develop an annual plan focused on highlights, future dreams, and personal achievements.

- **Flexible and responsive**

As a privately run, CQL-accredited program, REACH can adapt to meet individual needs.

- **Thoughtfully designed environment**

CEL's space is warm, welcoming, and intentionally designed for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- **Whole-person support**

Individually designed practices and behavioral support help ensure each member feels safe, understood, and empowered.

