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### **Project SEARCH Intern Maintenance Payment**

DVR will begin providing a monthly payment for a portion of the Project SEARCH program to Interns.

As you know, Project SEARCH is an unpaid nine-month internship program that provides classroom curriculum and hands-on training through rotations, approximately 30 hours each week.

What is the Project SEARCH Maintenance Payment?

- The payment is meant to assist interns with maintenance and personal costs while participating in the rotation portion of Project SEARCH.
- This payment is not meant to cover items like transportation and uniforms needed for the Project SEARCH program. When necessary, DVR should continue to assist with paying for Project SEARCH transportation and uniform costs in addition to the stipend being provided.

This payment will be offered to all interns in the program. The intern will receive \$1500 in total, \$50/week over the 30-weeks of rotations/work-based learning while participating in Project SEARCH.

- Monthly payments will start in October during the first rotation and end in May during the last rotation.
- The \$1500 will be evenly divided between October and May resulting in a payment of \$187.50/month to the intern.
- If an intern leaves the program, the monthly payment will end.

DVR has consulted with a Social Security Administration (SSA) representative as well as a Wisconsin benefits specialist, and there should not be Social Security implications for interns who may be receiving benefits.

- Please work with your DVR counselor as they can assist with getting you connected to a benefits counselor to answer questions.

This payment will be paid monthly using DVR's Direct Payment process. The intern will need to sign their skill training plan every month to receive the payment.