



Transition Planning for Students Exploring Post-Secondary Options

Chappaqua Central School District | Horace Greeley High School

March 3, 2025

Presenter: Jacie Feuer, *Transition Services Director*, The Arc Westchester



Overview

- Transition Planning Overview
- Adult Service Funding Streams
 - Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)
 - Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)
 - Applying for eligibility
 - Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver
- OPWDD Adult Day Services
- Preparing for Adult Services
- Resources
- Questions



Transition Planning

- When students exit high school, supports are not automatically provided, even if they were available through the school years.
- Transition planning starts by age 15 or earlier

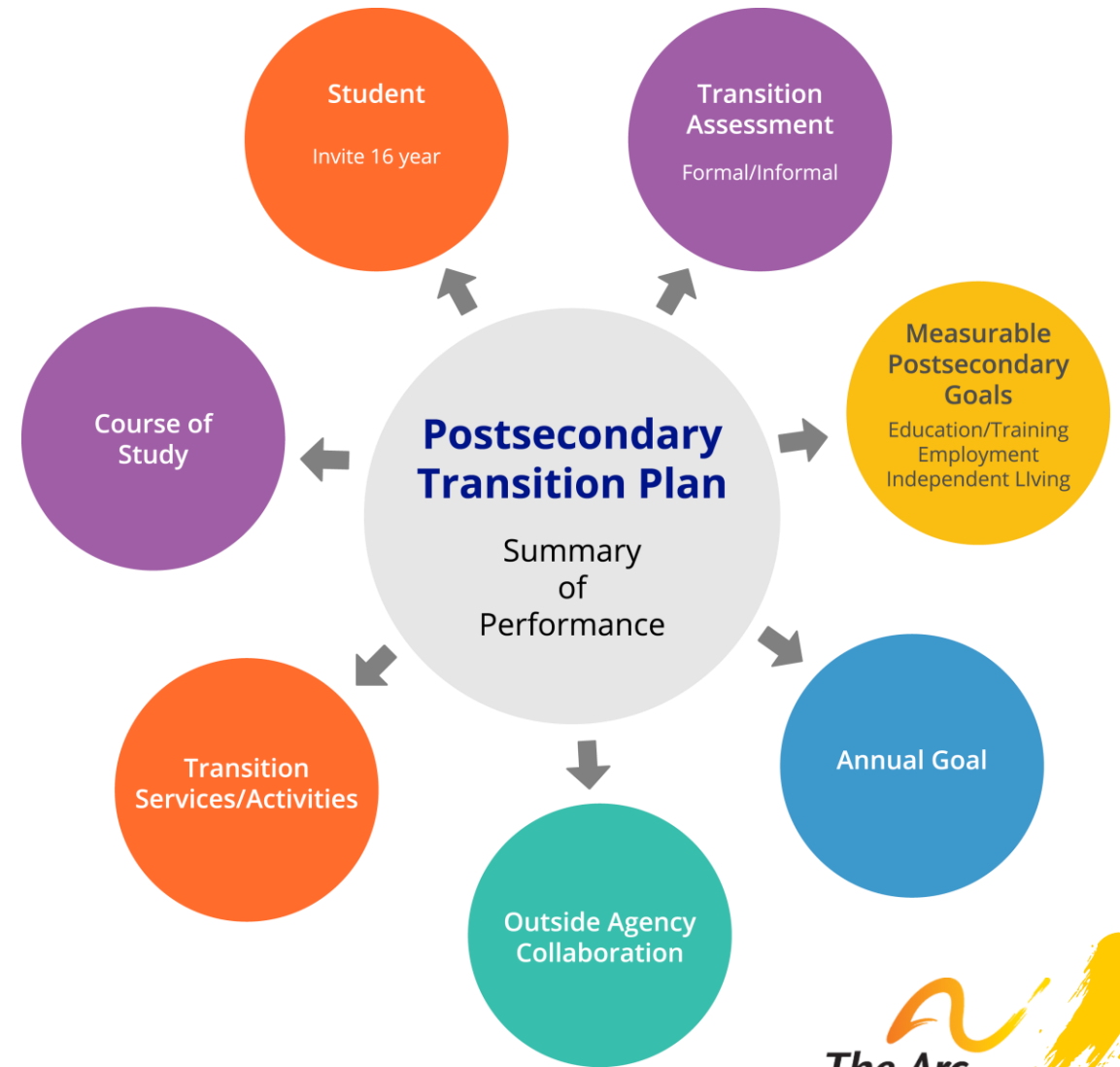


Image source: [Introduction to Transition Planning | Transition \(ne.gov\)](https://www.ne.gov/transition)

Transition Planning Timeline

Recommended Age to <u>Initiate</u> Item & Access Related Supports or Services:	15 y/o	16-17 y/o	18-19 y/o <small>Or two-years prior to exiting</small>	20-21 y/o <small>Or one-year prior to exiting</small>	21+ y/o <small>Or after exiting</small>
IEP includes Pathway to Graduation, Transition Goals and Services	✓				
Apply for OPWDD Eligibility	✓	✓	✓		
Recreation & Respite Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Go Through OPWDD's Front Door (1-2-year process)		✓	✓	✓	
Consider Supported Decision Making or Guardianship Options		✓	✓	✓	
ACCES-VR Pre-ETS		✓	✓	✓	
Attend Transition Events, Fairs & Webinars			✓	✓	✓
Obtain Adult Service Authorizations				✓	✓
Tour & Apply to Adult Programs				✓	✓
Apply to ACCES-VR (If pursuing employment)				✓	✓
Access Adult Services					✓



Agency Questions

Agency Name: Contact Name:
Phone: Email:
Program Name:

Question:	Answer/Notes:
What type of day programs do you offer? Site-Based, Community or Without Walls?	<input type="text"/>
How much of the day is spent in the community?	<input type="text"/>
What is the staff to participant ratio?	<input type="text"/>
What does a typical day look like? What are the program hours?	<input type="text"/>
Does your program have a waitlist?	<input type="text"/>
What is the OPWDD service authorization needed for this program?	<input type="text"/>
Can my son/daughter participate in a combination of programs?	<input type="text"/>
Does your program have requirements regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-care (toileting, eating, etc.)• Behavior• Other	<input type="text"/>
Are participants able to access therapeutic services during program hours (e.g., physical therapy, speech therapy)	<input type="text"/>
If we want to apply to this program what are the next steps?	<input type="text"/>
Other Questions/Notes: <input type="text"/>	

Adult Service Considerations

- Medication and Allergies – support needs during program hours
- Transportation to-and-from program
- Activities of Daily Living – level of independence/support
- Behavioral Support Needs
- Communication
- Community activities
- Therapy needs (e.g., PT, OT, Speech)
- Staff to participant ratios
- Program vacancies, waitlist
- Age range



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WxwMntLx1G8m58V6PokftBWMCP_o1zk/view?usp=sharing





New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
ADULT CAREER & CONTINUING ED SERVICES

ACCES-VR

Adult Career & Continuing Education Services-
Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)



Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

OPWDD

Office for People With Developmental
Disabilities (OPWDD)

Medicaid funds the OPWDD Home and Community-Based
Services (HCBS) waiver (includes most OPWDD services, such
as respite, supported employment, community habilitation,
day habilitation and residential services)



To receive services from OPWDD, the individual must meet four requirements:



1. Have a diagnosis of a **developmental disability**
2. Must have had this disability diagnosed **before age 22.**
3. The disability is expected to be **permanent.**
4. The disability must be so serious that it **affects your child's ability to live everyday life independently.**

The Key to Accessing OPWDD Supports

Supports To be able to access the majority of OPWDD services, most individuals will need to:

- Obtain OPWDD Eligibility Determination
- Enroll in Medicaid, and
- Enroll in the OPWDD Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver



Slide source: [040 front-door-access-to-services 11024 english.pdf](#)

Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs) Serving Westchester County Residents



ACANY
ADVANCE CARE ALLIANCE



Navigating OPWDD Services? *We're Here to Help*

The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ombudsprogram, also known as IDDO, provides independent guidance and advocacy.

Call our statewide helpline, open **Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.**



We are free and private
Call us at
1-800-762-9290
or Email us at iddo@cssny.org

What does IDDO do?

The IDDO can help you:

- **Get information** about services and the supports offered through OPWDD.
- Connect you to **OPWDD's Front Door**.
- Support you and advocate with you alongside your providers, **Fiscal Intermediary**, Care Manager, **Care Coordination Organization** or anyone else who supports you.
- Advise you on how to **file a complaint**.



Call us at
1-800-762-9290
Email us at iddo@cssny.org

<https://www.cssny.org/programs/entry/iddo>

Ombudsprogram

The **new Ombudsprogram**, headed by Community Service Society of New York, is now open and ready to accept the calls of people with developmental disabilities and their family members in need of assistance resolving concerns, navigating barriers to services and making the right connections.



Pre-Employment Services Available to Students

OPWDD's Employment Training Program (ETP) - Trainee

- Explore careers, develop skills and job preferences
- Build social skills that will help you succeed on the job and reach your career goals
- Gain experience as an employee
- Get paid to work while going to school and prepare for a job when you leave school

ACCES-VR's Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

- Job Exploration Counseling
- Work Based Learning Experiences (unpaid)
- Workplace Readiness Training to develop social skills and independent living
- Post-Secondary Options Counseling
- Instruction in Self Advocacy



OPWDD HCBS-Waiver Adult Day Service Options





Recreation & Respite

- Meet and connect with adult service providers
- Build social skills
- New experiences





George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Community Mental Health

Michael Orth, M.S.W.
Commissioner

Directory of Day Habilitation Programs and other Services
Provided by Westchester County Agencies

by

Matthew Faulkner

Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health

Updated September 2024

1. Abbott House	3
2. Ability Beyond	4
3. Another Step	6
4. The Arc Westchester.....	7
5. Cardinal McCloskey Community Services	9
6. Cerebral Palsy of Westchester.....	11
7. Community Based Services	12
8. Community Living Corporation.....	14
9. Daybreak Independent Services, Inc.....	16
10. Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health.....	17
11. Hawthorne Foundation.....	18
12. IAHD Tarrytown Day Habilitation.....	20
13. Inclusive Links	21
14. Jawonio	22
15. Living Resources.....	23
16. Opengate	25
17. Richmond Community Services.....	26
18. Select Connects	27
19. SPARC LINK-UP	28
20. Special Citizens Futures Unlimited, Inc.....	30
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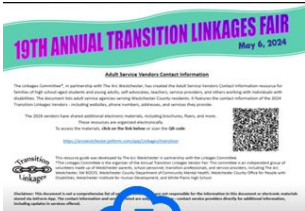
Day Habilitation

Day Hab assists individuals to **acquire, retain or improve** their self-help, socialization and adaptive skills, including communication, travel and other areas in adult education, appropriate behavior, greater independence, community inclusion, relationship building, self-advocacy and informed choice.

[2024-2025 Directory of Day Habilitation Programs and other Services](#)



OPWDD Employment & Pre-Employment Services



Prevocational Services	Pathway to Employment	Employment Training Program (ETP)	Supported Employment (SEMP)
Prepares people for paid community employment or more independent meaningful activities (transition to Pathway or ETP/SEMP)	Creating a Career and Vocational Plan to determine if job development is the right service (transition to ACCES-VR or ETP/SEMP)	(ETP is a SEMP-Intensive Service) Discovery, job development and Intensive SEMP Services	Job Coaching, Job Development and Life-Long Supports on a Job
2 years or more	278-hour or 1 year	1 year or less	On-Going
Discovery, community work experiences, volunteer opportunities and career planning	Discovery, community work experiences, and develop a vocational goal	Internship opportunity at a community business	Community based, competitive, integrated employment

Table Source: [Care-Manager-Presentation-5.2024.pdf \(eleversity.org\)](#)





Supported Employment Services








- The New York State Education Department and OPWDD Collaborate to offer Short-term and Extended Supported Employment Services.
- Job Development, Job Coaching, Job Retention
- Supports fade as individuals build independence
- The outcome is independent, competitive, integrated employment





JoJo's Job Tasks:

If door is closed—do **NOT** enter **STOP**
If person is in a room—ASK if you may clean room

	Social Work Department:	34 Montgomery Place:	Chapel:	Break Room:
Shake small rugs out, outside 				
Sweep Floors 				
Dusting – Radiators  				
Clean Outside & Inside of Microwaves  				
Take out Garbage 				
Ask Erica what to do next!				

Strategies to Prepare for Adult Services:

- Provide opportunities for teaching self-advocacy
- Assign responsibilities/chores with clear expectations
- Include the whole team in conversations about transition planning
- Keep an up-to-date resume with volunteer/internship experience
- Discuss interests, likes, dislikes, preferred learning style
- Encourage individuals to carry a wallet with identification
- Practice using ParaTransit
- Use checklists, visual supports, and timers to decrease verbal prompts and increase autonomy

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Resources Related to
this Presentation



[CCSD 3.3.25 Handouts - Google Drive](#)



Questions



Thank You!

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The Arc Westchester

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