

Hocking County Transition From School To Community Resource Guide 2009

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Last updated 2-09.

Transition from School to Community

If your child is on an IEP and is 13 years of age, it is now time to start thinking about the transition from school to community. At age 14, your IEP team should begin to include your child. Between age 14 and 16, the team will begin discussing transition and writing goals with this in mind.

You can begin working now to move forward on other aspects of daily living: income, employment, health coverage, and other support services. It's never too early to make plans for your child's future. Here are some recommendations:

Finances/Income

To get **Social Security** Children's benefits, a child must have:

- A parent(s) who is disabled or retired and entitled to Social Security benefits; or
- A parent who died after having worked long enough in a job where he or she paid Social Security taxes.

The child also must be:

- Unmarried;
- Younger than 18;
- 18-19 years old and a full-time student (no higher than grade 12); or 18 or older and disabled. (The disability must have started before age 22.)

Another type of benefit is **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**. SSI makes monthly payments to people with low income and limited resources who are 65 or older, or blind or disabled. Your child under age 18 can qualify if he or she meets Social Security's definition of disability for children, and if his or her income and resources fall within the eligibility limits. Prior to attainment of age 18, the parent(s) income is also considered when determining eligibility.

Health Care/Insurance

If your child is covered under your medical insurance, check with the company to see **AT WHAT AGE** your child will no longer be covered. Coverage may end at a certain age or when they leave school.

One problem with losing SSI at age 18 (or when leaving school) is that you may **ALSO LOSE MEDICAID**. If your child requires uninterrupted medical coverage, you may not want to allow their Medicaid to lapse, and may want to ensure their adult Social Security application is completed six months before then.

Apply for the **Ohio Home Care Waiver** through Job & Family Services if your child either needs assistance to live independently or needs services like home health care, accessibility, nursing care, and respite.

Employment

A referral to the **Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)** can be made two years prior to exiting school. If you have goals related to employment, make sure BVR is invited to your IEP meetings.

Employment services available at the **Job Service Center include:** WIA Youth Program, Job search, Job Club, Computer training, Resume writing assistance, etc.

MR/DD

AS SOON AS your child becomes involved with the **Hocking County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD)**, you need to have their name placed on various waiting lists. Specialists in this field recommend placing your child's name on these waiting lists AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (age 4 is NOT too early). Request a Support Services Administrator (SSA) to assist you.

If your child might benefit from employment at the sheltered workshop /day support services (**Hocking Valley Industries**) their name needs to be on that waiting list ASAP.

If your child may need assistance to live independently, apply for the **Individual Options (IO) Waiver and/or the Level One Waiver (LOW)** through **MR/DD**. [Waivers can pay for services like homemaker/personal care, medical equipment, accessibility changes, or respite.] The Medicaid card comes with the waiver so services such as nursing care may be covered as well.

Remember that MR/DD also offers **Family Support Services** to eligible consumers, which provides limited funding assistance to the family, as long as the child is living with the parents.

Mental Health

If your child or adolescent receives **case management** they will NOT necessarily qualify for case management as an adult. You may want to begin the conversation now about who will follow your child. If your child may need to see a **psychiatrist**, remember there is often a waiting list for that service.

Transportation

Your child can, with your help, learn to use public transit independently. Contact **Logan Public Transit** to apply for **Disability Discount Card**.

If there are any questions about your child's ability to drive, it is usually a medical doctor who makes the final decision.

Drivers training and vehicle modification assessments are available at OSU -Dodd Hall at 614-293-3833 for an hourly fee.

Financial Skills

OSU Extension offers several kinds of budgeting education. **The Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL)** offers basic finance class.

If you have access to a computer, there are a number of online resources that teach financial skills, including "Practical Money Skills," "Money Pals: Being Cool with Cash," and "I Know Where I'm Going (But Will My Cash Keep Up?)"

If you search online for FDIC Money Smart, you can find a "free, award-winning financial education program created to help adults develop money-management skills." And one version is a self-paced computer program!

Facts Regarding Your Child's Status

At 18 years a child becomes an adult and can legally make their own decisions.

Upon 22-year birth date a child must exit school.

Private health insurance ceases to cover a child at 18 -23 years based on school status.

Waiting lists for housing and other supports have waiting time of years.

Gateways to Benefits

Social Security Office

***Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)** benefits for adults disabled since childhood:

The SSDI program pays benefits to adults who have a disability that began before they became 22 years old. This SSDI benefit is considered as a “child’s” benefit because it is paid on a parent’s Social Security earnings record.

For a disabled adult to become entitled to this “child” benefit, one of his or her parents:

- Must be receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits; or
- Must have died and have worked long enough under Social Security.

These benefits also are payable to an adult who received dependents benefits on a parent’s Social Security earnings record prior to age 18, if he or she is disabled at age 18. The disability decision is made using the disability rules for adults.

SSDI disabled adult “child” benefits continue as long as the individual remains disabled. A child does not need to have worked to get these benefits.

***Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** payments for children with disabilities: SSI makes monthly payments to people with low income and limited resources who are 65 or older, or blind or disabled. A child under age 18 can qualify if he or she meets Social Security’s definition of disability for children, and if his or her income and resources fall within the eligibility limits. The amount of the SSI payment is different from one state to another because some states add to the SSI payment. Your local Social Security office can tell you more about your state’s total SSI payment.

***Medicare**

www.medicare.gov

Medicare is a health insurance program for:

- people age 65 or older,
- people under age 65 with certain disabilities, and
- people of all ages with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

Gateway to Apply:

Fairfield County 740-689-2936

Toll Free 1-800-772-1213

252 Venture Place

Lancaster Ohio 43130

Online at www.socialsecurity.gov

Hocking County Department of Health

***Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh):**

Children who are 0-21 years of age, permanent residents of Ohio, under the care of a BCMH approved doctor, and who have or may have a chronic medical condition are eligible for the program. Financial eligibility is required for the Treatment Program only.

Gateway to apply

(740) 385-3030

132 Hocking Mall

Logan, Ohio 43138

www.hockingcountyhealthdepartment.com

Hocking County Job and Family Services

The adult services unit determines eligibility for Medicaid, food stamps, assistance with Medicare expenses, and disability assistance for disabled adults with no minor children in the home and for aged individuals. Determines eligibility for passport and waiver services as well as Medicaid for nursing home residents. JFS staff may also act as an SSI advocate to guide a disabled person through the Social Security system in an effort to get benefits approved.

***Medicaid**

www.cms.hhs.gov

Medicaid is health insurance that helps many people who can't afford medical care pay for some or all of their medical bills. Medicaid is available only to people with limited income. You must meet certain requirements in order to be eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid does not pay money to you; instead, it sends payments directly to your health care providers.

***Home and Community Based Services Waivers**
www.jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/bcps/FactSheets/HCBS.pdf

Home and Community Based Services Waivers provide alternatives to institutional long-term care. Without waivers many consumers would live in a hospital, nursing home, or Institutional Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR)

***Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities**
www.jfs.ohio.gov.OHP/bcps/FactSheets/MBIWD.pdf

The Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD) program allows individuals with disabilities who are working to qualify for Medicaid with higher income and resource limits, and buy into Medicaid by paying a reasonable premium based on income. Ohioans between the ages of 16 and 64 with a disability (as defined by the Social Security Administration) who are earning up to 250 percent (\$26,000 in 2008) of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible. Individuals with higher incomes should still apply because income disregards, deductions, credits, and work expenses are considered in determining financial eligibility.

Gateway to apply for these benefits and more:
Hocking County Job and Family Services
740-385-5663
Toll Free 800-599-6935
350 State Route 664 North
Logan, Ohio 43138

Center of Vocational Alternatives (COVA)

Provides assistance to those who want to become or stay employed by determining how benefits will be affected by earned income. The goal is to enable individuals to maximize their current or potential benefits from sources such as Social Security, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and others while becoming or staying employed.

Gateway:
www.cova.org
(614) 294-7117
Toll free (877-521-2682)

Additional Resources:

Ohio Benefit Bank

A web-based computer program to connect low and moderate-income Ohioans with access to work supports such as tax credits and public benefits. Check potential eligibility for benefits such as home health coverage, home energy assistance, food stamps, etc.

Gateway:

www.obb.ohio.gov

(1-800-648-1176)

Also available at the Hocking County Job Service Center

740-380-1454 and Tri-County Community Action Program

740-385-6813

Benefits Check Up

Find benefits programs that help pay for prescription drugs, health care, rent, utilities, and other needs.

Gateway:

www.benefitscheckup.org

Hocking County Family & Children First Council

The council is designed to assist families and agencies in the coordination of services for our youth.

Gateway

740-380-2446

www.hockingfamilies.org

Gateways to Employment

Logan-Hocking Schools

Director of Special Education
Carrie Cook-Porter
740-385-8517

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation

The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) and Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) help people with disabilities get or keep a job. The Bureau of Disability Determination (BDD) determines eligibility for Social Security disability benefits or Supplemental Security Income.

Gateway:

www.rsc.ohio.gov
1-800-248-4378

Hocking County Job Service Center

***Job Seekers Services**

Job seekers will receive services from professionally trained and courteous staff. Services include; information on careers and trends, listings of job openings, career counseling, employment seminars, resume preparation, job club, GED instruction, computer classes, and much more.

***WIA Youth**

A program facilitated through The Hocking County Job Service Center for youth 14 -21 years. One of the goals for the younger youth population is school retention to prevent dropout. All youth applicants must meet federally established financial and barriers to success in order to qualify.

This training program better prepares teens for job placement and long-term career success. Specifically it provides assessments in academic skills and assistance in improving them as well as job readiness skills through:

Gateway:

740-380-1545
Toll Free 866-882-9500
389 West Front Street
Logan, Ohio 43138
www.hocking1stopjobs.com

Tri-County Adult Career Center

Offers job seeking skills training, employability assessment and training, specialized skills training, certificate programs, continuing education courses, and workshops to assist adults in upgrading or retaining job skills. A representative will be on-site as needed to conduct job seeking skill classes.

Gateway:

Mary Able, Business and Industry Coordinator

15676 State Route 691

Nelsonville, Ohio 45764

(800) 637-6508 Ext. 3

(740) 753-5129 Fax

Hocking Valley Industries (MRDD)

Paid work experiences through a variety of assembly, packaging and collating contracts in a supported work environment. Services include various evaluations and assessment, job seeking skills training, on-the-job training opportunities and employment at area cleaning contract worksites.

The Employment Connection provides job seeking skills training, job development and placement, job coaching and follow- along services.

Gateway:

Hocking Valley Industries

1369 East Front St

Logan, Ohio 43138

740-385-2118

www.hockingcountymrdd.org

Integrated Services of Appalachian

Offers job seeking skills training, job placement and job coaching services. The primary customer base for this organization is obtained through referrals made by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (BVR/BSVI). A staff person will be on-site at Hocking County Job Services Center on an as needed basis.

Gateway:

Ella Fouch

389 West Front Street

Logan, Ohio 43138

740-380-1545 extension 237

Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities

www.jfs.ohio.gov.OHP/bcps/FactSheets/MBIWD.pdf

The Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD) program allows individuals with disabilities who are working to qualify for Medicaid with higher income and resource limits, and buy into Medicaid by paying a reasonable premium based on income.

Ohioans between the ages of 16 and 64 with a disability (as defined by the Social Security Administration) who are earning up to 250 percent (\$26,000 in 2008) of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible. Individuals with higher incomes should still apply because income disregards, deductions, credits, and work expenses are considered in determining financial eligibility.

Gateway:

Hocking County Job and Family Services

740-385-5663

Toll Free 800-599-6935

350 State Route 664 North

Logan, Ohio 43138

Post-secondary schooling:

Hocking College

3301 Hocking Parkway Nelsonville, Ohio 45764

877-462-5464

740-753-3591

Ohio University

120 Chubb Hall | Athens, Ohio 45701-2979

740-593-4100

Other Colleges and Universities

Consult websites based on academic interest.

Supporting Services:

Ohio High School High Tech

www.ohsht.org

Designed to provide young adults between the ages of 14-22, with all types of disabilities, the opportunity to explore jobs or postsecondary education leading to technology-related careers within science, technology, engineering and math.

Job Accommodation Network

www.jan.wvu.edu

Designed to increase the employability of people with disabilities by: 1) providing individualized worksite accommodations solutions, 2) providing technical assistance regarding the ADA and other disability related legislation, and 3) educating callers about self-employment options.

National Center for Learning Disabilities

www.nclld.org

Successful transition to college for students with learning disabilities.

College Financial Aid

School guidance counselors are the best local source of information.

Federal student aid applications must be submitted by June 30th of the high school senior year. Corrections via the internet are due September 15th. More information can be obtained at the federal aid website www.fafsa.ed.gov or call 1-800-433-3243.

Individual schools will have their own deadlines for assistance. Students need to be certain to get their applications completed and mailed in on time to be considered for financial aid. Remember that the due date could be the date that the application is received or it could be the date that the application is processed. Be sure you ask. If the due date is the date the application is processed it would need to be to the school before that date.

State of Ohio student aid applications for the 2009-2010 school year are due October 1, 2009 for high school seniors graduating in 2010.

The Ohio information hotline is 1-877-428-8246 or go to www.regents.ohio.gov.

Other information may be found at:

www.college-scholarships.com

www.easyaid.com/ohio-financial-aid.html

www.studentloans.com/ohio-student-loans.cfm

Residential Options:

Hocking Metropolitan Housing Authority

Helps low-income families and individuals in Hocking County obtain suitable and affordable housing through the Housing Choice Voucher Program, a long-term rental assistance program. An individual that receives a Voucher rents a home on the private market (owned by someone other than the Housing Authority). On this program you are responsible to locate your own rental unit. The rent that the household is responsible for is based on a percentage of the income for the entire household. The Housing Authority will pay the remainder of the rent directly to the landlord.

- To be placed on the waiting list for assistance you must complete a pre-application

Gateway:
50 South High Street
Logan, Ohio 43138
740-385-3883

Subsidized Apartments (for persons with disabilities and seniors)

Rent based on 30% of adjusted annual income.

For a listing of these apartments contact:

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living **740-380-1545 ext. 246**

Group Homes

Contact Hocking County MRDD
740-385-6805
1369 East Front St
Logan, Ohio 43138
www.hockingcountymrdd.org

Residential State Supplement (RSS)

www.goldenbuckeye.com

Residential State Supplement (RSS) provides a monetary supplement to adults with disabilities 18 years or older who meet eligibility requirements who do not require nursing home care. The supplement, along with the consumer's income, pays for an approved living arrangement. RSS participants must live in a certified Adult Foster Home, licensed Adult Family Home, licensed Adult Group Home, licensed Residential Care Facility, certified Community Mental Health Housing or licensed Mental Health Residential Facility.

Dormitory

Contact the Disability Services Department of the college you are planning to attend to insure accessibility needs are met.

Additional Resources:

Housing Locator

www.ohiohousinglocator.org

Free online rental housing locator that allows visitors to search for affordable, accessible rental housing statewide.

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL)

SOCIL offers a wide variety of services. Our goal is to assist people with disabilities to live with the maximum degree of independence in their community.

Gateway:

www.socil.org

Operating out of the Job Service Center

389 West Front Street

Logan, Ohio 43138

740-380-1545 extension 246

Day Placement:

Samaritan Center

740-687-3634

228 West Hubert Street

Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Provides activities, social interaction and nursing services in a nurturing environment for adults who need socialization, supervision and assistance during the day.

Twin Maples Adult Day Care

740-596-5955

30154 State Route 93

McArthur, Ohio 45651

Hocking County MRDD –Hocking Valley Industries

740-385-2118

1369 East Front Street

Logan, Ohio 43138

www.hockingcountymrdd.org

The adult day supports component of the program focus on the development of communication, self-care, social skills, and recreational pursuits.

Legal Issues/Advocacy

Guardianship

A child automatically becomes their own legal guardian upon age 18 years. Any court intervention to alter this status takes approximately 3 months.

For details on the guardianship process go to:

Ohio Legal Rights Services

www.olrs.ohio.gov

(1-800-282-9181)

Alternatives to Guardianship

Guardianship is a serious step that interferes with many or all of the legal interests and rights of the person with a disability, Rethink the need for guardianship in its traditional purpose and assist people to find the assistance they need in making decisions and managing their lives using the same resources available to all community members. Reject the idea that because a person has an intellectual or physical disability, he or she is automatically incompetent and requires a guardian. Understand that all people receive assistance from family, friends and/or paid professionals when making major life decisions. Support people to put alternatives to guardianship in place, preferably prior to the need for such assistance:

- **Representative Payeeship:** If the only significant income an individual receives is a monthly Supplemental Security Income check, it may not be necessary for the person to have a guardian of the estate. A representative payee may be able to handle relevant financial matters for the person.
- **Power of Attorney:** Signed by a competent person, it authorizes another person to act on his or her behalf in certain acts and/or certain periods of time.
- **Trust:** In a trust, a trustee holds and manages money or property for the benefit of the person.
- **Conservatorship:** A person who is mentally competent but has a physical disability may ask a court to appoint a conservator to handle specific matters.

If a person already has a guardian, make every effort to assure that the guardianship is limited and specific in scope. Review at least annually and request the guardianship be relinquished as soon as other supports are in place. When choosing a lawyer always make sure the lawyer is familiar with public policy as it pertains to persons with disabilities.

Ohio Legal Rights Services

www.olrs.ohio.gov

(1-800-282-9181)

OLRS is the state protection and advocacy system for Ohioans with disabilities. If you think you have been abused or neglected, discriminated against, denied services or been unable to access public facilities, you should contact the OLRs Intake Department.

Southeastern Ohio Legal Services

www.oslsa.org

(740-653-7705)

The Lancaster office of SEOLS helps low-income individuals with civil legal problems in Fairfield and Hocking Counties.

Legal Clinic

www.fairfieldcountybar.com/legal_clinic_2006.htm

(740- 653-1701)

Free legal advice to income eligible individuals.

Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities

www.ocecd.org

OCECD is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the educational interests of children with disabilities.

They assist individuals or groups with such areas as:

- Public policy and school reform
- Identification of disabilities
- Early intervention for infants and preschoolers
- Family support systems
- Special education
- Community based services
- Information, referral and networking services
- Transition from high school to employment/college in the community
- Resources for professionals
- Team work between persons with disabilities, their families and service providers

Department of Education

www.ed.gov

Official site providing information on U.S. education, policy, research, grants, financial aid and more.

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL)

SOCIL offers a wide variety of services. Our goal is to assist people with disabilities to live with the maximum degree of independence in their community.

www.socil.org

Operating out of the Job Service Center

389 West Front Street

Logan, Ohio 43138

740-380-1545 extension 246

Contact Hocking County MRDD

One on one family support services provided by a coordinator that is also a parent of a child with disabilities.

Family Outreach Coordinator, Shelia Hall

740-385-6805 extension 224

1369 East Front St

Logan, Ohio 43138

skhall@hockingcountymrdd.org

www.hockingcountymrdd.org

Transportation

Logan Public Transit

Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action Program

1005 CIC Drive

Logan, Ohio 43138

740-385-6999

Provides accessible curb to curb transit with-in Logan City limits. Discount rates available to persons with disabilities and elderly. You must apply for a discount card for these rates.

Hocking County Job and Family Services

740-385-5663

Toll Free 800-599-6935

Provides transportation for medical appointments to Medicaid recipients.

Adaptive Driver Training:

OSU

(614-293-3833)

Offers driver training or vehicle modification assessment. Paid by insurance or private pay.

Vehicle Modifications

To purchase adaptive vehicles or to install adaptations to vehicle:

www.disableddealer.com

Key Mobility

(937-374-3226)

Mobility Works

(330-489-6666)

Fitzpatrick's

(1-800-545-1102)

Providers

Hocking County Mental Retardation and Development Disability

- Contact your assigned Support Services Administrator for assistance in locating a provider.
- If you do not have an SSA contact the MRDD Intake Coordinator

740-385-6805

1369 East Front St

Logan, Ohio 43138

www.hockingcountymrdd.org

Consumers in the Ohio Home Care Program

www.ohiohcp.org

This site provides a directory of providers in your area. It explains the various services available to the consumer.

There are generally three types of home care providers:

- Agency Providers,
- Waiver Service Providers, and
- Non-Agency Providers.

Agency Providers are companies that have a provider agreement with the ODJFS and have been issued a Medicaid Provider Number. Agencies are the employer of the individuals performing the in-home services.

Waiver Services Providers are companies that provide the additional services available only to Waiver consumers. The individuals that deliver meals, install emergency response systems, or etc are employees of that business.

Non-Agency providers are individuals that obtain a Medicaid Provider Number from the ODJFS. They are then eligible to provide home care services directly to the consumer. These individuals have signed a Medicaid Provider Agreement so they are self-employed.

Non-waiver consumers

State Plan Home Health Services:

Less than 14 hours per week of nursing services, home health aide and skilled therapy.

Consumer must have a Medicaid card.

Contact Medicare certified home health agency (consult phone book).

Private pay or Insurance pay:

Consult phone book for "Home Health Services"

Mental Health:

**Tri-County Mental Health
541 State Route 664 North
Suite C
740-385-6594**

**Behavioral Health Care Services
12896 Grey St
Logan, Ohio 43138
380-6354**

Independent Living Skills

Independent living skills should be assessed and ongoing training provided and supported in all venues of life (home, school, etc). These should be a major focus of the IEP development:

Medication administration
Grooming
Food preparation
Purchasing
Laundry
Housekeeping
Home maintenance

Record keeping
Advocacy skills
Employment skills
Social activities
Finances
Transportation

Though a majority of independent living skills will be developed at home and school here are other community settings that may further support efforts:

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL)
740-380-1545 ext 246
www.socil.org

Gaining Back Independence Support Group
SOCIL
740-380-1545 ext 246

Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action Program
740-385-6813

OSU Extension
740-385-3222

Hocking County Library
740-385-2348

Ohio High School High Tech program
www.ohsht.org

BVR
800-248-4378

Hocking County Children Services
740-385-4168

Community Participation

Start to assess activities of interest. Look in your community for natural venues so you can meet people with similar interests.

Metro Park
www.metroparks.net

Hocking Hills
800-HOCKING
www.1800hocking.com

Logan Park and Recreation
Mingo Park
Accessible Playground

Franklin Park Adventure Center
www.columbusrecparks.com/
614-645-5648

The Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition (TAASC)
www.taasc.org

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living
www.socil.org
740-380-1545 ext 246

- Develops Independent Living Plan to address community participation.

Distributed by the Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living