

Are Virtual Job Fairs Right For You?

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Virtual job fairs function similarly to in-person job fairs but take place entirely online. They have become a popular method for recruitment, but they come with a unique set of challenges. Identifying both the pros and the cons can help you determine whether attending a virtual job fair could be beneficial to your job search.

Pros of Attending a Virtual Job Fair

- **Reduce the Stress of Traveling.** Since these events are entirely online, you can attend from any location that has internet access. Gone are the worries of planning transportation and parking at an unfamiliar location.
- **Save Time.** Reduced travel means you no longer have to plan for traffic or other delays. Use that extra time to make sure your resume is up to date and that you know how to navigate the job fair site.
- **Talk to Recruiters All Over the World.** These events can bring job seekers and recruiters together from different states or even different countries, allowing you to explore opportunities you wouldn't otherwise have access to.
- **Manage Your Environment.** Being able to attend these events from any location with internet access allows you to have control over your environment. You can remove distractions and increase your comfort, enabling you to show up as your best self.

Cons of Attending a Virtual Job Fair

- **Internet Access is Required.** Not every location has internet access and finding it can be a challenge. However, if you need internet access for a virtual job fair, the RochesterWorks Career Center Computer Lab is a great option. It has computers and free internet access available to job seekers on-site.
- **No Face-to-Face Conversations.** While some people are perfectly comfortable communicating online, others find there's no substitute for a face-to-face conversation. If you would like coaching on how to effectively navigate online conversations like those you'd have at a virtual job fair, consider scheduling a meeting with a RochesterWorks Career Advisor.
- **Different Virtual Job Fair Platforms.** There are many different virtual job fair platforms used by event organizers and each one is a little bit different. Depending on which job fairs you choose to attend, you may need to make multiple job seeker accounts and learn several different platforms to participate. If you'd like help managing your virtual job fair accounts. Just call to set up an appointment with a RochesterWorks Career Advisor.
- **Accessibility Challenges.** Not every virtual job fair platform will have built-in accessibility tools, which may make it difficult for job seekers with disabilities to access them. Contact RochesterWorks Disability Resource Coordinator Lindsay Murphy to learn about accessibility resources that can help.

Is a Virtual Job Fair Right for You?

Only you can decide if a virtual job fair is a good fit for you or if you'd prefer to explore other means of networking with recruiters. Be sure to examine the pros and cons provided to aid in your decision-making and if you want more information about preparing for a virtual job fair, be sure to attend our next *Job Fairs: Maximize Your Efforts, In-Person & Virtually* Workshop at RochesterWorks!

Additional Resources:

Schedule your appointment with a RochesterWorks Career Advisor by visiting <https://rochesterworks.gigabook.com/> or calling (585) 258-3500.

Connect with the RochesterWorks Disability Resource Coordinator, Lindsay Murphy, at lmurphy@rochesterworks.org or call 585-258-3500 x3513.

Find upcoming recruitment events and workshops to fuel your job search by visiting <https://rochesterworks.org/services/calendar>.