

Transition Planning Guide

As you begin to think about your child's future, you want to ask yourself what you see them doing in the next few years. Where will they live? Can they live independently? Where will they work? Where will they make friends and what will they do for fun? There are a number of agencies who can help you plan for their future needs.

- **Contact your local PAS Agency (Pre- Admission Screening) and complete the PUNS questionnaire**

PUNS (Priority Utilization of Needed Services) is the Illinois database of individuals with developmental disabilities and their service needs. Completing the PUNS registers the student as a person potentially in need of services. This does not guarantee funding, but you must complete it to be eligible. It is also important that the state know the needs that exist in the community. You can complete the PUNS at any time. The disabilities generally considered for eligibility are Cognitive Disability (Full Scale IQ below 70), Autism, Asperger Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disability, Cerebral Palsy, Seizure Disorder. Inability to independently complete certain life functions, such as self care and independent living are also considered. The above disabilities need to be established prior to 18 years of age.

Suburban Access 708-799-9190 is the PAS agency for our area. The intake division can be reached at this number. Nancy Perez or Stephanie Moore are two workers who can assist you directly. If you have further questions you may contact Brent Schwartzhoff at the Hillside office **(708) 449-7257**. He can also answer questions you may have and help direct you through the process.

- **Apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) at age 18:**

SSI is a financial disability benefit your child may be eligible for based on their cognitive disability. To be eligible for SSI, an individual cannot have more than \$2,000 in personal assets. Though this cannot be received before age 18, it is wise to begin accumulating documents in advance. Apply on-line at www.socialsecurity.gov

- **Apply for Medicaid (once you are approved for SSI):**

Medicaid is used to fund group homes, individual family support services like respite care, and vocational services. An individual can have private insurance and Medicaid.

Contact the local office to apply:

2701 W Lake St

Melrose Park, IL 60160

Phone: (708) 338-7600

- **Explore Guardianship Options:**

Many parents feel that they will have to retain guardianship of their children past age 18.

For more information and forms, visit <http://www.illinoislegalaid.org>

Some agencies that serve the disabled population, such as Seguin, can assist in completing all the documents necessary to be filed in court. In this case all the family must cover is a variety of filing fees. They can also assist in applying for social security, Medicaid, etc.

Many attorneys handle guardianship cases and there are a few attorneys who specialize in guardianship for individuals with developmental disabilities. Though the district does not endorse any particular attorney, a list is available if you request it.

You may also get forms and instructions on applying for guardianship of an adult in the binders located at the Office of the Probate Court Clerk, Room 1202 of the Richard Daley Center at Dearborn and Washington

- **Apply for ADA Paratransit Service:**

Paratransit provides bus services for individuals whose disability prevents them from using regular mass transit.

Call to request an application:

312-663-4357

- **Apply for Reduced Fare Card:**

If you are not eligible for ADA Paratransit, you may be eligible for a reduced fare.

Contact the Leyden Township Office to apply:

847-455-8616

- **Explore community recreation options:**

West Suburban Special Recreation Veterans Park District

2915 Maple St.

Franklin Park, IL

847-455-2100

www.wssra.net

44 W. Golfview Drive

Northlake IL 60164

(708) 343-5270

www.veteransparkdistrict.org

NEDSRA

1770 Centennial Place

Addison IL

630-620-4500

<http://nedsra.org>

- **Area Day Treatment and Developmental Training Programs:**

There are a number of local agencies offering training and day programs. Consider visiting some of them to learn more about the services they offer and what may be available to you.

Oak Leyden
411 Chicago Ave
Oak Park, IL
708-524-1050

Aspire
9901 Derby Lane
Westchester, IL
708-547-3550

Helping Hands
9649 W. 55th Street
Countryside, IL
708-352-3580

Seguin Services
3100 S. Central
Cicero IL
708-863-3803

New Horizons
6737 W. Forest Preserve
Chicago IL
773- 286-6226

Clearbrook
1835 W. Central
Arlington Heights IL
847-870--7711

- **Advocacy and Support:**

The Arc of Illinois
20901 LaGrange Rd., Suite #209
Frankfort, IL 60423
Phone: 815-464-1832
Fax: 815-464-5292
info@thearcofil.org

Equip for Equality
20 N. Michigan Ave Suite 300
Chicago IL 60602
(312) 341-0022

Community Support Services
9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513-2040
(708) 354-4547

Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health
1650 Moon Lake Boulevard
Hoffman Estates, IL
(847) 882-1600
800-432-5005