

TRANSITION BY THE NUMBERS

TRANSITION PLANNING IN DUPAGE COUNTY: SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES BY AGE

- Consider the impact of accumulating assets in your child's name. If you have not already done so, explore the need to include a Special Needs Trust in your will and other financial planning.
- If you haven't already done so, consider whether an ABLE account can help you save for qualified disability expenses without losing eligibility for SSI and Medicaid.
- Attend Next Steps Trainings to learn about resources, services, benefits, etc.
- Focus on helping your student appropriately express important social needs such as "I don't understand" "I need help" "I need a break" "I need more work."
- If your student uses Assistive Technology to communicate, work towards independence at age 22 for their most important expressive language needs. Adult services do not offer ready access to AT expertise in work, volunteer, day program or residential situations.

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- Check your PUNS- do you need to complete an annual update or get registered?
 - Review eligibility requirements for government benefits such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and private health insurance.
 - Review high school course of study and transition goals.
 - Ask school staff about the Department of Human Services Division of Rehabilitation Services and how that office is involved in transition.
 - Begin work/training experiences in the school and community.
 - Have student learn and practice self-advocacy skills while at work, school, and in the community.
 - Explore volunteerism as a family or in conjunction with natural supports as an important learning environment for work, training, and for becoming a known, valued member of your community.

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- Check your PUNS - do you need to complete an annual update or get registered?
 - Attend Next Steps Training or other information nights regarding future planning.
 - Get State ID or driver's license.
 - Review high school course of study and transition goals.
 - Discuss how long a student will attend high school, and if they are eligible for transition services extending to the day before their 22nd birthday.
 - Consider post-secondary educational options.
 - Pursue part-time employment and volunteer opportunities.
 - Discuss supported employment, job coaching, self-employment, micro-business, career counseling and job shadowing options.
 - Seek information about whether some form of guardianship, power of attorney, or other decision-making protocol will be important at age 18.
 - Explore future living and support options, including those funded by the Medicaid Waivers and those that you may privately fund.

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- Check your PUNS - do you need to complete an annual update or get registered?
 - Review transition goals, their relationship to desired adult outcomes, and continue to discuss and explore transition services through the school district.
 - If transition goals include paid work or volunteerism, begin partnering with your school team as well as your personal network to develop potential opportunities.
 - Begin collecting information about institutions of higher education if post-secondary education is a goal.
 - Investigate financial aid and scholarships for post-secondary education.
 - Explore health insurance coverage and other benefits such as Social Security, Medicaid, food stamps, and Medicare.
 - Decide if your student will need a legal guardian at age 18. Explore guardianship and power of attorney options.

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- Check your PUNS - do you need to complete an annual update or get registered?
 - Apply for Social Security and Medicaid on the first of the month AFTER turning 18.
 - Register to vote.
 - Register for Selective Service (males only).
 - Establish legal guardianship only if deemed necessary.
 - Review transition goals and their relationship to desired adult outcomes.
 - Apply for post-secondary programs if graduating.
 - Contact Special Needs Coordinator at colleges, if applicable.
 - Visit community day programs and explore adult options like employment/volunteerism, developing micro-business, college alternative programs, and special recreation programs to help you decide your preferences and the best match for your young adult.

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- Continue to update status on PUNS state waitlist for services at least annually.
 - Explore funding for adult options.
 - Ensure the transition plan encompasses all areas of adult living including work, leisure, self-advocacy, residential, and post-secondary education.
 - Review transition goals and course of study annually.
 - Explore life-long learning opportunities through local community colleges and local community organizations/businesses.
 - Introduce concepts/training in the area of budgeting and the real cost of living on your own.
 - Find suitable employment that offers desired work hours and salary.
 - Learn about available work incentives through your Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC)
 - Ensure that you have a plan for health insurance coverage.
 - Plan for the possibility that your student may not have a job or day program after transition. What supports will they need and how will you pay for these?

WHO TO CALL

Service, Inc. of Illinois

1919 South Highland Avenue
Suite A-230
Lombard, IL. 60148
(630) 425-2350
www.svcincofil.org/

DHS Family Community Resource Center

1717 Park Street, Suite 105
Naperville, IL. 60563
(630) 328-1000
www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

2901 S. Finley Rd.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
(630) 495-0500
www.dhs.state.il.us

Department of Human Services

Help Line- (800) 843-6154

College of DuPage

Center for Access and Accommodations
425 Fawell Blvd
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 942-2154
www.cod.edu

WEBSITES TO VISIT

www.ipaddunite.org IPADD Unite- an online platform for networking, advocacy and information sharing

www.ssa.gov Social Security

www.dupagefederation.org A resource for navigating public benefits

<https://www.iltech.org/repository/wipa> Federally funded program created to help individuals receiving SSI/SSDI make informed choices about being employed.

www.nextstepsillinois.org Offers transition training for families of young adults with disabilities

www.equipforequality.org Legal resources & advocacy

www.familysupportnetwork.org Advocacy & education

www.illinoislifespan.org Referral & advocacy

www.thearcofil.org Advocacy, policy making and training

www2.illinois.gov/sites/icdd State agency focused on improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities through advocacy, systemic change and capacity building

<https://sites.google.com/view/dupage-tpc/home> DuPage County Transition Planning Committee is a local group made up of educators, adult service providers and families who meet regularly to network, educate, support and share resources for young adults with disabilities.

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