

# Fairfield County 2019 High School Transition Resource Guide

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Document can be located at ([www.socil.org](http://www.socil.org)) under "Youth Transition"

<https://www.socil.org/youth-transitions.php>

*Updated 1/2019 by Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living  
740-689-1494*

# 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, a transition plan is required in the IEP. 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.

The **Affordable Care Act** provides new funding to state Medicaid programs that choose to cover preventive services for patients at little or no cost. It also prohibits discrimination due to pre-existing conditions. The law also eliminates the ability of insurance companies to charge higher rates due to gender or health status. There are also tax credits available for low income families. Americans who earn less than 13% of the poverty level are eligible to enroll in Medicaid. For more information visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

## **Employment**

A referral to the **Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities** (or OOD) can be made at age 14. If you have goals related to employment, make sure BVR is invited to your IEP meetings. Referrals go to the Columbus OOD front desk at 614-466-4575, they will determine who you should contact and then give you that information or schedule you.

Employment services available at the **Job and Family Services include: Teen Works and Ohio Means Jobs.**

**Ohio Means Jobs** – [www.ohiomeansjobs.com/fairfield](http://www.ohiomeansjobs.com/fairfield) (see page 10)

**Employment First Initiative** - [www.ohioemploymentfirst.org](http://www.ohioemploymentfirst.org)

**Ohio Department of Education - Career Pathways** - <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-Connections/Career-Pathways>

## **DD (Developmental Disabilities)**

Once your child becomes eligible for the **Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities (DD)**, your child's ISC can provide service coordination and also link you to community resources that may benefit your child and assist in the employment process.

For **Community Connection Services**, call your ISC for a referral to the Community Connections Coordinator or refer to [www.fairfielddd.com](http://www.fairfielddd.com) and scroll down through the Home page for a calendar of events and opportunities as well as links to additional resources. You may also be interested in joining "Parent2gether", a private Facebook page for parents and supporter of people with disabilities.

The Fairfield County Board of DD also offers **Family Support Services** which covers items and services needed by the family to maintain the child within the home, and is available as long as the child is living with family. Get **in-home respite services** through the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Contact Susan Barnett at 614-835-2700.

## **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.

Contact **SOCIL** (740-689-1494) for linkage to agencies.

## **Transportation**

Your child can, with your help, learn to use public transit independently. Contact Lancaster Public Transit at 740-681-5086 to apply for **Mobility Passport**.

If your child receives services through OOD they may help with the cost of driver education. 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.

Refer to **page 27** of this manual for transportation options.

## **Financial Skills**

**OSU Extension** offers some several kinds of budgeting education. **The Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living** (or 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 25 years based on school status.

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

# Gateways to Benefits

## **Social Security Office**

[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

### 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 an adult with a disability 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 “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](http://www.medicare.gov) or [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.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).

## Medicare Part D & Extra Help

Medicare beneficiaries can apply for **Extra Help** with their Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. Eligibility requirements have changed, some things no longer count as income and resources.

- Life insurance policies no longer count as a **resource**
- Help you receive regularly from someone else to pay your household expenses—food, mortgage, rent, heating fuel or gas, electricity, water, and property taxes; no longer count as **income**

Go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) to see all eligibility requirements

### **Gateway to Apply:**

**Fairfield County 1-877-841-5712**

**252 Venture Place, Lancaster, Ohio 43130**

**Online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)**

## Fairfield County Job and Family Services

[www.fcjfs.org](http://www.fcjfs.org)

The “Community Services” unit determines eligibility for Medicaid, food stamps, assistance with Medicare expenses, 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](http://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**

<http://dodd.ohio.gov/IndividualFamilies/ServiceFunding/Pages/WaiverTypes.aspx>

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**  
<http://www.medicaid.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Resources/Publications/Materials/mbiwd-factsheet.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 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:  
Fairfield County Job and Family Services  
(740-652-7889)  
239 West Main Street  
Lancaster, OH 43130**

**Fairfield County Department of Health**  
[www.myfdh.org](http://www.myfdh.org)  
**(740-652-2800)**

**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.

**1550 Sheridan Drive, Suite 100  
Lancaster, OH 43130**

**Fairfield County Board of DD**  
[www.fairfielddd.com](http://www.fairfielddd.com)  
**(614-835-2700) or (740-652-7220)**

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. To discuss benefits contact Fairfield County Board of DD at the numbers listed above.



## Disability Benefits 101

[www.oh.db101.org](http://www.oh.db101.org)

Gives you tools and information on health coverage, benefits and employment. You can plan ahead and learn how work and benefits go together.

## Center of Vocational Alternatives (COVA)

[www.cova.org](http://www.cova.org)

**(614-294-7117 or Toll free 877-521-2682)**

Provides benefit consultations on a fee-for-service basis and requires that individuals be referred by BVR/BSVI.

## **Additional Resources:**

### **2-1-1**

Information and Referral of Fairfield County

[www.fairfieldcounty211.org](http://www.fairfieldcounty211.org)

**2-1-1 or (740-687-0500)**

Get Connected. Get Answers. The one number to call in Fairfield County when you don't know where to turn. 24 hours a day...Fast, Free & Confidential.

### **Ohio Benefit Bank**

[www.ohiobenefits.org](http://www.ohiobenefits.org)

**(1-800-648-1176)**

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.

### **Benefits Check Up**

[www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)

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

### **Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council**

[www.facfc.org](http://www.facfc.org)

**(740-652-7281)**

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

# Gateways to Employment

## Schools

- Fairfield County Educational Service Center
  - Work Trainer/Coordinator or Job Trainer
  - Serves special needs students county wide
  - (740-653-3193)
  - [www.faircoesc.org](http://www.faircoesc.org)
  
- Lancaster City Schools
  - Director of Special Education
  - (740-687-7360)
  - [www.lancaster.k12.oh.us](http://www.lancaster.k12.oh.us)
  
- Pickerington City Schools
  - District Office – (614-833-2110) – Director of Special Education
  - Pickerington Central – (614-833-3025)–Work Study Coordinator
  - Pickerington North – (614-830-2791) – Work Study Coordinator
  - [www.pickerington.k12.oh.us](http://www.pickerington.k12.oh.us)

## Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)

[www.ood.ohio.gov](http://www.ood.ohio.gov)

(614-466-4575) or (1-800- 430-6940)

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 Division of Disability Determination (DDD) determines eligibility for Social Security disability benefits or Supplemental Security Income.

## Ohio Means Jobs – Fairfield County

<https://jobseeker.ohiomeansjobs.monster.com/>

**Ohio Means Jobs** is primarily used for self-directed job searches, including online job searches, resume preparation and/or preparing for an interview. Computers are loaded with programs that will help assess career interest, aptitudes and job expansion. By browsing the Internet, one can find average wages for specific jobs or compare the job market from county to county or state to state.

**Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Youth Program** provide services for youth and young adults, ages 16 to 24. Eligible youth can access a variety of career and educational services through WIOA funded programs. These services are designed to help enhance job skills, develop leadership qualities, explore

career options, and take advantage of work experiences. The program also focuses on out-of-school participants to include youth who have dropped out of school, youth looking to enroll in GED programs, and high school graduates not currently employed or enrolled in post-secondary education. Contact the JFS Youth Services Coordinator 740-652-7808 to get an appointment scheduled or visit the website, [https://www.fcjfs.org/services/jobs/services\\_training/](https://www.fcjfs.org/services/jobs/services_training/).

**Contact Fairfield County Job and Family Services to apply:**  
**239 West Main Street**  
**Lancaster, OH 43130**  
**(740-652-7889)**

**Teen Works** offers training in basic skills and work readiness for teens 14 -21 years, and fall within the income guidelines, and possess one or more potential barriers to employment. (i.e.: deficient in math and or reading skills, possess a disability (including IEP) go to their website for a full list)  
<http://teenworks.biz/>

**Contact Teen Works:**  
**714 South Ewing Street**  
**Lancaster, Ohio 43130**  
**(740-475-1719)**

**Eastland Fairfield Career and Tech School**  
[www.eastland-fairfield.com](http://www.eastland-fairfield.com)  
**(740-756-9243)**

Nearly 40 career and technical programs covering practically every career field that will prepare you for college and the workforce.

**Bridges to Transition**  
**Contact: Supervisor of Transition Services**  
**(614-835-2700)**

Supports and vocational planning for youth ages 14-25 that are eligible for DD services. These services are through OOD.

## JobFusion - Community Employment Services

[www.FairfieldDD.com](http://www.FairfieldDD.com)

(614-835-2700)

### ***Job Development, Job Training, Employer Assistance***

Community Employment Services assists people with disabilities in fulfilling the dream of working in the community. Services include various evaluations and assessment, job seeking skills training, job development and placement, job coaching and follow-along and on-the-job training opportunities. Most who hire a person with a disability find that they hired a dependable, quality worker whose company loyalty is unmatched by others. The Community Employment Department partners with the Ohio Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation to assist with covering costs.

## Functional Training Services

(740-653-3955)

Functional Training Services assists individuals with disabilities on their path to employment. We offer a variety of programs that teach job seeking skills, assist in transition to work, explore career options, and provide support to help find and maintain employment. We are committed to an individualized approach to goal selection, skill development and job development. We serve individuals who have limited or no work experience but are interested in defining their path to employment.

## Goodwill Industries

[www.goodwill.org](http://www.goodwill.org)

(740-654-5150)

Goodwill works closely with business and educational leaders to tailor trainings that help a person develop skills and earn credentials, such as training certificates and college degrees that are high demand from employers. Goodwill connects people with online and on-the-ground skills training services.

## Apps for Employment:

### ***Job Interview App***

This app contains 6 preparation videos, 5 video questions, 5 video answer and 5 video advice/mentor. Download 90 more videos from inside the app. Now with over 250 flip card questions in different categories: General, Accounting, Finance, Sales, Engineering and Difficult. Each question has a hint if you tap the card. The app also has job interview checklists for you to make sure you have remembered everything. Finally take the job interview quiz to see if you are prepared. **Price:** Free **Device:** iPhone and iPad

### ***ShowMeQR***

This app creates task specific instructions (video and text) and embeds them into (and prints) proprietary ShowMeQR codes. Think of it as a personal assistant. ShowMeQR creates and prints QR codes that can be placed on (or near) objects. After scanning a ShowMeQR code, instructional videos and /or written instructions are presented. If the user needs immediate assistance, pressing the help button summons. ShowMeQR actually requires two different apps. One app, ShowMeQR Manager, creates the QR code and the second app, ShowMeQR Scanner reads the QR code. ShowMeQR Manager cost \$9.99. ShowMeQR Scanner cost \$2.99. **Device:** iPhone, iPad, Android

## Post-Secondary Schooling:

### Ohio University

[www.lancaster.ohiou.edu/](http://www.lancaster.ohiou.edu/)

(740-654-6711)

Offers associate, bachelor and master degree programs.

### Hocking College

[www.hocking.edu](http://www.hocking.edu)

(740-753-3591)

With more than 50 associate degree programs to choose from, students will gain the concrete skills necessary to successfully further their education and pursue a profession.

### Wright State University

[www.wright.edu](http://www.wright.edu)

(937-775-3333)

## Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Schools: Adult Workforce Development

[www.eastland-fairfield.com](http://www.eastland-fairfield.com)

(740-756-9243)

Nearly 40 career and technical programs covering practically every career field that will prepare you for college and the workforce.

## Columbus State Community College

[www.csc.edu](http://www.csc.edu)

(614-287-5353)

The Developmental Education Department prepares students for college-level courses and empowers them to succeed academically, personally, and professionally. The program assists new comers to Columbus State with their transition from high school or to improve skills in the workplace.

## Ohio Department of Education - College Credit Plus

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Quality-School-Choice/College-Credit-Plus>

College Credit Plus can help you earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking college courses from community colleges or universities. The purpose of this program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wide variety of options to college-ready students.

## Other Colleges, Universities and Resources

Consult specific college websites based on academic interest.

Visit [www.PrincetonReview.com/college-education](http://www.PrincetonReview.com/college-education) for college rankings & evaluations

Visit [www.FastWeb.com](http://www.FastWeb.com) to search for available scholarships & financial aid

Accredited Online Schools -

<http://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/resources/best-accredited-colleges-schools-for-students-with-disabilities/>

Disability Resources for College Students -

<http://www.learnhowtobecome.org/college/resources-for-students-with-disabilities/>

<http://www.affordablecolleges.com/resources/scholarships-students-with-disabilities/>

## Support Devices & Apps

**PaperPort Notes** allows users to express ideas in whatever manner they are most comfortable with. Notes can be created by keyboarding, writing with a finger or stylus, using speech to text or a combination of all three. The app supports image insertion into the note as well as attaching audio recorded using the device's microphone. Text can be highlighted for greater emphasis and read back using the text-to-speech function to ensure accuracy. Take a photo of a page of text from a book, newspaper or letter and have it converted into an editable note almost instantly. DNotes are automatically converted to PDF and can be sent using Dropbox, Google Docs, email, iTunes or printed. Indexing notes and creating folders isn't an option; however, there is a bookmarking and search function that keeps work from getting lost on a virtual desktop.

**Price:** Free    **Device:** iPad

**Smartpen** is a high-tech writing tool that records spoken words and synchronizes them with notes users write on special paper. A student can record everything a teacher says and later replay any part of a lecture by tapping the pen's tip on words written throughout the class. The Echo and Pulse from Livescribe are among the most popular smartpens. The cost starts at \$99 and the pens can be found online or at retail stores. Smartpens require special paper that Livescribe sell in notebook form for \$7.00 and has to be purchased at [www.livescribe.com](http://www.livescribe.com)

## Assistive Technology

### Ohio Coalition for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)

[www.ocali.org/center/at](http://www.ocali.org/center/at)  
(866-886-2254)

The Assistive Technology Center at OCALI features resources, supports (including assistive technology assessments), professional development and a short-term lending library to assist in the effective implementation of assistive technologies for persons with disabilities.

### Assistive Technology of Ohio (AT Ohio)

<https://atohio.engineering.osu.edu/>  
(800-784-3425)

AT Ohio offers training and demonstrations on the use of devices, equipment or services that assist individuals with disabilities to function independently at home, school or work. AT Ohio has a device lending library and computer refurbishing program where individuals with disabilities can receive a refurbished computer for \$60.

Students in high school can reach out to the **Fairfield County Educational Service Center** (740-653-3193) for guidance and assessment on the use of assistive technology.

## Supporting Services:

### Job Accommodation Network

[www.askjan.org](http://www.askjan.org)

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](http://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 30<sup>th</sup> of the high school senior year. Corrections via the internet are due by September 15<sup>th</sup>. More information can be obtained at the federal aid website [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or call 1-800-433-3243.

United Way of Fairfield County provides Free FAFSA preparations. Visit their website at [http://www.uwayfairfieldco.org/uway\\_FAFSA.html](http://www.uwayfairfieldco.org/uway_FAFSA.html) or call 740-653-0643.

- 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 of the application is processed it would need to be to the school before that date.
- State of Ohio student aid applications should be applied for prior to the start of the student's senior year. The Ohio Department of Higher Education's email hotline is [hotline@higherred.ohio.gov](mailto:hotline@higherred.ohio.gov) or go to their website at [www.ohiohigherred.org](http://www.ohiohigherred.org)
- For a list of scholarships available based on students disability, contact SOCIL at 740-689-1494.
- Other information may be found at:

[www.college-scholarships.com](http://www.college-scholarships.com)  
[www.easyaid.com](http://www.easyaid.com)  
[www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)

# Asset Development

## Three Myths Regarding People with Disabilities and Asset Development

1. People with disabilities are unable to work.

*TRUTH: Work produces income which is the first step towards saving and building assets.*

2. People with disabilities have all their needs met by their special programs.

*TRUTH: People with disabilities want to reduce their reliance on government benefits and have more freedom and independence.*

3. People with disabilities can't be expected to save and build assets.

*TRUTH: People with disabilities want a better economic future. They are starting businesses and becoming homeowners.*

### The best ways to begin building assets:

- 1) Go to work. People receiving Social Security benefits should meet with their local:

- **Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)** representative in order to understand how working and saving may impact their benefits. Also contact WIPA to better understand how to utilize certain tools such as a Plan for Achieving Self-Sufficiency (PASS) or Medicaid Buy-In in order to achieve your financial goals. Your WIPA representative is at the COVA office at 1-877-521-2682.

- 2) Develop a savings account.

- Contact your local banker or credit union to establish a cost free savings account.

- 3) Develop a STABLE account ([www.stableaccount.com](http://www.stableaccount.com))

A **STABLE Account** is an investment account available to eligible individuals with disabilities allowing them to save and invest money without losing eligibility for Medicaid, SSI, or SSDI. Funds in a STABLE account are not subject to tax as long as the funds are spent on "Qualified Disability Expenses".

STABLE accounts have some similar features to normal bank accounts, but they are not checking or savings accounts. STABLE accounts are investment accounts, similar to 529 college savings accounts or 401k retirement accounts. When you deposit money into your STABLE account, your money will be invested in different options that you choose. While you can still withdraw and spend your money whenever you need it, STABLE accounts also allow you to grow your money and to save long-term for disability expenses.

With a STABLE account you can get a STABLE Card which is a loadable prepaid debit card. The STABLE card does not pull money directly out of your STABLE account; instead you get to choose a specific amount of money to load onto your card. This way, you can better control budgets and plan for your Qualified Disability Expenses. If you are a parent or other authorized legal representative for a loved one's STABLE account, you can also request a companion card for that individual. The STABLE card's discrete loading feature allows you to limit how much money your loved one can access at any given time.

You can use your STABLE card to spend money anywhere MasterCard is accepted. Although it is a loadable card, it works just like a regular debit card. There are qualifying expenses for the STABLE account, however it can be used for expenses besides "qualifying expenses" but it will count as taxable income and there is an additional 10% tax.

For more information visit the STABLE website listed above.

4) Look at other ways to supplement income:

**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):**

The EITC is the largest federal support program for low-income individuals and families. The EITC is a refundable credit. What this means is that if you qualify based on your income, even when you have no tax liability, you will receive a tax refund. You must file your taxes to receive this refund, even if you do not have any tax liability. For more information please visit the following website: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit>

- The EITC has no effect on certain welfare benefits. In most cases, EITC payments will not be used to determine eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, low-income housing or most Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments.

**FIVE MYTHS OF THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)**

- You have to be married or have children to be eligible. **FALSE**
  - You have to owe taxes to be eligible. **FALSE**
  - You do not have to file to get your tax refund. **FALSE**
  - The EITC refund will impact my other public benefits. **FALSE**
  - You cannot be self-employed and receive the EITC. **FALSE**
- **Questions about qualifying for the EITC**  
To learn whether an individual is eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit they can access the link above and answer some questions and provide basic income information. The program will also assist in determining correct filing status, determining whether child(ren) meet the tests for a qualifying child, and estimate the amount of credit an individual may receive.

**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program:**

The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income (generally, \$42,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Certified volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. Most locations also offer free electronic filing.

**To locate the nearest VITA site, call 1-800-829-1040 or:**

**Contact your local United Way office**

**Contact Ohio Benefit Banks ([www.ohiobenefits.org](http://www.ohiobenefits.org))**

5) Expand Your Financial Literacy Skills:

**Money Smart Financial Literacy Curriculum**

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, better known as the FDIC, created the Money Smart Curriculum to help youth and adults outside the financial mainstream enhance their money skills and create positive banking relationships.

**Get to know Money Smart.** Review the FDIC Money Smart website at <http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/overview.html>

**VISA Financial Literacy Soccer Game:**

Visa's Financial Soccer Game <http://reitour.financialsoccer.com/>

The National Disability Institute worked with Visa to launch Financial Soccer. Financial Soccer is a fast-paced, multiple-choice question game, testing players' knowledge of financial management skills as they advance down field, and try to score goals.

# **Residential Options**

## **Fairfield Metropolitan Housing Authority**

[www.fairfieldmha.org](http://www.fairfieldmha.org)

**(740-653-6618)**

Helps low-income families and individuals in Fairfield 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 card. You can receive a pre-application by any of the following:

- You may call our office and one will be mailed to you
- Stop in our office during office hours and they are in the lobby
- E-mail our office and request one be mailed to you.

## **Subsidized Apartments** (for persons with disabilities and seniors)

Rent based on 30% of adjusted annual income.

**For a listing of these apartments contact:**

- Fairfield Metropolitan Housing Authority (653-6618)
- Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (689-1494)
- Fairfield County DD (652-7220)

## **Residential State Supplement (RSS)**

[www.mha.ohio.gov/RSS](http://www.mha.ohio.gov/RSS)

**(1-614-752-9316)**

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](http://www.ohiohousinglocator.org)

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

### **2-1-1**

### Information and Referral of Fairfield County

[www.fairfieldcounty211.org](http://www.fairfieldcounty211.org)

**2-1-1 or (740-687-0500)**

Project House Call – list of private landlords in Fairfield County.

### Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL)

[www.socil.org](http://www.socil.org)

**(740-689-1494)**

Assistance on identifying home modifications to increase accessibility. Our goal is to assist people with disabilities to live with the maximum degree of independence in their community.

# 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.

There are new rules impacting guardianship in Ohio effective June 1, 2015. The new rules require training, monitoring and background checks and say that guardians must meet with their wards at least every three months.

For details on the guardianship processes go to:

**Disability Rights Ohio**

[www.disabilityrightsohio.org](http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org)

**(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.

There have been changes in laws regulating trusts in recent years. This is a summary of those changes.

- Except for good cause shown or disqualification, the court must appoint a guardian in accordance with the individual's most recent guardian nomination in their Power of Attorney.

- In certain situations, a private settlement agreement can be used to modify the terms of a trust without court involvement.
- A trustee can, under certain circumstances, distribute the assets of one trust into another trust with substantially similar administrative provisions and beneficiaries. This practice is commonly referred to as trust decanting.
- When a beneficiary named in a trust dies before the testator/grantor, and the testator/grantor does not clearly state the gift is invalid in such event, the gift will instead be distributed to the lineal descendants of the beneficiary, if the beneficiary was a grandparent, descendant of a grandparent or a step-child of the testator/grantor.
- **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.

## Disability Rights Ohio

[www.disabilityrightsohio.org](http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org)

**(1-800-282-9181)**

DRO 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 DRO Intake Department.

## Southeastern Ohio Legal Services (SEOLS)

[www.seols.org](http://www.seols.org)

**(740-653-7705)**

SEOLS helps low-income individuals with civil legal problems in Fairfield and Hocking Counties, their office is located in Chillicothe, Ohio.

## Legal Clinic

[www.fairfieldcountybar.org/probono-legal-clinic](http://www.fairfieldcountybar.org/probono-legal-clinic)

**(740-687-0500 or Fairfield Co. - 211)**

Free legal advice to income eligible individuals.



## Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities

[www.ocecd.org](http://www.ocecd.org)

**(800-382-5452)**

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

## Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)

<http://www.ocali.org/>

**(866-886-2254)**

OCALI serves families, educators, and professionals working with students with autism and low-incidence disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, and traumatic brain injuries.

OCALI's mission is to build state- and system-wide capacity to improve their outcomes through leadership, training and professional development, technical assistance, collaboration, and technology.

They believe that families, as well as professionals, play a critical role in promoting the highest possible achievement of each child. To that end, they see connection and partnership with families as vital to the success of each individual at school and in the community.

## Department of Education

[www.ed.gov](http://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)

[www.socil.org](http://www.socil.org)

**(740-689-1494)**

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.

## Fairfield County Board of DD

[www.FairfieldDD.com](http://www.FairfieldDD.com)

**(740-652-7220)**

## State Support Team Region 11

[www.sst11.org](http://www.sst11.org)

**(614-753-4690)**

Special Education Technical Assistance for: Franklin, Fairfield, Pickaway, Madison, Union, Delaware, Licking & Ross Counties.

## **Transportation**

### **Lancaster Public Transit**

[www.ci.lancaster.oh.us/242/transit](http://www.ci.lancaster.oh.us/242/transit)

**(740-681-5086) to schedule rides**

**(740-687-6858) for questions and answers**

Provides curb to curb transit in Lancaster and Fairfield County. Discount rates available to persons with disabilities that have the Mobility Passport. LPT also has fixed routes available Memorial Express, East End Loop and West Loop with minimal transfer fees for all three routes. Visit their website for more details and schedule.

**Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL)** can provide training on how to utilize transit.

**Contact Scott at 740-689-1494 ext. 15**

### **Fun Bus**

[www.funbus.com](http://www.funbus.com)

**(740-653-TAXI (8294))**

Provides services in Lancaster and surrounding area. For more details and rates visit their website.

### **Go Bus**

[www.ridegobus.com](http://www.ridegobus.com)

**(1-888-954-6287)**

Provides services between Athens and Columbus with stops in Athens, Nelsonville, Logan, Lancaster and Columbus (including the Columbus Airport). Visit their website for schedule.

### **Fairfield County Job and Family Services**

**(740-652-7889)**

Provides transportation for medical appointments to Medicaid recipients.

### **Fairfield Center for Disabilities**

**(740-653-1186)**

Provides door to door transit for medical appointments to Medicaid recipients. Non-medical transportation is at private pay rates. Provides transit to its day placement services.

## **Samaritan Center** **(740-687-1921)**

Provides door to door transit for medical appointments to Medicaid recipients.  
Provides transit to its day placement services.

## **Adaptive Driver Training** **OSU** **(614-293-3833)**

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

## **Vehicle Modifications** [www.disableddealer.com](http://www.disableddealer.com)

To purchase adaptive vehicles or to install adaptations to vehicle:

Key Mobility	<b>(937-374-3226)</b>
Mobility Works	<b>(330-489-6666)</b>
Fitzpatrick's	<b>(1-800-545-1102)</b>

## Providers

### Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities (740-652-7220)

- Contact your assigned Individual Support Coordinator for assistance in locating a provider.
- If you do not have an ISC contact the DD Intake Coordinator

### Consumers in the Ohio Home Care Program

[www.ohiohcp.org](http://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"

### Other Listings:

Fairfield Medical Center

740-687-8000

Request private nursing list.

## Mental Health:

New Horizons Youth & Family Center

**(740-687-0835)**

Fairfield Mental Health Consumer Group

**(740-654-0477)**

Mid Ohio Psychological Services

**(740-687-0042)**

Integrated Services

**(740-777-3490)**

# **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	Record keeping
Grooming	Advocacy skills
Food preparation	Employment skills
Purchasing	Social activities
Laundry	Finances
Housekeeping	Transportation
Home maintenance	

**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)

[www.socil.org](http://www.socil.org)

**(740-689-1494)**

**Epic Futures** is a transition curriculum for young adults with disabilities ages 16-24 who are no longer in high school. The eight session series takes participants through the process of transition emphasizing the following topics:

My Abilities, Skills to Be Your Best, Budgeting, Planning for the Future, Internet Safety and Scam Awareness, Work Ethics, Job Hunting Skills, and Assistance in the Workplace.

The Epic Futures material can be adjusted to meet the needs of the audience. Contact Scott Campbell at 740-689-1494 for more information and to schedule the series.

Community Action

**(740-653-4146)**

OSU Extension

**(740-653-5419)**

Fairfield County Library

[www.fcdlibrary.org](http://www.fcdlibrary.org)

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)

**(800-248-4378)**

Reality House

(Job and Family Services – Child Protection Services)

**(740-653-1701)**

## Independent Living Skills Apps

### ***Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Program***

this app includes 180 hours of activities to make life skills more concrete written in lesson plan form. This app is for middle school and high school children. Use this app in a variety of settings to teach skills, take notes and track data for children. **Price:** Free **Device:** iPad

### ***InPromptu***

InPromptu was designed to help individuals with significant intellectual disabilities learn activities of daily living, including employment skills. There are several pre-made videos included in categories such as cleaning, cooking, eating/drinking and personal hygiene. The videos are broken down into single steps and can be watched over and over before moving on to the next step. The best part of this app is the ability to customize videos/pictures from your own camera roll to teach any skill you'd like. **Price:** Free **Device:** iPhone, iPad



# **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](http://www.metroparks.net)

YMCA – Lancaster

[www.ymcalancaaster.org](http://www.ymcalancaaster.org)

**(740-654-0616)**

People Helping People Scholarships available.

YMCA – Canal Winchester

[www.ymcacolumbus.org](http://www.ymcacolumbus.org)

**(614-834-9622)**

Lancaster Park and Recreation

[www.lancasterparks.com](http://www.lancasterparks.com)

**(740-687-6651)**

Pickerington Park and Recreation

[www.ci.pickerington.oh.us](http://www.ci.pickerington.oh.us)

**(614-833-2211)**

Franklin Park Adventure Center

[www.columbusrecreparks.com/](http://www.columbusrecreparks.com/)

**(614-645-5648)**

Adaptive Sports Connection

[www.taasc.org](http://www.taasc.org)

**(614-389-3921)**

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living

[www.socil.org](http://www.socil.org)

**(740-689-1494)**

- Develops Independent Living Plan to address community participation.

Document can be located at ([www.socil.org](http://www.socil.org)) under “Youth Transition”

<https://www.socil.org/youth-transitions.php>

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