Resources for Independent Living, Inc.
presents

building blocks:
building a solid foundation for a better transition from high-school to adult life
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This transition manual is a basic introduction to some of the available and valuable resources for the transitioning young adult. It is a review of things to remember in planning the transition and some general advice. It is not an exhaustive text. This manual can serve as an initial point of departure. It is encouraged that anyone interested in the information in this book pursue it further. The manual is arranged by topics. Where appropriate, the resources available in New Jersey or Burlington County itself are given first. Contact the Transition Specialist at Resources for Independent Living, Inc. for additional details or transition assistance.
THE DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DDD)
The DDD provides services to individuals with disabilities living in NJ. DDD's mission is to assist people with developmental disabilities to live as independently as possible. Services provided by DDD include case management, guardianship, assistance to parents in becoming legal guardians of their adult children, family support, residential services, day programs and supported employment services.

Southern Regional Office
Serving Burlington and Camden Counties
221 Laurel Road, Suite 210
Voorhees, NJ 08043
Telephone: (856) 770-5900
Fax: (856) 770-5935
THE DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH
The Division of Mental Health Services serves adults with serious and persistent mental illnesses as well as children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders.

P.O. Box 727
Trenton, NJ 08625-0727
Telephone: (800) 382-6717
(609) 777-0702
Fax: (609) 777-0662

COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS
Burlington: (609) 265-5386
Camden: (856) 663-3998

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN SOUTHWESTERN NJ
This organization provides information and referral for individuals seeking mental health services. They offer video and brochures on issues pertaining to mental illnesses and mental wellness. It recruits, trains and matches volunteers as companions for individuals who have mental illnesses.

505 Cooper Street, Camden, NJ 08102
Telephone: (856) 966-6767
The following section details some of the local, federal, and national resources for vocational rehabilitation and employment. It includes some important programs to consider when working with a disability.

THE DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES (DVRS)
DVRS is responsible for training and placing people with disabilities of employable age. Any person with a physical or mental impairment, which is a substantial impediment to employment, may qualify for vocational rehabilitation services. Each consumer is evaluated individually for eligibility and needed assistance.

795 Woodlane Road
Mount Holly, NJ 08060
Telephone: (609) 518-3948
TTY: (609) 518-39572919
Fax: (609) 518-3956

Services Provided by DVRS
- Diagnostic Evaluations
- Individual Vocational Counseling and Guidance
- Job Seeking Skills Training and Selective Job Placement
- Follow-Up Support Services
- Post-Employment Services
- Physical Restoration
- Job Coaching, Vocational, Professional or On the Job Training

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
P.O. Box 055
Trenton, NJ 08625-0110
Telephone: (609) 292-2000
Fax: (609) 777-0483
www.wnjpin.state.nj.us
IV. Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (CBVI)
CBVI provides a wide range of educational services for children, vocational rehabilitation services for older teens and adults, and independent living services for people of all ages in New Jersey who are blind or visually impaired. CBVI also offers a number of special programs and services that address specific needs of individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

**CBVI Southern Office**
101 Haddon Avenue, 5th Floor
Camden, NJ 08103
Telephone: (856) 614-3000
Fax: (856) 614-3075

DIVISION OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing serves people in New Jersey who are deaf or hard of hearing by providing advocacy, employment and vocational opportunities, and by assisting with a wide variety of social, legal, medical, educational, and recreational issues.

P.O. Box 074
Trenton, NJ 08625-0074
Telephone: (800) 792-8339
TTY: (609) 984-7281
Fax: (609) 984-0390

NJ WORKABILITY
The New Jersey Workability program allows certain employed people with permanent disabilities, whose earnings are too high for them to qualify for Medicaid coverage, to receive full New Jersey Medicaid benefits. Among the criteria for NJ Workability is that the person is between 16 and 64 years old, be determined to have a permanent disability, be employed full or part time and earn less than approximately $49,000 per year.

Telephone: (888) 285-3036
IV. Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

**NJ WINS**
The New Jersey WINS program is administered by the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey. New Jersey WINS offers benefits planning assistance to individuals with disabilities who receive Social Security Disability (SSD) or Social Security Insurance (SSI) who want to work and retain their benefits.

Telephone: (856) 858-5900  
Telephone: (888) 285-3036

**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**
The Social Security Administration provides employment support for people with disabilities. The mission of this agency is to promote the employment of Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities with such programs as Ticket to Work as well as other supports.

www.ssa.gov/work

**NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE ON WORKFORCE AND DISABILITY FOR YOUTH (NCWD/YOUTH)**
NCWD/Youth is a source for information about employment and youth [and students] with disabilities. Their partners – experts in disability, education, employment and workforce development – strive to ensure that students with disabilities will be provided with the highest quality, most relevant information available.

www.ncwd-youth.info

**JOB ACCESS**
The goal of Job Access is to enable people with disabilities to enhance their professional lives by providing a dedicated system for finding employment.

www.jobaccess.org

**SELF-EMPLOYMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**
These web pages have been designed as a tool to support people with disabilities to become entrepreneurs. It assists them to formulate and shape a business idea or concept, develop a knowledge base relative to the idea, document the intended strategy, and finally develop a step-by-step feasibility analysis of the proposed business.

www.biz4you.org
IV. Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

**JOB ACCOMMODATION NETWORK (JAN)**
JAN is a free consulting service that provides information about job accommodations, the ADA and the employment of people with disabilities.
http://janweb.icdi.wvu.edu

**PACER CENTER**
This national center offers employment strategies for youths and adults with disabilities. It was founded by parents of children with disabilities and youth with disabilities. It is a resource on disability concerns including finding employment for young adults with disabilities.
www.pacer.org

**WORKSUPPORT.COM**
This site provides information, resources and research about work and disability issues.
www.worksupport.com

**THE NETWORK FOR EMPLOYMENT**
This agency was formerly the Association for Persons in Supported Employment.
www.apse.org

**ADA: A GUIDE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SEEKING EMPLOYMENT**
This site answers questions that one may have about their employment rights under the ADA.
www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/workta.htm

**US OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT: FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**
This site provides a simple and straightforward mechanism to help Americans, with and without disabilities, better understand how to hire and retain persons with disabilities.
www.opm.gov/disability
**V. Centers for Independent Living**

**CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CILS)**
CILS are community based, consumer-driven organizations that provide information and referral, peer counseling, independent living skills training, advocacy and a variety of services based on individual needs.

**Resources for Independent Living (RIL)**
(Burlington County)
351 High Street, Suite 103
Burlington, NJ 08016
Telephone: (609) 747-7745
TTY: (609) 747-1875
Fax: (609) 747-1870
www.rilnj.org

**Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**
c/o MOCEANS CIL
279 Broadway, 2nd Floor
Long Branch, NJ 07740
Telephone: (732) 571-3703
TTY: (732) 571-4878
www.njil.org

**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INDEPENDENT LIVING’S DIRECTORY OF CILS**
This is a directory of Independent Living Centers by state.
www.virtualcil.net/cils

**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INDEPENDENT LIVING (NCIL)**
The National Council on Independent Living is a membership organization that advances the independent living philosophy and advocates for the human rights of, and services for, people with disabilities to further their full integration and participation in society.
www.ncil.org
The following section is a compilation of disability related state, local, and national resources regarding secondary and post secondary education.

The Department of Education is responsible for overseeing more than 600 school districts, and administering education programs to more than 1.4 million public and non-public elementary and secondary school children. The Office of Special Education Programs, within the Division of Student Services, has oversight responsibilities for the provision of education and related support services to students with disabilities, 3 to 21 years old.

**New Jersey Department of Education**
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500
Telephone: (609) 292-4450
Fax: (609) 777-4099
www.state.nj.us/education

**Division of Student Services**
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500
Telephone: (609) 292-9899
Fax: (609) 633-1046

**Office of Special Education Programs**
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500
Telephone: (609) 292-0147
Fax: (609) 984-8422

**Office of Regional Services**
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500
Telephone: (856) 468-5530

**Division of Educational Programs and Assessment**
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500
Telephone: (609) 984-6311
Fax: (609) 984-6302

**US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**
The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities ages birth through 21 by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts.

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html?src=mr

**US Department of Education**
www.ed.gov

**Burlington County College**
County Road 530
Pemberton, NJ 08068
Telephone: (609) 894-9311
www.bcc.edu
VI. Education

BURLINGTON COUNTY COLLEGE: SPECIAL POPULATIONS PROGRAM OFFICE
This office works with BCC students with disabilities to make reasonable accommodations in the classroom, provide links to community resources, academic advice and technical assistance, workshops, learning strategies, and assist in the student’s independence and self-advocacy.

Telephone: (609) 894-9311 ext. 1208

BURLINGTON COUNTY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE/BURLINGTON COUNTY VO-TECH
695 Woodlane Road
Westampton, NJ 08060
Telephone: (609) 267-4226

10 Hawkins Road
Medford, NJ 08055
Telephone: (609) 654-0200 ext. 243
www.bcit.cc

THE NATIONAL DISSEMINATION CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (NICHCY)
FORMERLY NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES
This excellent resource serves as a central source of information on:
  • IDEA, the Nation’s Special Education Law
  • No Child Left Behind (as it relates to children with disabilities)
  • Research-Based Information on Effective Educational Practices and Resources
www.nichcy.org

WRIGHTSLAW
Parents, advocates, educators, and attorneys come to Wrightslaw for accurate, up-to-date information about special education laws and advocacy for children with disabilities.
www.wrightslaw.com
HEATH RESOURCE CENTER
(National Clearinghouse on Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Disabilities)

George Washington University
Telephone: (800) 544-3284
TTY: (202) 973-0904
www.heath.gwu.edu

The HEATH Resource Center, the national clearinghouse on postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities, collects and disseminates information nationally about disability issues in postsecondary education. The clearinghouse provides information on educational support services, policies, procedures, adaptations, transition and opportunities at American campuses, vocational-training schools, adult education programs, independent living centers and other training entities after high school for individuals with disabilities. Numerous publications are available upon request.

THE ASSOCIATION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND DISABILITY (AHEAD)
The Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) is an international, multicultural organization of professionals committed to full participation in higher education for persons with disabilities. The association is a vital resource, promoting excellence through education, communication and training.
www.ahead.org

NATIONAL CENTER ON SECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRANSITION (NCSET)
The National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) coordinates national resources, offers technical assistance, and disseminates information related to secondary education and transition for youth with disabilities in order to create opportunities for young adults to achieve successful futures.
www.ncset.org

COLLEGE OF DIRECT SUPPORT
The College of Direct Support is an online educational resource that provides direct support to individuals with developmental disabilities.
www.collegeofdirectsupport.com
ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES
This nonprofit’s mission is to advance policy and practice for and with people living with developmental and other disabilities, their families and communities. It does this by encouraging their members to engage in research, education, and service that support independence, productivity and a satisfying quality of life.
www.aucd.org
VII. Health Coverage Resources

The following section details some health care programs and resources available to people with disabilities.

SPECIAL CHILD, ADULT AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES (SCAEIS)
Special Child, Adult and Early Intervention Services (SCAEIS) is a comprehensive program within the Department of Health and Senior Services, designed to provide a network of services to meet the health needs of children age birth to 21 years with developmental delays, chronic illness, and/or disabling conditions.

Burlington County: (609) 267-1950 ext. 42882
Camden County: (856) 374-6021 (child only)

CAMECARE
The mission of CamCare Health Corporation, a voluntary not-for-profit community based primary health center, is to provide comprehensive health services to underserved families in the City of Camden and its environs including some of Burlington County. CamCare offers high quality, personalized health care designed to meet the needs of individual patients in a coordinated and comprehensive fashion on a sliding payment scale. Services include dental care, OB/GYN and infertility care, adult care, and children and adolescent care.

East
2610 Federal Street
Camden, NJ 08015

North
6th and Erie Street
Camden, NJ 08102

South
8th and Van Hook
Carl Miller Blvd.
Camden, NJ 08013
Voice: (856) 541-3270

Central
3 Cooper Plaza
Camden, NJ 08103

Northgate I
7th and Linden Street
Camden, NJ 08102
VII. Health Coverage Resources

NEW JERSEY CARE
Burlington County Board of Social Services, Human Services Facility
This program provides full Medicaid coverage for blind, disabled or persons aged 65 or older, whose income is at or below the poverty level and who have limited resources.

795 Woodlane Road
Mount Holly, NJ 08060
Telephone: (609) 261-1000
www.bcbss.org

MEDICARE
Medicare is a health insurance program, administered by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), for people 65 years of age or older, certain younger people with disabilities, and people with End-Stage Renal Disease.

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
26 Federal Plaza Room, 38th Floor
New York, NY 10278
Telephone: (212) 616-2300
Fax: (212) 264-2665
http://cms.hhs.gov

New Jersey State Government Contacts
State Insurance Department: (609) 292-5360
State Medical Assistance Office: (609) 588-2600
Long Term Care Ombudsman: (877) 582-6995

Medical Assistance Customer Centers
Burlington/Mercer Counties: (856) 787-3855
Camden/Gloucester/Salem Counties: (856) 614-2870
BURLINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
This office provides information and referral to all county programs. It provides Care Management and the CCPED Program, which provides in-home services through a specific Medicaid program. It also provides some cash assistance, nutritional support, health coverage, child support and employment programs.

795 Woodlane Road
Westampton, NJ 08060
Telephone: (609)261-1000
www.bcbss.org
Hours: Monday through Friday – 8:00am to 5:30pm
Tuesday and Thursday – 8:00am to 6:30pm

BURLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (BCCAP)
Intended for low-income Burlington County residents, BCCAP helps low-income residents move toward self-sufficiency. Programs include: four Head Start centers, day care, weatherization program, fuel co-op, housing counseling, shared housing, information and intervention, and child care resource and referral.

718 Route 130 South
Burlington, NJ 08016
Telephone: (609) 386-5800

CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)
This program provides a supplement to the assistance an individual receives from his/her natural support network of family, friends and neighbors as well as from community agencies and volunteer groups. CAP provides case management, respite care, homemaker services, environmental accessibility adaptations, personal emergency response systems, home delivered meal service, caregiver/recipient training, social adult day care, special medical equipment and supplies, chore services, transportation, attendant care and home-based supportive care.

Eligibility: 65 years or older or 21-64 and on Social Security Disability; resides in a unlicensed residence; has received a pre-admission screening and has been determined to require nursing facility level of care; qualifies for SSI in the community or qualifies for Medicaid only; qualifies for New Jersey Care. Participants share in the cost of their services.

Telephone: (609) 943-4060
**VIII. Financial Assistance**

**HISPANIC SOCIAL SERVICES**  
Information & Assistance for Burlington County’s Spanish speaking population.  

P.O. Box 2248  
Levitt Parkway & Charleston Road  
Willingboro, NJ 08046  
Telephone: (609) 835-1111  
Hours: 9:00am to 5:00pm

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)**  
SSI is a Federal program established for the aged and people with disabilities. The program provides a monthly stipend. The federal government administers SSI through the Social Security Administration. People over 65 and people with disabilities, including children, may be eligible for SSI payments, and will receive NJ Medicaid automatically. Application is made through any Social Security office. Parents or guardians may apply on behalf of children under 18. Contact Burlington board of Social Services for more information.

**SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE (SSDI)**  
SSDI program pays benefits to disabled workers and their families. To be eligible for SSDI, you must be disabled and must have earned a minimum number of credits from work covered under Social Security. The required number of credits varies depending on your age at the time you became disabled. Contact Burlington County Board of Social Services for information.

**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**  
Telephone: (800) 772-1213  
TTY: (800) 325-0778  
www.ssa.gov
IX. Housing Resources

The following is a list of various housing options throughout Burlington County. Primarily, they are classified as affordable housing meaning that the cost of rent cannot exceed 1/3 of a person’s income. Some specifically serve people with disabilities; however, some are open to the general public. Often, there is a waiting list for the application process. Even if such a waiting list seems extremely long, it is best to submit an application since other people may drop off this list and the housing may become available sooner than expected.

Burlington County Housing: (609) 265-5600
Burlington City Housing Authority: (609) 286-0246
Burlington County Rental Assistance: (609) 265-5600

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Housing Assistance: (609) 633-6303
Section 8: (609) 292-4080
MSAA (Cherry Hill): (856) 424-5621
Roebling Arms: (609) 499-7789
Della Cove (Beverly): (609) 387-0250
Florence Housing Authority: (609) 499-0575
Lumberton Independent Living Center: (609) 702-9100
MEND (Moorestown and Delanco): (856) 722-7070
Inglis Gardens (Marlton – mobility impaired): (856) 596-0020
Acacia (Lumberton): (609) 261-2317
Autobahn Towers: (856) 546-9111
Pennsauken Towers: (856) 665-6838

PROJECT FREEDOM, INC.
Project Freedom is a non-profit organization that offers barrier free accessible housing for people with disabilities including some supportive services. They have three campuses in Robbinsville, Lawrence, and Hamilton. Their mission statement is: Project Freedom is dedicated to developing, supporting and advocating opportunities for independent living for persons with disabilities.

223 Hutchinson Road
Robbinsville, NJ 08691
Telephone: (609) 448-2998
www.projectfreedom.org
IX. Housing Resources

njhousing.gov

This web site is a comprehensive list of available housing in New Jersey. The search engine allows for specific criteria including cost, accessibility, location, amenities, and more.

www.njhousing.gov
The following section contains organizations that advocate in various capacities. They range from individual services, to family and parental needs, to legal services. It concludes with advocacy and leadership organizations targeted for young adults.

**NEW JERSEY PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY, INC. (NJP&A)**

NJP&A is a non-profit consumer directed organization that serves as New Jersey's federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities. It provides training for people with disabilities and their families to assist them to advocate for themselves. In 1997, NJP&A assumed administration of the federally funded New Jersey Technology Assistive Resource Program (TARP), now known as the Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC), which works to make assistive devices and services more accessible to consumers.

210 South Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608
Telephone: (609) 292-9742
Toll Free: (800) 922-7233
TTY: (609) 633-7106
Fax: (609) 777-0187
www.njpanda.org

**ALLIANCE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES (ABCD)**

The mission of ABCD, an association of non-profit organizations, is to affect the development and implementation of public policy and to support the member organizations whose specific purpose is to improve the lives of people with multiple physical and developmental disabilities so that they have the opportunity to attain the highest level of purpose and dignity.

127 Route 206, Suite 18
Hamilton, NJ 08610
Telephone: (609) 581-8375
Fax: (609) 581-8512
www.abcdnj.org
X. Advocacy

PARENT INFORMATION CENTER OF NEW JERSEY, INC.
A private, not-for-profit membership organization, the Parent Information Center of New Jersey works with students and families of all economic, cultural and disability background. Their focus is on the individual needs of the student with a disability, how to assure the application of the Individuals with Disability Education Act for the needs of the 3-21 year old student are accomplished with no cost to the family, and to empower students and families in their participation in the educational process.

P.O. Box 805
Palmyra, NJ 08065
Telephone: (856) 786-8003
www.picofnj.org

ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
The Association is a private, not-for-profit community organization that offers training and education for parents and children with special needs.

P.O. Box 494
Hewitt, NJ 07421-0494
Telephone: (973) 728-8744
Fax: (973) 728-5919
www.ascfamily.org

THE ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY (ACNJ)
ACNJ is a child advocacy agency, advancing policies that help children and families. While protecting abused children is a priority, ACNJ seeks to improve children’s health, safety and education.

www.acnj.org

NEW JERSEY MINORITIES WITH DISABILITIES COALITION
The mission of the Coalition is to provide a leadership role in the promotion of equal access to service delivery systems and full inclusion for New Jersey’s communities of color.

P.O. Box 2724
26 North Eastfield Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08607
Telephone: (609) 897-0745
STATEWIDE PARENT ADVOCACY NETWORK (SPAN)
SPAN empowers families, professionals and other individuals interested in the well-being and educational rights of children. The organization works toward this goal by providing information, training, technical assistance, support and the exchange of ideas.

35 Halsey Street, 4th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102
Telephone: (973) 642-8100
Toll Free: (800) 654-7726
Fax: (973) 642-8080
www.spannj.org

SPECIAL NEEDS ADVOCATES FOR PARENTS (SNAP)
SNAP serves over 6,000 organizations and families in the special needs community with educational seminars on special needs estate planning, referrals and networking opportunities, as well as offering medical insurance problem-solving education and services.

248 Columbia Turnpike, Building 3
Florham Park, NJ 07932
Telephone: (973) 236-9887
Toll Free: (888) 310-9889
Fax: (973) 236-9874
www.snapinfo.org

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER (FSCNJ)
FSCNJ is an excellent resource and a clearinghouse on information and referral for families and individuals with development disabilities and chronic or serious illnesses in New Jersey. The organization offers an extensive list of programs and information on topics including: disabilities, respite care, parenting issues, education, transition, recreation and much more.

2516 Highway 35 North
Manasquan, NJ 08736
Telephone: (800) 723-6510
TTY: (800) 852-7899
www.fscnj.org
COMMUNITY HEALTH LAW PROJECT
Station House Office Building
900 Haddon Avenue, Suite 400
Collingswood, NJ 08108
Telephone: (856) 858-9500
Toll Free: (888) 838-3180
Fax: (856) 858-9545
www.chlp.org

LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY
P.O. Box 1357
100 Metroplex Drive, Suite 402
Edison, NJ 08818
Telephone: (732) 572-9100
Toll Free: (888) 576-5529

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU)
P.O. Box 750
Newark, NJ 07101
Telephone: (973) 642-2084
www.aclu-nj.org

DIVISION OF CIVIL RIGHTS
P.O. Box 090
Trenton, NJ 08625
Telephone: (609) 292-4605
TTY: (609) 292-1785
Fax: (609) 292-3812
www.njcivilrights.com
X. Advocacy – Leadership

NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK
Promoting leadership development and education in the pursuit of ensuring that all youth with disabilities have the opportunity to attain their maximum, unique and personal potential.
www.nyln.org

KIDS AS SELF ADVOCATES (KASA)
KASA is a national, grassroots network of youth with special needs and their friends, speaking on behalf of themselves.
www.fvkasa.org

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
This Committee provides advice to the National Council on Disability on various issues such as NCD’s planning and priorities. NCD is seeking this type of input in order to make sure NCD’s activities and policy recommendations respond to the needs of youth with disabilities.
www.ncd.gov/newsroom/advisory/youth/youth.htm#skip
NEW JERSEY TRANSIT
New Jersey Transit provides commuter services through more than 150 bus routes and 11 rail lines in New Jersey and into New York and Pennsylvania. Lift-equipped and kneeling buses, as well as accessible rail stations, are important elements of New Jersey Transit's services to people with disabilities.

New Jersey Transit Office of Special Services
One Penn Plaza East
Newark, NJ 07105
Customer Service: (800) 772-2222
TTY: (800) 772-2287
www.njtransit.com

Access Link
Access Link is NJ Transit's Para transit service required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Access Link provides people with disabilities Para transit service comparable to the local bus service. This service is specifically for people whose disability prevents them from using existing local bus service.

Telephone: (800) 955-ADA1 (2321)
TTY: (800) 955-6765

Reduced Fare Program
Special rates are available for people with disabilities and senior citizens 62 years of age or older. Personal assistants ride for free when proper identification is presented by the person with a disability. You don't need to be a New Jersey resident to be eligible for the program. You can ride on NJ TRANSIT buses and trains at the reduced rate. Many private bus companies operating in the state also participate in the program. For more information please contact New Jersey Transit.

Telephone: (973) 378-6401

HANDICAPPED PLACARDS
The applications for these placards are available at the Burlington County Office on Aging or write to: NJ Motor Vehicle Services, Special Plate Unit, CN 015, Trenton, NJ 08666. Fee for plates.

Telephone: (609) 292-6500 or (609) 265-5069
XI. Transportation Resources

**MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES**
Medical transportation for Medicaid beneficiaries is arranged through the Board of Social Services between the hours of 8am to 3pm. Client must be ambulatory. Three business days notice required.

Telephone: (609) 261-1000

**BURLINGTON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**
Reserved transportation provided for non-emergency medical appointments, shopping and personal business within Burlington County. Eligibility: Burlington County Resident with a disability or 60 years of age and over.

Telephone: (609) 265-5109

**FISH**
Volunteer organization that provides limited non-emergency medical transportation to anyone in need within Cinnaminson, Palmyra, Riverton, Riverside and the Delran area.

Telephone: (856) 786-8404

**MEDFORD LAKES LIONS CLUB**
Non-emergency medical transport for residents of Medford Lakes and Medford. All ages accepted. Can transport non-ambulatory individuals.

Telephone: (856) 983-5262

**MOUNT LAUREL**
Transportation service for Mount Laurel individuals with disabilities and senior citizens age 60+ who do not drive. It will travel outside of the Township for doctor’s appointments, mall shopping and personal business. For doctor’s appointments call one week in advance.

Telephone: (856) 234-2623

**PATCO REDUCED FARE PROGRAM**
Anyone with a disability or 65+ years of age may ride the PATCO Speedline during specified times for half fare. This cannot be used during the hours of 6am to 9am or between the hours of 4pm to 7pm. Tickets may be purchased at the Transportation Center at Broadway and Mickle Blvd., Camden.

Telephone: (856) 963-7998
www.drpa.org
XII. Technology Resources

Assistive technology is equipment or services which increase, maintain or improve the functional capability of an individual with a disability. The following programs and agencies provide both awareness of and access to assistive technology.

**NEW JERSEY PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY (NJP&A)**

210 South Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608
Telephone: (609) 292-9742
Toll Free: (800) 922-7233
Fax: (609) 777-0187
www.njpanda.org

**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVOCACY CENTER (ATAC)**

This is a program administered by New Jersey Protection and Advocacy listed above.

**REHABILITATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY LENDING CENTER**

CPNJ, 354 South Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
Telephone: (609) 392-4004
Toll Free: (888) 322-1918
TTY: (609) 392-7044
Fax: (609) 392-3505

**ABLEDATA**

This site is an extensive resource to learn about different adaptive technologies, the approximate cost and where that technology can be purchased.
www.abledata.com

**ASSISTIVETECH**

This resource contains information and resources about available assistive technologies for consumers, families, educators and employees.
www.assistivetech.net
EQUAL ACCESS TO SOFTWARE AND INFORMATION (EASI)
EASI’s mission is to serve as a resource by providing information and guidance in the area of access-to-information technologies by individuals with disabilities. Intended to benefit both students and professionals, EASI offers education and training on all accessible computer technology and web design.
www.easi.cc

MICROSOFT ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES
There are built-in accessibility features in Microsoft products that can be adjusted to meet some accessible needs and preferences.
www.microsoft.com/enable
The following is a list of various resources specific to New Jersey that have not appeared previously in this manual.

**CONTACT OF BURLINGTON COUNTY**
This useful resource is a free informational phone number. Contact has comprehensive listings of social services, non-profit organizations and other resources in Burlington County.
Telephone: 211

**DIVISION OF DISABILITY SERVICES**
The New Jersey Division of Disability Services is an excellent initial point for any disability inquiry in New Jersey. It promotes and facilitates the maximum independence and participation of people with disabilities in community life through information and access to services and supports, and fosters coordination and cooperation among government agencies.
P.O. Box 700
222 South Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08625-0700
Telephone: (609) 292-7800
Toll Free: (888) 285-3036
TTY: (609) 292-1210
Fax: (609) 292-1233
www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds

**ARC OF NEW JERSEY**
The Arc of New Jersey is a statewide, private, non-profit advocacy organization that serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
www.arcnj.org

**BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY**
www.bianj.org

**CEREBRAL PALSY OF NEW JERSEY**
www.cpofnj.org

**EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY**
www.efnj.com
XIII. Additional New Jersey Resources

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
The Developmental Disabilities Council is New Jersey’s planning and coordinating body for developmental disabilities and related issues.

P.O. Box 700
Trenton, NJ 08625-0700
Telephone: (609) 292-3745
Toll Free: (800) 216-1199
TTY: (609) 777-3238
Fax: (609) 292-7114
www.njddc.org

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
www.mhanj.org

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY PROVIDERS
www.njacp.net

NEW JERSEY CENTER ON OUTREACH AND SERVICES FOR THE AUTISM COMMUNITY (COSAC)
www.njcosac.org

NEW JERSEY STATE HOME PAGE
www.state.nj.us/index.htm

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES
www.state.nj.us/health

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
www.state.nj.us/labor

NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE
www.njleg.state.nj.us

NEW JERSEY LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND HANDICAPPED
This library provides books and magazines in alternate formats for those who are blind, low vision or restricted in some capacity to read a traditional book. They also offer other programs and some limited technology lending.
www.njlbh.org
XIII. Additional New Jersey Resources

**NEW JERSEY SELF-HELP CLEARINGHOUSE**
This is a clearinghouse for support groups in New Jersey. They also provide training on how to begin your own support group.

100 East Hanover Avenue, Suite 202
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927
Telephone: (973) 326-6789
Toll Free: (800) 367-6274
Fax: (973) 326-9467
www.njgroups.org

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF NEW JERSEY**
www.sonj.org

**SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY**
www.sbaaa.org
XIV. Disability Specific Resources

Website and searchable database of national Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) programs, including University Centers, Protection and Advocacy Programs and Developmental Disability Council.
www.addup.org

ADMINISTRATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/add

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
www.nasddds.org

THE ARC OF THE UNITED STATES
This organization advocates for the rights and full participation of all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Along with its network of members and affiliated chapters, Arc seeks to improve system of supports and services, connect families, inspire communities and influence public policy.
www.thearc.org

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON MENTAL RETARDATION (AAMR)
AAMR promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The site has resources, groups, event listings, and employment opportunities.
www.aamr.org

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DUALLY DIAGNOSED
An organization covering North America that seeks to advance mental wellness for persons with developmental disabilities through the promotion of excellence in mental health care.
www.thenadd.org

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION – USA
www.biausa.org

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF AMERICA
The national organization that works for people affected by seizures through research, education, advocacy and service.
www.efa.org
XIV. Disability Specific Resources

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)
This is the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of persons living with serious mental illness and their families.
www.nami.org

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND (NFB)
The aim of the NFB is two-fold – to help people who are blind achieve self-confidence and self-respect and to act as a vehicle for collective self-expression by the blind. It does so through advocacy, education, literature, technology information and resources.
www.nfb.org

SCHWABLEARNING
This nonprofit seeks to help all young adults with learning and/or attention problems, whether formally identified or not. It provides information, guidance and support that address the emotional, social, practical, and academic needs and concerns of such young adults and their parents.
www.schwablearning.org

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATION
www.ucpa.org

UNITED SPINAL ASSOCIATION
This nonprofit membership organization is dedicated to enhancing the lives of all individuals with spinal cord injuries and disorders by: ensuring quality health care, promoting research, advocating for civil rights and independence, educating the public and enlisting its help, and expanding opportunities for all paralyzed Americans.
www.unitedspinal.org
XV. Family Resources

ARCH NATIONAL RESPITE NETWORK AND RESOURCE CENTER
This web site is devoted to issues regarding the provision of respite to caregivers for people with disabilities or with chronic illness.
www.archrespite.org

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS ASSOCIATION
This organization supports, empowers, educates and speaks up for those who care for a chronically ill, aged or disabled loved one. NFCA reaches across the boundaries of different diagnoses, different relationships and different life stages to address the common needs and concerns of all family caregivers.
www.nfcacares.org

EXCEPTIONAL PARENT
This is a magazine designed toward parents of children with disabilities. It has informational articles, listings of special events, disability related products and more.
www.eparent.com

FAMILIES USA
This is a national non-profit, consumer focused non-partisan organization dedicated to the achievement of high-quality, affordable health care for all Americans.
www.familiesusa.org

FAMILY VILLAGE
The Family Village is a web site for children and adults with disabilities, their families, and their friends and allies. It contains an extensive directory of online resources and a library of different disabilities, assistive technology, legal rights and legislation, special education, leisure activities and more.
www.familyvillage.wisc.edu

FAMILY VOICES
A national clearinghouse for information and education concerning children with special health care needs.
www.familyvoices.org
Resources in this section range in topic and represent a valuable cross section of references.

**DISABILITYINFO.GOV**
DisabilityInfo.gov is a comprehensive online resource designed to provide people with disabilities with the information they need to know quickly and easily. The site provides access to disability-related information and programs available across the government on numerous subjects, including civil rights, community life, education, employment, housing, health, income support, technology and transportation.

www.disabilityinfo.gov

**ADA.GOV**
This site provides information and technical assistance regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

www.ada.gov

**YOUTHDHOOD.ORG**
The Youthhood website is a dynamic, curriculum-based tool that can help young adults plan for life after high school. It was designed by the National Center on Secondary Education and Transition. For young adults, it is a hang-out section and online magazine.

www.youthhood.org

**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON DISABILITY (NOD)**
Their motto is: “it’s ability, not disability, that counts.” This is an important tool for information and resources concerning disability issues relating to employment, news, religion and community partnerships.

www.nod.org

**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES (NCD)**
NCD's overall purpose is to promote policies, programs, practices, and procedures that guarantee equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability and to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.

www.ncd.gov
### XVI. Important Miscellaneous Disability Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TASH – DISABILITY ADVOCACY WORLDWIDE</strong></td>
<td>TASH is a civil rights organization for, and of, people with mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy, physical disabilities and other conditions that make full integration a challenge. <a href="http://www.tash.org">www.tash.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THE COUNCIL ON QUALITY AND LEADERSHIP</strong></td>
<td>The recognized leader for quality of life for persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with mental illness. <a href="http://www.thecouncil.org">www.thecouncil.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VICTIMS OF CRIME WITH DISABILITIES RESOURCE GUIDE</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://wind.uwyo.edu/resourceguide">http://wind.uwyo.edu/resourceguide</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATIONAL CENTER ON PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND DISABILITY (NCPAD)</strong></td>
<td>NCPAD is an information center concerned with physical activity and disability. They seek to promote good health through physical activity, and they provide information to help reach that goal. <a href="http://www.ncpad.org">www.ncpad.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH INSTITUTE</strong></td>
<td>A technical and information center for people with disabilities, particularly mental health issues. <a href="http://www.hsri.org">www.hsri.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DISABILITY POLICY CENTER</strong></td>
<td>The Center for the Study and Advancement of Disability Policy conducts research and analysis, disseminates information, offers public education, leadership development and training, and formulates policy solutions of complex public policy issues affecting individuals with disabilities and their families in relation to Federal, State, local and private entities. <a href="http://www.disabilitypolicycenter.org">www.disabilitypolicycenter.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
XVI. Important Miscellaneous Disability Resources

**DISABILITY STATISTICS CENTER**
The Disability Statistics Center produces and disseminates policy-relevant statistical information on the demographics and status of people with disabilities in American society.
http://dsc.ucsf.edu/main.php

**CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES (CROWD)**
A research center that primarily focuses on women related issues in regard to health, aging, civil rights, abuse, and independent living.
www.bcm.tmc.edu/crowd

**SEXUAL HEALTH NETWORK**
Frequently sexuality can be overlooked and not taken into consideration when it comes to people with disabilities. The Sexual Health Network has information about issues related to sexuality and disability.
www.sexualhealth.com
XVII. Disability Rights Laws

The following list represents an overview of important legislation in regard to the disability rights movement. The complete documents can be located on various government web sites.

ADA.GOV
This site provides information and technical assistance regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and also contains links to numerous disability related federal resources and information.

www.ada.gov

- Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its amendments in the Work Force Reinvestment Act
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Fair Housing Act
- Civil Rights for Institutionalized Persons Act
- Air Carrier Act
- Mental Health Parity Act
- Assistive Technology Act
- Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvements Act
- Architectural Barriers Act
XVIII. Legislative, Executive and Judicial Resources

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
Research the Electoral College, view the US Constitution, read about important disabilities related legislation and other information.
www.archives.gov

THOMAS – LIBRARY OF CONGRESS-LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET
A free compendium of federal legislation as well as other governmental appointments and general information.
http://thomas.loc.gov

UNITED STATES CONGRESS
Links to the Senate and House and their committees and members.
http://thomas.loc.gov/home/legbranch/legbranch.html

MEMBERS OF THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Find or contact your Representative.
www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW.html

VOTING RECORDS OF US REPRESENTATIVES
Record of individual Representatives' votes.
http://clerk.house.gov/index.html

MEMBERS OF THE US SENATE
Find or contact your Senators.
www.senate.gov/contacting/index.cfm

VOTING RECORDS OF US SENATORS
www.vote-smart.org/index.htm

THE WHITE HOUSE
Information about the Executive Branch of the Government.
www.whitehouse.gov

THE SUPREME COURT
Official website of the Supreme Court of the United States.
www.supremecourtus.gov
**ACCESS BOARD**
The access board is a federal agency committed to accessible design in architecture, telecommunications and transportation. Information about the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA), including how to file a complaint, can be found at this site.
www.access-board.gov

**SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE**
www.ssa.gov

**SOCIAL SECURITY WORK SITE (INCLUDES TICKET TO WORK)**
www.ssa.gov/work

**CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES**
www.cms.gov

**US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
www.ed.gov

**OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION SERVICES**
www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers

**US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
www.dhhs.gov

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)**
Oversees housing policy in the US including fair housing and economic development.
www.hud.gov

**REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (RSA)**
Oversees formula and discretionary grant programs that help individuals with physical or mental disabilities to obtain employment and live more independently through the provision of such supports as counseling, medical and psychological services, job training and other individualized services.
www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa

**THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), ADA INFORMATION**
Visit the DOJ website for up to date information on ADA and easy to understand FAQs. It also has valuable links.
www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada
XIX. Federal Government Agencies

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
They serve student populations facing discrimination as well as the advocates and institutions promoting systemic solutions to civil rights problems.
www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
The Department of Health and Human Services, through the Office for Civil Rights, promotes and ensures that people have equal access to and opportunity to participate in and receive services in all HHS programs without facing unlawful discrimination.
www.hhs.gov/ocr

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY (ODEP)
ODEP's mission is to provide leadership to increase employment opportunities for adults and youth with disabilities.
www.dol.gov/odep/welcome.html
This section contains links for disability themed magazines, catalogs for assistive living devices, and specific articles related to disabilities and the disability rights movement.

**ABILITY MAGAZINE**
A magazine focusing on disability issues.
www.abilitymagazine.com

**NEW MOBILITY MAGAZINE**
Newmobility.com, the website for New Mobility Magazine is the leading online resource for disability culture and lifestyle. Newmobility.com is a tremendous research and communication tool for anyone with an interest in disability issues.
www.newmobility.com

**360MAG**
360 magazine is an interactive E-zine that challenges the traditional views of people in wheelchairs. It has articles, reader experiences, cartoons, a list of upcoming events, resources, a marketplace and reader polls.
www.360magazine.com

**DISTHIS**
disTHIS is an online resource with articles and happenings from the Crip Culture Experience perspective.
www.disthis.com

**MAXIAIDS.COM**
Maxiaids is one of several companies that sell adaptive products for daily living.
www.maxiaids.com

**THE SECOND PHASE: FROM DISABILITY RIGHTS TO DISABILITY CULTURE**
www.independentliving.org/docs3/longm95.html

**FINAL MESSAGE OF JUSTIN DART**
Justin Dart, Jr.’s (disability rights advocate) final message to the disability community before his death in 2002.
http://abilitymagazine.com/JustinDart_remembered.html
XX. Online Disability Periodicals, Catalogs and Articles

INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY CULTURE’S MANIFESTOS
Manifestos written by Steven S. Brown of the Institute on Disability Culture
www.dimenet.com/disculture/manifesto

A PEOPLE’S HISTORY OF THE INDEPENDENT LIVING MOVEMENT
This is a series of stories of the leaders and participants in the independent living movement. Writing by Chava Willig Levy.
www.independentliving.org/docs5/ILhistory.html

DEAF PRESIDENT NOW RESOLUTION
Resolution by Gallaudet University Faculty supporting the Deaf President Now Protest and Demands
http://pr.gallaudet.edu/dpn/ISSUES/exhibitb.html
This section contains websites that speak to the development of the disability rights movement and its history.

**DISABILITY HISTORY MUSEUM**
The Disability History Museum's mission is to promote understanding about the historical experience of people with disabilities by recovering, chronicling, and interpreting their stories. Their goal is to help foster a deeper understanding of disability and to dispel lingering myths, assumptions, and stereotypes by examining these cultural legacies.
www.disabilitymuseum.org

**DISABILITY SOCIAL HISTORY PROJECT**
This resource's purpose is to reclaim people with disabilities history and determine how they want to define themselves and their struggles.
www.disabilityhistory.org

**SMITHSONIAN VIRTUAL EXHIBITION: THE DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT**
This exhibition looks at the efforts of people with disabilities, and their families and friends, to secure the civil rights guaranteed to all Americans.
http://americanhistory.si.edu/disabilityrights

**INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY CULTURE**
The mission of this web site is to promote pride in the history, activities and cultural identity of individuals with disabilities throughout the world.
http://hometown.aol.com/sbrown8912/index.html

**A CHRONOLOGY OF THE DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT**
A timeline of events important in disability history.
www.sfsu.edu/~hrdpu/chron.htm

**US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM PAMPHLET: “HANDICAPPED”**
Describes the Nazi treatment of people with disabilities from 1933-1945.
http://holocaust-trc.org/hndcp.htm

**IMAGE ARCHIVE ON THE AMERICAN EUGENICS MOVEMENT**
This link provides information on the unfiltered story of American eugenics - primarily through materials from the Eugenics Record Office at Cold Spring Harbor, which was the center of American eugenics research from 1910-1940.
www.eugenicsarchive.org/eugenics
XXII. FAQs Related to Transition Planning

Q. What is the definition of Transition Services?
A. Transition services are a coordinated set of activities designed to move special education students successfully from high school to post-school settings, such as college, vocational training, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, community participation and employment including supported employment.

Q. When should transition planning begin for a student with special needs?
A. Beginning at age 14, or younger if appropriate, the evaluations of a student with a disability must include assessments to determine appropriate post-secondary outcomes for that student. Also at age 14, a student must be invited to their IEP (individual education program) meeting. The IEP of every student must include a statement of needed transition services for the student. The transition services must be based on a student’s preferences and interests and include a plan for instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school objectives, and, if appropriate, the acquisition of daily living skills and a functional vocational evaluation.

Q. Should the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) be involved in transition planning?
A. Yes, if the student has been determined appropriate for and eligible for services, it is very imperative to have DDD as an integral member of the transition planning team. It is essential to apply for DDD services early. Waiting until services are actually needed might add years to your wait. It is very important to have DDD involved in the process of transition planning at age 14. This can be crucial in securing residential and day services once the child turns 21. DDD also offers select services that can be accessed before the child turns 21 including guardianship services, respite care, personal care, assistive devices and cash stipends.

Q. What role does the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) play?
A. DVRS is a critical piece of the transition process. DVRS is key in providing supported employment, vocational training and other vocational supports. It also provides funding for career related higher education. DVRS can be contacted beginning at age 14. DVRS can provide technical consultation over the telephone or attending a meeting before the student applies for DVRS services. Within two years of the planned graduation a student can apply to DVRS. The rehabilitation counselor will arrange a meeting with the student and evaluate eligibility for DVRS. Eligibility means the individual must have a disability, which makes it hard to get and keep a
job and must require rehabilitation services in order to work. Cost services including vocational training, supported employment and higher education will not begin until the student has graduated from high school.

Q. What transportation is available for people with disabilities?
A. New Jersey Transit Transportation services include accessible rail and light rail stations, train cars, light rail vehicles, lift-equipped and kneeling buses. Access link provides para transit service comparable to the local bus service. Residents of Burlington County with disabilities may also use Burlington County Transportation Service (BCTS). Furthermore, people with disabilities may take advantage of the reduced fare program. For contact information see the Transportation section of this manual on page 24.

Q. What Post Secondary options are available for students with disabilities?
A. Students whose transition plan includes going to college must take the appropriate classes in high school to qualify them for college programs. Students with disabilities will be entitled to accommodations depending on their course of studies and college. Students with disabilities who plan to go to college should start investigating colleges early. It is very important that a college matches your needs. Educational accommodations in college are provided through section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Vocational options after high school also include employment or supported employment. Supported employment is a service that helps people with disabilities compete in the competitive work force. On going training and support is provided on or off the job site as needed. The key agency in providing supported employment is The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) which funds supported employment for up to 18 months. Vocational training is also an option for students interested in specific trades including computers, auto technology, plumbing, construction, etc.

Q. When should you contact the Social Security Administration (SSA)?
A. When students with disabilities reach 18 years old, you should contact SSA for an interview to determine eligibility for financial assistance. There are two programs that largely affect people with disabilities. These are the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). SSI is a program financed through general tax revenues. SSI benefits are paid to people who are elderly, blind or disabled and who lack sufficient resources to provide for their own needs. Eligibility for SSI is determined by having little or no income, having less than 2,000
XXII. FAQs Related to Transition Planning

dollars if you are single or 3,000 dollars if you are married in financial resources. You must live in the United States and be a citizen or a legal alien. You must also have applied for other possible money benefits.

SSDI differs from SSI in that it is based upon the recipients past work history. In order to receive disability benefits, one must have worked long enough and recently enough under social security to earn sufficient credits. In New Jersey, there are programs to foster work even if a person receives SSD or SSI. NJ Workability is a program that allows an individual with a disability to be eligible to receive full New Jersey Medicaid coverage while earning up to approximately $49,000. Additionally, the New Jersey Wins program offers assistance to people with disabilities in planning their financial potential in regard to maintaining SSD or SSI eligibility as long as possible while working. See the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment section for more eligibility information on NJ Workability and NJ Wins.

Q. What health care is provided through the Federal and State Governments?
A. Medicaid is a means-tested health benefits entitlement program funded and administered jointly by the Federal Government and the states. Individuals who are receiving SSI in New Jersey are automatically eligible for Medicaid for their medical expenses. Medicaid is an income eligibility program with strict financial guidelines. Medicare is the only national health insurance program in the United States. Medicare is available to people with disabilities under age 65 that have been collecting Social Security Disability benefits for at least 24 months. Medicare is an exclusively federal program providing health care to individuals regardless of income or assets.

Q. When can guardianship be considered for an individual with a disability?
A. Guardianship may be considered for an individual only when it is clearly necessary and only to the extent that it is required. Limited guardianship is appropriate for persons who have been found capable of making and expressing some, but not all, decisions. Plenary guardianship is appropriate for a person who has been found incapable of making or expressing any decisions. A relative or other interested party may choose to pursue appointment as guardian privately, at his or her own expense. The Division of Developmental Disabilities can facilitate the court action at no charge for the legal cost. The Bureau of Guardianship Services (BGS) may provide guardianship services to a minor under certain circumstances. This applies to a person under the age of 18 who is without parent or guardian or whose legal guardian has granted a power of attorney to BGS to make personal decisions.
Q. How can the Centers for Independent Living (CIL) assist students in their transition process?

A. The CIL's are located in 12 locations throughout the state of New Jersey. Resources for Independent Living, the CIL for Burlington County, is located at 351 High Street in Burlington.

The CIL's provide many invaluable services that can assist a student in making a smooth transition from high school to work and adult life. Each center is unique and offers services and programs based on the needs of the people in their community. The CIL's can help students with information and referral. Each center has a comprehensive resource file on services available in their community. Services including accessible housing, transportation, personal attendants, employment opportunities, legal services and recommendations to other social services agencies. Individual and community wide advocacy and facilitation of self advocacy groups are available at the centers. The centers offer social and support groups to assist people in meeting others in similar situations, help people to find role models and discover solutions to current problems. The CIL's also provide functional skills training in individual and group settings. The centers can also refer people to training programs that will enable them to live more independently in their community. Each CIL employs its own transition expert who is available to assist students in making their plans for the future. Please call your local Center for Independent Living for further information on any of the topics discussed in this manual.
IS YOUR SON/DAUGHTER PREPARED FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

Now is the time to make sure that your child reaches his/her goals. The transition process can be very overwhelming at times. Here is a brief timeline you can follow to make sure all your needs are being met!

At age 14:
1. The Transition Service Needs planning document must be part of your child's individual education program (IEP).
2. Your child must be invited to their IEP.
3. Invite the appropriate state agencies to the IEP meeting.
4. Check the status of your registration with DDD.
5. Explore the need for guardianship at age 18.
7. Explore the need for estate planning.
8. Use surveys, questionnaires and other tools to map your child's interests, preferences and abilities.

At age 16:
1. Identify the projected year of graduation.
2. Explore post secondary options including college and employment.
3. Explore community living arrangements.
4. Explore agencies that provide community based services.
5. Begin exploring employment readiness activities.

Two years before graduation:
1. Explore interests and options for future living arrangements (with family, apartment, group home etc.) and explore as needed.
2. Apply for services from the Division of Vocational Services.
3. Familiarize yourself with your local Center for Independent Living.

One year before graduation:
1. Present information on agencies that can continue to give guidance and information post-graduation.
The world is at your finger tips and with a good transition plan you will be on your way to making your dreams come true. This is a list of some of the most important things for you to do to make your future a success.

1. Attend your IEP meeting. This is your life and your future. Be a part of the decision making!!
2. Work with your teachers and case manager. They are here to help you make the best decisions.
3. Work with your parents. They know you the best! Let them help plan your future!
4. Speak up when you don't agree with your team. Make sure you let people know what is on your mind and why you are making certain decisions.
5. Know your rights. Knowledge is power. The more you know, the more you will be able to accomplish.
6. Get involved in your school. Find out what you like to do in your community. What activities make you happiest?
7. Develop your interests. Try to take something you enjoy doing to the next level. You never know what you might find!
8. Do not be afraid to try new things. A whole world of possibilities is waiting for you!
Transition is the process of preparing students for life after they leave high school including successful participation in post-secondary education or training, employment and community living. Effective transition planning depends on looking at your son or daughter as he or she is today and imagining what services and supports will be needed to achieve his or her dreams tomorrow.

Early planning for the future is critical because it helps families learn about and deal with the complex adult service system. When a student reaches age 14, or younger, if appropriate, and every year thereafter until exiting school, the student's IEP must include a “Statement of Transition Service Needs” including a “statement of the student's interests and preferences” describing interests and preferences for Post Secondary Education, Employment/Career, Community Participation and Independent Living. In addition, “Courses of Study” must be identified including the educational courses that are required, elective, modified or specially designed courses as well as other educational experiences in the school or community that the student will be taking or might take in the future years.

In addition to the statement above, a student with disabilities age 16 and older must have within the IEP’s a “statement of needed transition services.” This statement is a plan for adult life that is based on the student's needs, taking into account the student's preferences and interests and includes strategies or activities that prepare the student for his or her desired post-school adult life.

Simply put, each of the following three questions should be answered with a yes:
1. Does your child, who is 14 years of age and older, have a statement of transition service needs in the IEP that reflects his or her strengths, preferences and needs?
2. Does your child, who is 16 years of age and older, have a statement of needed transition services in the IEP that reflects his or her strengths, preferences and needs?
3. Is your child, with a disability, linked to appropriate post school services, supports and programs before he or she exits the school?

Good transition planning should address all areas of a student's life: employment, higher education/job training, residence/independent living, transportation, recreation and leisure, financial supports and community participation.
The transition process is unique to each individual. Discovering more about ourselves can lead to deeper insight into who we are, how we act, what pursuits may build on our strengths and interests, and what areas we may need to improve. Greater self-knowledge and self-understanding is useful for anyone, but even more so in a time of change. Knowing who we are can help us decide where we are going. During and after the transition from high school we must be able to know what help or accommodations to ask for, how to do so appropriately and effectively, and what rights people with disabilities possess.

In order to plan for tomorrow, it is essential to begin thinking of the future today. To attain a goal, there are most likely smaller steps to take before it is reached. We need the proper tools, skills and resources to help in those journeys. Whether in high school, the workplace, college or trade school or in the general community, we must be able to express our needs and self-advocate to help others accomplish their goals. This manual contains some of the tools that will be helpful in this process, but there is far more to learn and to know. We must be active and participate in the decisions that shape our life paths.