

Transition Planning for Youth

Preparing for Life as an Adult

Information



Assistance



Advocacy



Congratulations



your 18th birthday marks an important milestone of life. The transition from youth to adult services can be a big change. ADRC is here to help and this guide is your place to go. Below are the topics covered in this guide!

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process of transitioning from youth to adult programs doesn't happen all at once. There is a timeline you can follow to help you understand what steps to complete during the process.



Before Age 17.5

You will want to start thinking about the transition from youth to adult services. This process includes being determined eligible for Adult Long-Term Care Programs. Helpful information to determine eligibility can include documents such as: medical records, IEPs, psychological evaluations, or IQ scores.

Before Age 17.5

• Contact the ADRC to work with an Adult Disability Resource Specialist.
• Help with the process by:
• Completing the Adult Long-Term Care Functional Screen
• Determining Medicaid eligibility
• Applying for Long-Term Care Program services, if eligible
• Exploring other options if not eligible

At Age 18

The month you turn 18, you can:

- Enroll in a Long-Term Care Program if found eligible
- Apply for adult Social Security benefits
- Switch to adult healthcare providers
- Set up Supported Decision Making or Power of Attorneys for Healthcare and Finance

By Age 21

You should be transitioned to adult services. Make note that it is the last year you can receive Special Education in school, if not already completed. If you are not eligible for Special Education, you may be eligible for CITS if you are not eligible for Special Education.

...you have a right to make your own legal decisions. Your parents no longer have legal responsibility over your medical or financial affairs - regardless of the severity of your disability.

Some of the rights and responsibilities that you have after age 18 that you did not have as a child:

- You have the right to vote, and you may also be chosen to serve for jury duty.
- You have the right to make a contract, such as renting an apartment, taking out a loan, or buying a car, but if the contract is not fulfilled, you may be sued.
- You have the right to be completely independent from parental control, as your parents are no longer legally responsible to provide your support.

Guardianship...What Is It and Who Needs It

Guardianship is a legal relationship created by a court when an individual is unable to make their own decisions regarding their personal welfare, their finances, or both. A guardian is someone a court appoints to make decisions for you if you cannot. This could be a family member or friend, a volunteer who isn't related to you, or a professional.

You may need a guardian if you meet the legal guidelines for "incompetence." Incompetence means you cannot make decisions.

- You cannot tell others what you decide for some or all your decisions.
- You are at risk of harm if no one is appointed to make decisions for you.

Inform your guardian what you want. Your guardian will consider your wishes when making decisions. Guardianship is often permanent.

Even if you have a guardian, you still have rights they cannot remove. A guardian can only do what the court allows. There are two types of guardian roles. You may have one or both types of guardians. They can be the same person or different people.

Guardian of the person - Makes some or all your decisions about personal choices. Examples include medical care, supportive services or where to live.

Guardian of the estate - Makes some or all your decisions about property or money, and financial events about property or money. They can apply for public benefits on your behalf.

Guardians have certain duties. These duties include the following:

- When acting as a guardian, exercise care, diligence, and good faith;
- Be an advocate for the ward's best interest;
- Provide fidelity and loyalty to the ward; and
- Notify the court of any change of address of the ward or guardian.

Guardians may only exercise those powers granted by them by the court. All wards under guardianship, such as providing input into support services, associating with those of their choice, refusing services, withholding consent for mental health, alcohol or substance treatment, and communicating with their attorney, elected officials, and our state advocacy agency, Disability Rights Virginia. The process of appointing a guardian includes:

- Filing a petition with the court;
- The completion of a competency evaluation by a physician or a psychologist;
- A court hearing.

document that allows a person to share information about you with other people or organizations. They can access your information. You also decide what and how much information they can access.

Decision-Making Agreement

Decision-making is when you choose trusted people (supporters) to help you make decisions. They get information, compare options, and let others know about your choices. Supporters must be family members and/or friends.

Your chosen supporter must both sign a Supported Decision-Making Agreement. The agreement must be signed by you, your supporters, and health care providers include your supporter. The agreement does not restrict your rights. Rather, it is a formal way for supporters to agree to help you.

This type of agreement is for different decisions. Examples include decisions about health, education, and finances. You can have more than one agreement if you want different supporters to help you with different decisions.

This document tells doctors what to do when you cannot tell them. You share how and why you want to live. You also say which treatments are okay, such as a feeding tube.

Attorney for Health Care

An attorney for health care is a legal document. In the document, you choose a person (your attorney) to make decisions for you. They only make these decisions if at least two health care providers say you cannot make decisions for yourself. At least one of the providers must be a doctor.

Your attorney can make health care decisions on your behalf, but they cannot apply for public benefits for you.

Attorney for Finances

An attorney for finances is a legal document. In the document, you choose a person (your attorney) to manage your money for you. When you sign the document, you do not give up your rights. Instead, your attorney can make decisions about your money and property. Your attorney can apply for public benefits for you.

Representative Payee

You can appoint a representative payee (rep payee) to help you manage Social Security or Supplemental Security Income benefits. The Social Security Administration may also appoint a rep payee if they determine you cannot manage your benefits.

The rep payee has access to your bank account. They can use your benefits to pay rent, food, medical bills, and other expenses. They must complete a report each year to show they used your money for your needs.

Conservatorship

A court can appoint a conservator for you if you are unable or unwilling to manage your money. You may choose who you want to act for you, or you can ask the court to appoint a professional. You can ask the court to end the conservatorship and allow you to manage your own money again at any time.

A conservator has the same powers and duties as a guardian of the estate. They must write regular reports to the court about how they manage your money for you.

Use of Decision-Making Agreement	Supported Decision-Making Agreement	Living Will	Power of Attorney for Health Care	Power of Attorney for Finances	Representa- tive Payee	Conserva- torship	Gua-
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RITY
CES

DU LAC

Suite 100
WI 54935

717-1526

50-3741

UKESHA

Street
WI 53186

772-1213

97-0052

RTAGE

Suite 100
WI 53901

875-1681

50-2495

T BEND

Street
WI 53090

655-0843

50-3065

Starting the month of your 18th birthday you can apply for Social Security benefits. There are two types that you can apply for. Your age, income, assets, work history, current benefit status, will determine which program you qualify for. You could qualify for both.

SSI (Supplemental Security Income):

Is a monthly income given to individuals with a disability and low income and assets. SSI can be awarded to children. To meet the eligibility criteria for SSI and have a determination regarding your disability, there are income and asset criteria that need to be met. Children have different disability determination criteria than adults do and therefore require a transition plan to get an adult disability determination.

- Receiving SSI child disability benefit: you may not have to apply for SSI at age 18. In most cases a redetermination occurs automatically. However, it is best practice to check with your field office 3 months before 18th birthday to verify.
- Not receiving SSI benefit: you should apply for this benefit the month of your 18th birthday. Anytime before that month your parent/guardian's income will be counted as available.

SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance):

Is a monthly income given to individuals with a disability who have worked in the past and have paid social security taxes through their job earnings. A secondary benefit can be awarded to a disabled child (DAC) or spouse off of a person's work record.

- Receiving SSDI benefit: as a teenager, this means you can receive this benefit off of another person's work record such as a parent. Contact your SSA field office before your 18th birthday.
- Not receiving SSDI benefit: you may be eligible off of a parent's work record if determined disabled between the ages of 18-24. Contact your local field office to apply for DAC (Disabled Adult Child) benefits if any of your parents are retired, disabled, or deceased.

You can apply for SSI and SSDI at the same time.

C in Wisconsin has a Disability Benefit Specialist (DBS). They provides b to people ages 17.5 to 59 with any type of disability. A DBS has extens of public benefits at the state and federal level and can help individ lve issues and determine eligibility.

- Paying for state & federal benefits
- Understand benefit rules & eligibility
- Payment advocacy & assistance
- A grievance or fair hearing
- Reversing denial of benefits
- Coordinating multiple benefits
- Renewal of benefits
- Transportation assistance

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People with disability depend on public benefits for income, health care, and other needs. These benefits often have limits on the amount of money a person can earn or receive. These rules can make it difficult for you and your family to save money.



NATIONAL
RESOURCE
CENTER

Save & protect money with an ABLÉ Account
www.ablenrc.org

Preserve savings with a Special Needs Trust



Healthcare is part of the transition from youth to adult services. This process involves switching doctors from those who specialize in child medicine to those who specialize on adults. If you already have an adult or family doctor, your care will shift to an adult approach.

When you reach adulthood, you will manage your healthcare as independently as possible. With support, you decide who you would like to involve in your care. This could be your parents, caregivers, or other informal supports in your healthcare.

Some other suggestions to assist you with transitioning

Regularly updating your evaluations and assessments, and keep your records safe and secure.

Thinking and talking about transition from pediatric to adult health care with your providers. Talk with your pediatrician, and see if they can recommend an adult provider.

Consider creating a summary of your healthcare, including physicians, diagnoses, etc.

What is a healthcare summary?

A healthcare summary is a tool to help you smoothly transition into adult care. It helps you to stay organized when you go to meet with new providers. If you use an app such as MyChart, your information may already be securely stored. If you are able to use these tools, you may not need a summary.

Information important to you may include contact information, emergency information, diagnoses, medications,



Wisconsin have access to health insurance. It may come from either what you can afford. You may get coverage through:
employer or your parent's employer (until you are age 26)
Marketplace
private market
or Medicaid

Medicaid?

Medicaid programs financed jointly by federal and state governments. Medicaid covers medical and hospital bills, prescription drug costs, and other health care costs for low-income families, pregnant women, mothers and children, at-risk seniors, and people with disabilities. Each state has its own rules for how to structure benefits, eligibility, service delivery, and payment rates, but all are established by federal law.

What Does Medicaid Cover?

• Services at Hospital or Clinic
• Transportation or gas mileage
• Home care
• Health Services
• Medical Equipment
• Long-term care coverage

- Long-Term Care Services
- Speech, Physical or Occupational Therapy
- Home health
- Emergency Services
- Vision coverage

Medicaid?

Medicaid rules for Medicaid are complex, and vary from state to state. Each state has its own eligibility criteria that are linked to age, income, assets and family or disability status. There are many types of Medicaid that you or your family with disabilities could be eligible for:

Medicaid: for individuals age 0-64 with low income.

Medicaid: for children under the age of 19 with a disability or chronic health needs.

Medicaid/Adoption Medicaid: for children under age 18 that are placed in foster care or adoption setting. Coverage will extend to age 26.

Medicaid: for any individual receiving SSI.

Medicaid: for individuals that are elderly (age 65+), blind or disabled.

Simple. Convenient. Secure.

Download the
MyACCESS

To learn more, go to

the.wisconsin.gov/myaccess

Forward
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about what kind of work you would like to pursue after high school is an important part of transition planning. You may find that the career you are seeking requires a certain level of education. There are resources available for you to attend college if you would like.

Ask yourself these questions:

Do I want to go to college?

What are my career goals?

What are my strengths, preferences, and interests?

What accommodations will I need to attend college courses?

Are there some of my favorite classes in High School?

Want to stay involved in your transition process. Plan early if you intend to pursue higher education. Make sure you maintain high academic standards throughout high school. Skills such as time management, self-advocacy, and independence are important to your success in higher education. For more information, request a copy of *Opening Doors to Postsecondary Education and Training*, a handbook developed for students with disabilities transitioning into higher education.

Educational Resources

Moraine Park Technical College

208 (Local) · 800-472-4554 (Toll Free)
1500 South Street, Beaver Dam 53916
morainepark.edu

Madison Area Technical College

General Fort Atkinson Information

208 (Local) · 800-322-6282, Ext. 8000 (Toll Free)
1500 South Street, Fort Atkinson 53538
madison.edu/fort-atkinson-campus

General Watertown Information

920-206-8000
1500 South Main Street, Watertown 53098
madison.edu/watertown-campus



Other Educational Resources

- ◆ **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)** - assistance for students with disabilities in achieving employment goals
- ◆ **Disability Service Offices** - provide on-campus support at universities and tech schools for students with disabilities
- ◆ **Social Security** - offers income support for students with disabilities

your teacher about getting some work experience while you are still in school. Your work goals should be talked about in your IEP meetings (Individualized Education Program) before you turn 18. Your teacher may recommend you working with a vocational rehabilitation counselor.

Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

A State program designed to help persons with disabilities reach their work goals.

DVR support work goals?

you find, keep or get a better job
to services that support you at work
training and technical assistance to employers

DVR Office:

42-4800 or Toll Free: 1-800-422-7138
08-242-4868
Henry Street Suite 1
Mer Dam 53916
Website: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/>



Will I Lose Any Benefits if I Work?

Programs like SSI, Medicaid, Foodshare or subsidized housing all have income guidelines for income. There are specialists that can help sort through each program's rules.

Wives Benefit Specialists (WIBS)

Wives Benefit Specialists offer support to people with disabilities by helping them make informed decisions about employment. They help people understand how to qualify for benefits from working, and explain special rules about returning to work. They also help people understand how their work and earnings can affect their disability benefits. For more information, see the [Full Work Incentive Benefit Analysis](#).

Get a Work Incentive Benefit Analysis?

	Requests can be made to your vocational counselor
Work program	Website: www.ssa.gov/work/ Phone: 866-968-7842 or TTY: 866-833-2967
SSA or IRIS Program	Requests can be made to your care manager
Payment	Website: http://eri.wi.org/services/benefits-counseling

...a services that allow people to function as independent as possible at school, at work, and in the community are known as Assistive Technology.

Assistive Technology includes:

...airs and motorized scooters
...aids
...rs and other visual aids
...ers with modifications

- Control/switches for lights, door, appliances
- Vehicles with lifts or hand controls
- Home modifications (for example, kitchen or bath redesign, ramps, widened ways)



... program provides information on selecting, calling and using assistive technology. The these services for Dodge County residents is **dependence, Inc.**

Device Demonstration Centers provide:
... assistance regarding selecting and trying
...riety of assistive technology devices
...nsumers to manufacturers and funding

...ns are short-term loans of assistive technology
...the purpose of:
...in the decision-making process of finding the
...ropriate equipment
...as loaner equipment
...g short-term accommodations

...ns are available at the regional independent
...rs. Loans are available to people with
...their families, employers, service providers and
...interested.

...n and Telework programs offer loans for
...h technology, home modifications, vehicle
...s, and accommodations for employment. The
...people buy equipment such as hearing aids,
...hicles, wheelchairs and ramps, computers
...ations, environmental controls, alternative
...tion devices, and home accessibility
...ns. Applications are completed through the
...nt living center, Access to Independence,
...nt independent living center.

The Independent Living Center Dodge County



Phone: 608-242-
Toll Free: 800-36-
Videophone: 608-
Fax: 608-242-

3810 Milwaukee
Madison, WI 5

Email us at
info@accesstoind.org



Check out the
listing of devices
for short term

your housing options. Know how to get the support you need and want.



Housing Options



Independent Apartments and Homes

Independent apartments and homes are where people live on their own. With roommates or with family members. You can rent or own. You can have in-home care, but you manage it separately from your housing. You pay rent, food and utilities such as electricity and heat with your income. If you own your home, you pay for home maintenance with your income. Long-term care programs can pay for your supports and services.

Supervised & Supported Apartments

Supervised apartments (also known as supported living) are living units in a building that have staff on site. Usually, others who live in the building are adults with disabilities. You get support and services, but they may not be available at all hours. You can live alone or with roommates. You may be able to choose your roommate, or others can help you find a roommate. You pay rent, utilities, and food with your income. Long-term care programs can pay for your supports and services.

Adult Family Homes

Adult family homes are homes where one or more people with disabilities live. An agency or individual provides supports and services. The home you live in may be where the owner or operator lives. You get support from staff, but they may not be available at all hours. They may or may not live in your home with you. They ensure your needs are met. Others set up your roommate(s) and help you. You pay room and board (rent, utilities, food) with your income. Long-term care programs can pay for your supports and services.

Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF)

Community-based residential facilities are where five or more people who have disabilities live. You get support and services from staff who are available 24 hours a day. Others set up your roommate(s) and staff for you. You pay for room and board with your income. Long-term care programs can pay for your supports and services.

onsin there are various programs that may help reduce
t of your rent. These programs are available for people
less money and qualify. Some of these programs include:

(on 42)- Income restrictions/ requirements based on household size. Rent

(on 8)- Rent assistance approved property. Income must fall within guidelines
is based off income. You would work with the Dodge County Housing Authority
you qualify.

Income based. Rent is based on 30% of monthly gross income.

For the most recent Dodge County Affordable Housing list, you may contact:

ADRC of Dodge County at:

920-386-3580 or 800-924-6407

**CENTRAL WISCONSIN
COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL, INC.**

920-885-9559

134 Spring Street
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

to help people get and stay
out of poverty.

Website: www.cwcac.org



920-386-2866

491 East Center Street
Juneau, WI

Email: info@dodgehousing.org

Website: www.dodgehousing.org



608-742-5329

2900 Red Fox Run
Portage, WI 53901

Website: www.renewalunlimited.net



920-887-7990

107 Henry Street, Suite 1
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Website: www.esiwi.com

Programs often include additional expenses for utilities such as water, electricity, etc. The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) can help pay for heating and electric bills. To qualify, you must meet certain income

become an adult, you may want to apply for an adult long-term care program if you have a disability or lasting medical condition. These programs require both functional and financial eligibility.

Functional eligibility is determined by the completion of a functional assessment. The goal of the screen is to determine the level of supports and services you may need.

Financial eligibility is obtained by qualifying for Medicaid. You may already have Medicaid or need to apply for it.

Long-term care programs provide services and supports that help you live safely, work, and join in your community. Dodge County residents have several adult long-term care programs to choose from.

Family Care - A program for adults with disabilities and older adults. Participants receive a range of long-term care services through the program. You use your Medicaid for health and medical services. You have a care team that sets up your care. You can also choose to self-direct some services.

Family Care Partnership - A program for adults with disabilities and older adults. Participants get a range of long-term care, health and medical services through the program. You have a care team that sets up your care. You can also choose to self-direct some services.

IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct) - A fully self-directed program for adults with disabilities and older adults. Participants of IRIS decide what goods, supports, and services will help meet their needs and goals. After you enroll, you get a budget to purchase those goods, supports, and services. You use your Medicaid for health and medical services and prescription drugs. You have an IRIS consultant to help you understand the program and rules you must follow as you self-direct your supports.

heard on issues that matter to them.
k to protect and promote people's
ile encouraging others to consider
on's views and wishes when making
cisions that affect their lives.

Family Assistance Center for tion, Training, & Support)

ion is to provide and broaden
s that enhance the quality of
ren and adults with disabilities
families, with emphasis on
underserved families in the

877-374-0511

Wifacets.org

. Virginia Street, Suite 501
Milwaukee, WI 53204

Disability Rights Wisconsin

enges systems and society to
ositive changes in the lives of
n disabilities and their families.

608-267-0214

Disabilityrightswi.org

1502 W Broadway
Monona, WI 53713

erves as the Family Care and
m ombudsmen for individuals
who are enrolled in one of
ograms and experiencing
r challenges.



Family Voices of Wisconsin

The mission of Family Voices of Wisconsin is to advance comprehensive health and community support based on professional partnerships and family principles that assure the health and well-being of children and youth with healthcare needs or disabilities and their families.

608-512-0217

Familyvoiceswi.org

PO Box 5070

Madison, WI 53705

ABC For Health (Advocacy & Counseling for Health, Inc.)

ABC for Health's mission is to provide care consumers with the services and information they need to navigate a complex health care financing system.

608-261-6939

Safetyweb.org

32 N Bassett St









Henry Dodge Office Building
199 County Road DF - 3rd Floor
Juneau, Wisconsin 53039

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
9:00 am - 4:30 pm or
by appointment

Follow us on
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Dodge County ADRC



Call us to talk to an Aging and Disability Resource Specialist

Phone: 920-386-3580 or 800-924-6407

Fax: 920-386-4015

Email: adrc@co.dodge.wi.us

Visit us on the web at: www.co.dodge.wi.gov

ADRC MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Dodge County is to provide information, assistance, and advocacy for older adults and adults with disabilities; our mission is to link them with resources and services which help them live independently and with dignity.

