

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21

Family Resource Guide

(Lehigh and Carbon Counties)



Helping Children Learn

2025-2026

**Planning for
Employment,
Independence, and
Financial Success**

TRANSITION RESOURCES

The goal of transition planning is to build a bridge between school-age programs and adult life, particularly for individuals with disabilities. This process helps students prepare for meaningful employment, independent living, and community participation.

The resources in this guide are designed to support young adults, families and schools in **Lehigh or Carbon County** in fostering collaboration, encouraging advocacy, gaining work skills, identifying financial support as well as community living supports—ensuring that every young person leaving school has a strong, well-planned bridge to adulthood.

CLIU #21 Transition Resources Google Drive
tinyurl.com/CLIU-resources

PA Secondary Transition
PASecondaryTransition.com



Magellan Transition Age Navigation Guide for Lehigh/Northampton County
MagellanoofPA.com/ResourceGuide

Peal Center: Planning for the Future Transition Checklist
pealcenter.org

The Pennsylvania Community on Transition is a group comprised of various stakeholders from across Pennsylvania who work collaboratively to ensure appropriate transition outcomes for Pennsylvania youth and young adults with disabilities. The team consists of representatives from the State Departments of Education, Health, Labor and Industry, and Human Services; Various Youth-Serving Agencies; Young Adults; Parent Organizations; Advocates; Higher Education; and Employers.

The PA Secondary Transition website will be continually updated with the latest transition events and resources for youth, young adults, parents, and professionals to assist in facilitating a young person's progress towards post-secondary goals related to education, employment, and community living.

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CARBON LEHIGH TRANSITION COORDINATING COUNCIL

What is the Carbon Lehigh Transition Coordinating Council (CLTCC)?

The mission of CLTCC is to promote effective transition services for students with disabilities, their families, educators, and community service providers from school to adult community life.

Who Serves on the Local TCC?

It is comprised of parents, representatives from agencies and employers, and educators from the Intermediate Unit, School Districts, Vocational, Technical and Special Education, and Higher Education.

Who do I contact to become a member of the CLTCC?

To become a member of the Carbon Lehigh Transition Coordinating Council, please contact:

Joanne Mazzante, Training and Consultation Staff
Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21
mazzantej@cliu.org (610) 769-4111 ext. 1888

We welcome your participation in the Carbon Lehigh Transition Coordinating Council Meetings.

2025-2026 School Year Meeting Dates (9:00-11:00 AM)

- **Thursday, December 11, 2025** Zoom option only
- **Thursday, February 12, 2026** Zoom option only
- **Thursday, April 16, 2026** Zoom option only

Zoom Link - <https://cliu-org.zoom.us/j/5437586612?omn=94099533807>

PENNSYLVANIA YELLOW DOT PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania Yellow Dot Program assists citizens in the “golden hour” of emergency care following a traffic accident when they may not be able to communicate their needs themselves. Placing a Yellow Dot decal in your vehicle’s rear window alerts first responders to check your glove compartment for vital information to ensure you receive the medical attention you need. The program is a cooperative effort between PennDOT, the Department of Health and Aging, the State Police, the Turnpike Commission, first responders and local law enforcement.



YellowDot.pa.gov

THE PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK (PYLN)

Connecting a network that is led and driven by inclusive youth organizations and young adults with and without disabilities across Pennsylvania!

PYLN

The Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network (PYLN)

Advocacy. Empowerment. Leadership.

Youth Lead, Youth Driven.

pyln.org

TRANSITION PLANNING CHECKLIST

The following checklist is designed to help students receiving special education services under IDEA (2004) prepare for life after high school. Its purpose is to support individualized transition planning that reflects each student's interests and abilities, while fostering connections with local agencies and resources. This checklist can be used to guide discussion and planning during the student's annual IEP meeting to ensure a smooth and successful transition to adulthood as well as beginning to gather important documents that will be needed.

Two to Three Years Before Leaving School District:

- ☐ Continue exploring career interests and gaining work experience both within school and in the community.
- ☐ Research postsecondary education programs or job-skill training options aligned with your goals and interests.
- ☐ Practice interpersonal, communication, and social skills across different settings — school, work, recreation, and community activities.
- ☐ Strengthen independent living skills such as budgeting, cooking, shopping, housekeeping, and using transportation safely and effectively.
- ☐ Register to vote at votespa.com.
- ☐ Register for Selective Service (males only) at sss.gov.
- ☐ Apply to the **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)** to determine eligibility for employment-related supports (see page 4).
- ☐ Contact your **County Department of Human Services (DHS)** to learn about available services, supports, and waiver funding, and begin the registration process (see page 4).
- ☐ Confirm that your **Evaluation Report** is current (less than two years old) prior to graduation.

One Year Before Leaving the School District:

- ☐ Begin planning and arranging future transportation options (driver's license, public transit, ride-sharing, etc.).
- ☐ Apply for financial aid (FAFSA) and scholarships, if applicable: studentaid.gov
- ☐ Complete applications for postsecondary education, training programs, or certifications.
- ☐ Contact the **Social Security Administration (SSA)** for benefits counseling, and explore Medicare, Medicaid, or other available supports (ssa.gov).
- ☐ If appropriate, invite adult agency representatives or supports coordinator to participate in IEP meetings.
- ☐ Explore and visit adult day programs, residential living options, and respite services to prepare for life after high school.

BRIDGING SCHOOL AND ADULTHOOD: PARTNERING WITH AGENCIES

- **OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (OVR)**

www.pa.gov/services/dli/apply-for-vocational-rehabilitation-services.html

OVR assists disabled individuals with obtaining, maintaining, or advancing employment through personalized services, including vocational guidance and counseling, goal setting, creating individualized plans for employment, job placement and more. Apply online or contact counselor (see below).

- **PA Department of Labor & Industry:**

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, 45 N. 4th Street, Allentown, PA 18102
(610) 821-6441 | (800) 922-9536



- **Transition Supervisor:**

Cherrell Gaynor, cgaynor@pa.gov

- **Transition Counselors and School Districts Served:**

Samantha Catania, scatania@pa.gov

CCTI, CLAS, Emmaus, Jim Thorpe Area, LLAS, Lehigh, Northern Lehigh, Northwestern Lehigh, Palmerton, Panther Valley, Weatherly Area, Whitehall-Coplay

Kaity Carlson, kaicarlson@pa.gov

LCTI, Parkland, Salisbury Township, Southern Lehigh, William Allen

Cherrell Gaynor, cgaynor@pa.gov

ALAS, Allentown, Building 21 HS, Centennial School, Executive Education, Innovative Arts Academy, LVCA, Louis E. Dieruff HS, Roberto Clemente

Naomi Wright, naowright@pa.gov

Catasauqua Area

- **Early Reach Coordinator**

Kaitlynn Tretter, katretter@pa.gov (484) 634-2204



- **OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS (ODP)**

- **Lehigh County**

www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Human-Services/Intellectual-Disabilities

Heather Shirk, heathershirk@lehighcounty.org (610) 782-3200

- **Carbon County**

<https://www.cmpmhds.org>

Emma Furiosi, efuriosi@cmpmhds.org (610) 377-0773

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES -

LEHIGH COUNTY

Employment Supports

365Health Services	365healthservices.com	(445) 267-2516
AHEDD	ahedd.org	(570) 622-9711
Clubhouse Young Adult Transition Program.....	clubhouseoflehighcounty.org	(610) 433-9910
Easterseals Eastern PA.....	eastpa.easterseals.com	(610) 289-0114
Goodwill Keystone.....	yourgoodwill.org/services/employment-services	(800) 432-4483
Keystone Human Services	khs.org	(717) 232-7509
Lehigh Valley Career Link.....	careerlinklehighvalley.org	(610) 437-5627
Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living (LVCIL).....	lvcil.org	(610) 770-9781
PACareerlink	pacareerlink.pa.gov	
PA Inclusive.....	www.painclusive.org	
Private Industry Council of Lehigh Valley Inc.....	piclv.org	(610) 829-1244
SPIN.....	spininc.org	(484) 546-6696
Via of the Lehigh Valley	vianet.org	(610) 628-2326

Independent Living Supports

Bayada Home Health Care	bayada.com	(888) 284-9565
Beacon Specialized Living	beaconspecialized.org	(484) 246-3350
Good Shepherd Supported Independent Living Apartments	goodshephardrehab.org	(610) 841-4752
Lanta Bus	lantabus.com	(888) 253-8333
Lehigh Valley CIL	lvcil.org	(610) 770-9781
Lehigh County Housing Authority.....	lehighcountyha.org	(610) 439-8678
Lifepath.....	lifepath.org	(610) 264-5724
Lyft	lyft.com	
PA ELKS Home Service Program	paelkshomeservice.org	(814) 475-2554
PA Inclusive.....	painclusive.org	
PA Navigate	pa-navigate.org	
Parent Education Network	php.com	
Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania	parenttoparent.org	(888) 727-2706
Peal Center	pealcenter.org	(215) 567-6143
Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley	redcross.org	(610) 252-4357

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES - LEHIGH COUNTY

Independent Living Supports (continued)

Social Security Administration	ssa.gov	
SPIN	spininc.org	(484) 546-6696
Star Multi Care Services	starmulticare.com	(610) 956-8835
Team PHCA.....	teamphca.com	
Uber	uber.com	

Supports Coordination Agencies

CARE Lync.....	care-lync.com	(215) 273-6704
Family Links, Inc.	familylinks.org	(866) 583-6003
SAM Inc	sam-inc.org	(610) 419-9102
Quality Progressions	qualityprogressions.org	(610) 691-0215

Community Participation Supports (Adult Day Options)

Access Services.....	accessservices.org	(610) 377-5931
Easterseals Eastern PA	eastpa.easterseals.com	(610) 289-0114
Person Directed Supports	persondirectedsupports.com	(610) 841-4401
C.A.R.E.S (Community and Residential Empowerment Support	cares4u.org	(610) 797-2059
Community Services Group (CSG).....	csgonline.org	(877) 907-7970
Human Resources Centers, Inc.	hrcinc.org	(570) 253-3782
Kaleidoscope Family Solutions	kfamilyolutions.org	(267) 295-0320
Lifepath	lifepath.org	(610) 264-5724
Resources for Human Development	rhd.org	(484) 298-1333
SPARC Program	arcoflehighnorthampton.org	(610) 782-3200
Spectrum Community Supports..	spectrumcommunityservices.org	(484) 460-1931
SPIN	spininc.org	(610) 625-1222
Team PHCA.....	teamphca.com	
The Arc/Next Step	arcoflehighnorthampton.org	(610) 849-8076
The L.I.F.T Center	thelifftcenter.net	(484) 221-8284
Valley Youth House	valleyyouthhouse.org	
Via of the Lehigh Valley (Bethlehem).....	vianet.org	(610) 317-8000 ext. 461

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES - CARBON COUNTY

Employment Supports

AHEDD	ahedd.org	(570) 622-9711
Carbon County Career Link.....	carboncareerlink.org	(570) 325-2701
CTC Manufacturing, Inc.	ctcmanufacturing.com	(570) 454-3754
Goodwill, Keystone Area	yourgoodwill.org	(610) 904-6070
Human Resource Center, Inc.	hrcinc.org	(570) 872-9956
Keystone Human Services	khs.org	(717) 232-7509
PA Inclusive	painclusive.org	

Independent Living Supports

Anthracite Region CIL	anthracitecil.org	(570) 455-9800
Bayada Home Health Care	bayada.com	(888) 284-9565
Lyft.....	lyft.com	
Maxim Healthcare Services	maximhealthcare.com	(610) 740-3800
PA ELKS Home Service Program	paelkshomeservice.org	(814) 475-2554
PA Inclusive	painclusive.org	
PA Navigate	pa-navigate.org	
Parent Education Network	php.com	
Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania	parenttoparent.org	(888) 727-2706
Peal Center	pealcenter.org	(215) 567-6143
Red Cross	redcross.org	(610) 252-4357
Social Security Administration.....	ssa.gov	
SPIN	spininc.org	(484) 546-6696
Team PHCA.....	teamphca.com	
Uber.....	uber.com	

Supports Coordination Agencies

A Bridge to Independence.....	abridgetoindependence.org	(844) 724-3483
CARE Lync	care-lync.com	(215) 273-6704
Expert Community Care Mgt. (EECM)	eecm.org	(610) 419-9102
Family Links, Inc.....	familylinks.org	(866) 583-6003
SAM Inc.	sam-inc.org	(610) 419-9102
Quality Progressions.....	qualityprogressions.org	(610) 691-0215

Community Participation Supports (Adult Day Options)

Access Services	accessservices.org	(610) 377-5931
C.A.R.E.S (Community and Residential Empowerment Support)	cares4u.org	
Community Services Group(CSG)	csgonline.org	(877) 907-7970
Team PHCA.....	teamphca.com	

PA ABLE

PA ABLE is a tax-advantaged way for disabled Pennsylvanians and their families to save for disability-related expenses while maintaining government disability benefits.



PA ABLE allows for up to \$18,000 in savings per year and up to \$100,000 total without impacting means-tested benefits. Funds are easy to access and may be used for a wide range of expenses. PA ABLE is helping Pennsylvanians with a disability to Achieve a Better Life Experience. For eligibility information and details, visit paable.gov or call (855) 529-2253.



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Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21

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Schnecksville, PA 18078
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 facebook.com/CarbonLehighIntermediateUnit21
 youtube.com/user/CarbonLehigh  [@CLIU21](https://twitter.com/CLIU21)

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