

Bozeman Transition Handbook



A handbook for students with disabilities and chronic health conditions and their families to assist in planning for life after high school.

2016 Edition

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“Transition is a passage from one stage of development to another. For young adults with disabilities this transition stage is critical to the rest of their lives. It requires preparation.”

–J. Cobb (modified)

Tips for using this book:

1. Contact the organizations you may be interested in via telephone.
2. Write down the date of the phone call and name of the person with whom you spoke.
3. Make an appointment to meet them at their office.
4. Follow-up. *The squeaky wheel gets the grease.*

Transition isn't one step. It's many steps and it takes effort, but it will be worth the effort.

Parents & Transition

Now that your child is a teenager and nearing the time when he or she will leave specialized services of the school system and enter the adult community, you and your child should begin preparing for the transition. All young people face the challenge of making a number of choices about careers, living arrangements, social life, and vocational goals. For individuals with disabilities, these important decisions are frequently complicated by the need to deal with the community acceptance of persons with disabilities, and the need to become familiar with an array of services that are designed to assist adults with disabilities.

As the parents of a child with disabilities you are probably familiar with the services in the school system and other services mandated under Public Law 94-142. As you think about your child leaving school, you need to be aware that your child will be entering a different system of services which do not have the set of guarantees that are part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Adult services have different entrance requirements and methods of operation, depending on the services your son or daughter will be seeking. It is very important for you as a parent to learn about the adult services alternatives and what you can expect to obtain for your child.



Who qualifies for what?

Special education services in the public school system are provided for children who have a disability in one of the following areas: (TBI) Traumatic Brain Injury, deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, cognitively delayed, orthopedically impaired, other health impaired, seriously emotionally disturbed, specific learning disability, speech impaired, and visually impaired.

Adult services do not use the same classification system or eligibility standards mandated for individuals of school age. For specific information about your child's disability and the services for which he or she is likely to be eligible, talk with his/her special education or resource case manager. The teacher probably has some ideas about what adult services would be the most appropriate for your child, or they can refer you to specific individuals in our service system who can help you.

The rest of this manual will give you some basic information about the Disability Services Division and the services available in the Bozeman area. Do not hesitate to call or visit with the representatives from these services identified in the following pages. There are many knowledgeable people who are ready and willing to assist you and your child in the transition.

Parent Questionnaire

This survey is designed to help determine what type of experiences and education the student will need to prepare for life after graduation. It can be used to develop a long-range plan (or a transition plan) which will be discussed at the student's yearly IEP meeting. The student and the parents should fill this out together.

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Student Age: _____

Date: _____

1. What kind of work or education do you hope to see the student participating in after graduation?

full-time / part-time

___ ___ University or College

___ ___ Technical School

___ ___ Vocational Training

___ ___ Military Service

___ ___ Competitive Employment

___ ___ Supported Employment

___ ___ Sheltered Employment

___ ___ Other _____

2. What age should the student exit school? (Circle one)

18, 19, 20, 21, 22

3. Is there a particular kind of work or education that the student is currently interested in? If so, specify.

4. Where do you hope that the student will ultimately live as an adult?

Independently in a home or apartment

Independently in subsidized housing

Independently in wheelchair accessible housing

In supported living with staff to assist a few hours a week

In a supported living situation with daily staff support

With parents or relatives

Other _____

5. Is there a particular neighborhood, city or locality you hope the student will live in? If so, specify.

6. What type of community participation do you hope will be available to the student as an adult?(Check all that apply)

Memberships in civic clubs or organizations

Community recreational activities and membership

Religious and cultural activities of affiliation

Use of transportation. Specify if possible _____

Continuing education

Other _____

7. What school programs or services do you feel would be helpful to the student between now and

graduation? (Check all that apply)

- Classroom Work Skills Training
 - In-School Job Placement
 - Work Adjustment
 - Community Work Experience
 - Summer Job
 - Supported Employment
 - Career Exploration
 - Vocational Education
 - College Experience
 - Other _____
 - Self-Care/Safety Class
 - Class on Housekeeping
 - Class on Money & Budgeting
 - Class on Clothing Care
 - Handling Emergencies
 - Cooking and Nutrition Class
 - Home Repairs/Maintenance
 - First Aid and Health Class
 - Other _____
 - Driver Education
 - Use of Public Transportation
 - Shopping
 - Emotional Awareness
 - Physical Fitness
 - Self-Advocacy/Assertiveness
 - Political Awareness
 - Community Awareness
 - Evaluation (Specify Type Needed) _____
 - Referral (Specify to Whom) _____
 - Is the Student Currently Receiving Services From Any Other Agency?
- If so, specify: _____

Parent Checklist for Transition Planning

To indicate preferences and interest areas for transition planning, sit down with your child prior to IEP meeting.

Check areas that need to be addressed:

I. Career/Voc-Ed/Employment

- Current Career Assessment
- Current Career Goal

- ___ Parental Support for Career Goal
- ___ Community Access /Service
- ___ Volunteer Work
- ___ Classroom Work Skills Training
- ___ In-School Job Placement
- ___ Community Work Experience/
- ___ Job Shadowing
- ___ Vocational Rehabilitation
- ___ Summer Jobs
- ___ Competitive Employment (Supervised)
- ___ Supported Employment

II. Post-Secondary Education

- ___ Options Explored
- ___ Community College
- ___ University
- ___ Technical
- ___ On The Job Training

III. Leisure/Recreation/ Socialization

- ___ Agency Organized Recreation/
Social Activities
- ___ Sports or Social Clubs
- ___ Community Center Programs
- ___ Community Education (craft classes, art, music)
- ___ Parks and Recreation Programs
- ___ Hobby Club
- ___ Independent Activities (bowling, tennis, etc.)
- ___ Church Groups
- ___ Friendship Circles
- ___ Needs Assistance
- ___ Adult Agency
- ___ Application/Financial Aid Forms
- ___ Selecting schools
- ___ Meeting Criteria for Admissions
- ___ Locate & Utilize Public Utility
- ___ Shopping
- ___ Register to Vote
- ___ Register Selective Service
- ___ Use of Public Transportation

IV. Transportation

- ___ Independent (own car, bike)
- ___ Public Transportation
- ___ Specialized Equipment

- Carpooling
- Obtain Driver's License

v. Living Arrangements

- Living with Family
- Adult Foster Care
- Intermediate Care Facility
- Supervised Group Home
- Semi Independent Living / supported living
- Independent Living with or without roommates (house, apt)
- Personal Care Attendant

VI. Medical Services

- Medical Care: Intermittent Care, Daily (long term) Care
- Medical Services: General Medical Services (check-ups, etc.)

VII. Self-Advocacy

- Self Advocacy Skills
- Family Advocacy
- Communicate Needs
- Resolve Conflicts

VIII. Financial Assistance/income Support

- Earned Income
- Unearned Income (gifts/dividends)
- Insurance (life annuities)
- Food Stamps
- Social Security Benefits
- Social Security Disability Income
- Trust/Will or Similar Income
- Other Support

IX. Social Skills

- Counseling (any kind)
- Health aide/Home Attendant
- Support Group
- Respite Care
- Visiting Arrangements
- Churches
- Case Management

X. Personal Management

- Cooking/Housekeeping
- Money Management

- ___ Social Skills
- ___ Hygiene Skills
- ___ Personal Counseling/Therapy
- ___ Behavioral, Occupational,
- ___ Physical, Speech/Language
- ___ Hearing, Vision, Drug/Alcohol
- ___ Abuse, Family Planning/Sex Education
- ___ Health Issues/Assessing Medical Care

XI. Insurance

- ___ Medical/accidental
- ___ Insurance Resources - Group Policy
- ___ Available, Individual Policy
- ___ Medicaid
- ___ Other Specify: _____

XII. Advocacy/Legal Services

- ___ Guardianship/Conservatorship
- ___ Wills/Trust/Other
- ___ Family Advocacy

XIII. Other

This questionnaire is from the Montana Youth Transitions Website

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

Department of Public Health and Human Services

Most adult services available to persons with disabilities are funded by the Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP) and Montana Vocational Rehabilitation, also known as "Voc-Rehab" or "VR." Both of these are a part of the larger state agency Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS).

Developmental Services Division

In July 2009, the Disability Services Division (DSD) of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) was restructured under the Medicaid and Health Services Branch of DPHHS. In January 2010, the name was changed to Developmental Services Division.

Services are now provided through two primary programs: the **Developmental Disabilities Program** and the **Children's Mental Health Bureau**.

The **Developmental Disabilities Program** contracts with private, non-profit corporations to provide services across the lifespan for individuals who have developmental disabilities and their families. The focus of the program is to tailor care to the individual and provide it in as natural environment as possible.

The **Montana Developmental Center** is administered by the Developmental Disabilities Program and is the State's only residential facility for individuals with developmental disabilities that provides 24-hour care for those with the most severe behaviors or severe self-help deficits.

Developmental Disabilities Program

Our mission statement is:

"The Developmental Disabilities Program supports choices and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in their communities."

Over the years, our view of people with disabilities and the help society offers to these individuals and their families has changed dramatically from one of paternal institutionalization to one of supported self-determination.

An emphasis on human dignity and a conviction that each person is unique and capable of growth are the cornerstone beliefs of Montana's Developmental Disabilities Program. But developmental disabilities such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and autism place significant obstacles in the way of individual growth and development. Montana's

focus for providing services to persons with developmental disabilities calls for self-determination and individual participation in life's decisions about where to work, how to play, and where to live. It also calls for community settings and integration with non-disabled people. These changes in service philosophy are a result of many factors including a growing concern for the rights of individuals, the effectiveness of advocacy groups, and the notable successes of people with developmental disabilities living and working in Montana's communities.

For more information about DDP services check out:

Guide to Success: Navigating Montana's Developmental Disabilities Program

A guide to understanding the developmental disability service system.

(A publication of Montana's Parent Center)

To download the electronic version of this guide, and view other resources, please visit:

<http://www.pluk.org/ddpguide>

If you are interested in learning more about services and eligibility, contact one of our offices for more information.

Our Central Office administrative staff is located in Helena.

Developmental Disabilities Program
111 Sanders Suite 305
PO Box 4210
Helena, MT 59604-4210
1-406-444-2995 (voice/TDD)
1-406-444-0230 (fax)

Developmental Disabilities Program 300 N Wilson Ave Ste. 3001 Bozeman, MT 59715 (406) 587-6066 Voice (406) 586-8924 FAX
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Region IV Offices:

Developmental Disabilities Program
3075 North Montana
PO Box 202957
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-1714
(406) 444-0826 FAX

Developmental Disabilities
Program
700 Casey Ste. A
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 496-4922
(406) 782-8728 FAX

Contact: Alexis Marthaller

Advocacy

Disability Rights Montana

1022 Chestnut Street

Helena, MT 59601

Voice/TDD: 406-449-2344

Toll Free: 800-245-4743

Fax: 406-449-2418



www.disabilityrightsmt.org

Disability Rights Montana protects and advocates for the human, legal and civil rights of Montanans with disabilities while advancing dignity, equality and self-determination.

Disability Rights Montana was established in 1977 and is a civil rights organization protecting the human, civil and legal rights of Montanans with disabilities through legally-based advocacy. Each state and territory is mandated by law to have a designated independent Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system for people with disabilities. Disability Rights Montana is Montana's protection and advocacy system.

Disability Rights Montana provides:

Information and Referral: We provide information regarding the rights of people with disabilities and provide suggestions on how to handle their situation. We offer referrals to other organizations or programs when we are not able to resolve their concerns.

Individual Advocacy: We can negotiate on an individual's behalf to resolve problems such as denial of services, discrimination, abuse and neglect, or we can support their own self-advocacy efforts.

Legal Representation: We provide legal representation to people and groups who are eligible for our services if their issues fall within our program area priorities. Our legal staff may also give technical assistance to private attorneys working on disability issues.

Systems Advocacy: In collaboration with others, we work for systemic changes that affect people with disabilities, in order to improve their quality of life.

Education and Training: We educate others across the state about the legal rights of people with disabilities through presentations to groups and organizations, participation on committees and task forces, technical assistance and educational booklets. Our staff is experienced in many disability-related areas ranging from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Montana Human Rights Act, The Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to self-advocacy, and disability awareness and etiquette.

Continued next page

What is CAP? The Client Assistance Program was set up by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to protect the rights of individuals. The Rehabilitation Act sets the rules regarding rights and responsibilities and decides who can get rehabilitation services. Agencies in Montana that receive federal money through the Rehabilitation Acts are the programs for which CAP can provide services. These programs include Montana Vocational Rehabilitation, four independent living centers, and any services under the Rehabilitation Act.

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) is a Disability Rights Montana program that helps people with disabilities who have concerns about agencies in Montana that provide vocational rehabilitation or independent living services. The type of help provided may be information and referral, advice and counseling, mediation and negotiation, advocacy, representation in an administrative appeal, or legal services. The Client Assistance Program can help with:

- Information about agencies and program that help people with disabilities
- Information about rehabilitation agencies and independent living programs and how to get services from them
- Solve programs between rehabilitation agencies and their clients
- Represents clients during an appeal process
- Represents clients of rehabilitation agencies in court
- Teaches people how to become their own advocate. This is one of CAP's most important services.

How to request assistance: To get help from Disability Rights Montana, call and talk with one of our advocates. You can also fill out a Request for Service form on our website. Our office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Montana Independent Living Project

3825 Valley Commons Drive, Suite 2
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 522-7300



Promoting Independence for People with Disabilities

www.milp.us

Mission:

Montana Independent Living Project (MILP) is a not-for-profit agency striving to support the development and expansion of community based services which directly facilitate independence, productivity, and quality of life for people with disabilities.

Services Offered:

Information and Referral: MILP provides timely information to people with disabilities, their families, and the general public regarding services in our area..

Independent Living Skills Training: MILP's professional staff of Independent Living Specialists provides people with disabilities-our consumers-with both instruction and training to assist them with living independently. **We offer:** *Daily Living Skills, Independent Living Skills classes, Community Resource Acquisition, Support and Recreational Groups, Social Security Assistance.*

Individual and Group Advocacy: MILP provides our consumers with information and training regarding individual rights and responsibilities regarding local, state, and national issues. We serve as advocates for a variety of issues.

Peer Advocacy: A person who has experienced a disability may be available to help in a private one-on-one-setting to provide peer advice and support to another individual who is experiencing similar adjustment challenges.

Medicaid Self Directed Personal Assistance Services Program: is designed especially for consumers who wish to manage their own services by developing a long-term supportive care program in a home setting. To qualify you must: have a health condition that limits your ability to perform activities of daily living, participate in the screening process, and be financially eligible for Medicaid.

Youth Services: We can support a student with their IEP by attending as advocates and encouraging them to express their needs. We can also assist with transition to adulthood by them helping reach goals of independent living.

Who is eligible and how do I apply for services? Any person with any disability is eligible to receive MILP services. It's free. Call for an appointment.

Other Offices: Helena and Butte

Parents Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK)

516 N 32nd St, Billings MT 59101-6003

800-222-7585 * 406/255-0540

406/255-0523 (-fax-) * E-mail: info@pluk.org *Serving Montana children and families since 1984*



www.pluk.org

Who Are We?

PLUK is a private, nonprofit organization formed in 1984 by parents of children with special needs in the state of Montana for the purpose of information, support, training and assistance to aid their children at home, school and as adults.

PLUK is an organization of parents and other caring individuals who serve families and individuals with disabilities of any age and at no cost.

PLUK was founded by parents who felt strongly that parents of children with disabilities need to band together to give each other information and support. It seemed foolish for each new parent to try to learn all over again what other parents already know and would willingly share. It also seemed important for parents to lend each other support because of the healing that takes place when people who share a common problem can work together to find solutions.

We are people with disabilities, parents, professionals, relatives, and friends who want to ensure that persons with disabilities participate in the community and have access to high quality educational, medical and rehabilitation services.

We are members of a statewide group that supports families in their desire to help people with disabilities lead productive lives.

What We Do

We become as well informed as possible about best practices in the fields of education, medicine, the law, human services, rehabilitation and technology so that we can insure that our family members and friends with disabilities have access to high quality services.

We willingly share information and emotional support with each other so that together we are stronger in our efforts to meet the challenges of disabilities and illnesses.

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Values We Share

- Full integration and participation of children and adults with disabilities at school, work, and in the community.
 - Support for families so that they can nurture their children in the home.
 - Empowerment of families and individuals with disabilities to make decisions about their lives.
 - Individualization of services to meet the unique needs of individuals with disabilities.
 - Access for persons with disabilities to education and technology needed to participate fully in community life.
 - Age appropriate activities for children and adults with disabilities.
 - High expectations for individuals who are challenged by disability or illness.
 - Collaborative efforts among parents, professionals and people with disabilities.
 - Use of language about people with disabilities which is respectful and recognizes their dignity and rights as full citizens.
-

Where are we?

The PLUK office, library and computer lab are located on 32nd street in downtown Billings.

We also have a local PLUK family support consultant: Vicki Henry

Contact Us!

We may be contacted by phone, TDD, fax, e-mail and in person. We also have a network of family support consultants in most of the major cities in the state serving all remote areas.

Our Bozeman Area local PLUK family support consultant is:

Vicki Henry

Developmental Disability Services

A.W.A.R.E, Inc

1811 W. Koch St

(406) 586-6020 (p)

Bozeman, MT 59715



www.aware-inc.org

Mission:

AWARE will, consistent with its vision, develop the highest quality, individualized community-based supports and services, include providing access to the right services, to the right people at the right time, while fostering and advocating for inclusion, acknowledgement and respect for people with disabilities to be a meaningful part of their community.

Services:

Psychiatry

As with our Outpatient Clinical Services, AWARE Psychiatric Services are embedded within a broader therapeutic approach that emphasizes strengths, family, community and the individual. AWARE's team of highly trained and experienced psychiatrists across Montana is available for assessments, ongoing treatment, medication management, and support. AWARE strives to provide psychiatry to even the most rural Montana residents through tele psychiatry and video conferencing. We have an unmatched network of mental health professionals.

Family and Individual Therapy

Continuing with AWARE focus of the family unit, we provide outpatient therapy to our clients with an emphasis on family systems. Believe that the best way to build and sustain a healthy identity is through improving the family's overall well-being. In addition we provide the opportunity for clients to explore who they are at an individual level as well. At AWARE the client drives the treatment

Home Support Services

This family-centered program is designed to keep kids who have been identified as high-risk with their families. Our child and family specialists provide direct one-to-one care to the family and the child each week. During this time, the focus is on parenting skills, family dynamics and improved functioning in other targeted areas such as coping skills, social skills and other areas related to self-care and independent living as based on the needs of the family.

Youth Case Management

We cut through bureaucratic red tape to empower parents and guardians to make effective decisions for — and with— their children. We understand that parents of children with serious emotional disturbances can sometimes lose confidence in their ability to make

decisions that are best for the child. We help restore confidence by brokering services driven by parent input and providing support as people access services.

Work Services/Supported Employment

AWARE's Work Services Center provides a range of programs from work readiness to job skill training and production. Individuals learn skills that are valuable to themselves and the community, and they get paid for their work. Our employment and job support reflect our commitment to provide meaningful, productive opportunities guided by individual needs and preferences.

Case Management for Adults Affected by Mental Illness

Our community-based service focuses on the strengths of the individual. We help the person recover. The service links individual to community services that will aid in recovery. Case managers coordinate a strength based treatment plan and help individuals meet their goals.

Residential Services

AWARE provides intensive therapeutic residential care to high-risk adolescents throughout Montana. We serve young people with severe emotional disturbances in the least restrictive community setting possible, allowing them to remain part of the community by attending school and taking part in recreational activities and employment.

AWARE's much-emulated model of residential community care for young people is guided by the belief that services should be delivered in a setting that is as normal as possible. Helping young people succeed as members of our communities is essential to long-term success. Operating small, highly individualized programs lets us maximize the involvement of young people in all aspects of life – including public schools – in their communities.

Who is eligible?

Adults and children with mental illness and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities.

How are services started?

Services are started by referral, application or phone call.

Other offices:

AWARE has offices in 26 Montana communities and provides services in all 56 Montana counties

Family Outreach

1315 E. Main St.

Bozeman, MT 59715

406-587-2477

www.familyoutreach.org

Mission:

Family Outreach advocates for and supports the dignity, integrity, and education of children with disabilities and their families.

Family Outreach is a private non-profit agency providing home-based education and support services to individuals throughout Southwestern Montana who have disabilities or developmental delays.

The focus of our program is to teach families and friends how to teach skills to children and adults with special needs. In addition, the families and friends often request education regarding the disability and information about resources and services available.

Family Outreach staff work hard to ensure that children and adults in the Family Outreach program have the same opportunities that all Montanans have in education, in the community, in friendships, and in life.

Adult Services

FAMILY OUTREACH'S SUPPORTED LIVING PROGRAM promotes and supports the life-style choices of adults with developmental disabilities as they live interdependently in the community. The individual may need occasional assistance or 24 hour assistance. The Individual is encouraged to make choices, learn from experience, be an active member of the community, and stand up for themselves. Family Outreach offers a wide range of services from which consumers can choose to meet their own specific needs. Individuals assist in the development of their own plan based on what they want and need, and their life goals.

SUPPORTED LIVING IS:

- a new residential option
- for adults with developmental disabilities
- provides assistance with daily activities such as:
- shopping,
- food preparation
- housekeeping

* Continued next page

- medications
- transportation
- provides support with transitions and lifestyle decisions
- provides assistance with health and safety

SUPPORTED LIVING OPTIONS:

- living alone in an apartment
- living with roommates - disabled or non-disabled
- living in a family or foster family setting
- living in an apartment which provides congregate meals

Supported Employment Program is for those individuals who need or want help with acquiring & maintaining employment within the community. Family Outreach provides certified professional, and courteous service to the people we serve.

HOW DOES IT WORK:

- ◆ Family Outreach will receive information from you or your DDP case manager, VA counselor or Vocational Rehabilitation counselor concerning your employment needs. We will, as a team, create a plan to meet your needs.
- ◆ Family Outreach will complete necessary assessments, any necessary training in self-help skills, motor development communication skills, community life skills, work skills & leisure skills.
- ◆ A monthly admin fee and Job Coach costs are paid from your funding source to Family Outreach. We also provide private pay options for these services for those with no funding source available.

Family Outreach has a strong commitment to improve the lives of all our clients.

- Pre-vocational assessments and career planning
- Job development & Job search
- Monitoring, evaluation & ongoing job coaching as needed.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:

Career plans are developed & monitored for all clients. Detailed records of all components of the program & all required paperwork for government reporting is maintained for all clients to ensure compliance with Company, State and Federal regulations.

Eligibility:

Eligibility is determined by the state agency overseeing the program they are applying for or the availability of private insurance. Call to ask about eligibility for our services.

Other offices:

Helena Office:
 1236 Helena Avenue
 Helena, MT 59601
 (406) 442-1571

Butte Office:
 641 Sampson St.
 Butte, MT 59701
 (406) 494-1242

H.I. Case Management

300 N Wilson Ave Ste. 602f

Bozeman, MT 59715

(406) 587-7703

Mission:

The mission of case management services is to ensure that all eligible persons with developmental disabilities receive the service that will allow them to live their lives in a way that assures them the highest quality of life possible.

Services Provided:

Case management links and coordinates service for persons with developmental disabilities who are **16 years of age or older**.

Case management does not provide direct care services, but helps to ensure that the services a person receives are planned, organized, coordinated, appropriately implemented, monitored and meet their identified needs.

Who is eligible?

Any person, 16 years of age or older, living in Montana who has a development disability is eligible for case management services.

Under Montana law, a developmental disability is any disability which: is attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or any other neurological handicapping condition closely related to mental retardation; originated before the individual attained the age of 18; and can be expected to continue indefinitely.

There is no cost to the person or their family. All services are funded through programs of the State of Montana and the federal government.

To become eligible:

To find out if you, a family member or friend are eligible for services, contact one of our offices or contact the Developmental Disabilities Program of the Department of Public Health and Human Services nearest you in Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Glasgow, Great Falls, Helena or Missoula for more information.

Special Olympics of Southwest Montana

Area Director: Meagan Hill

(800) 242-6876 | info@somt.org

www.somt.org



Mission:

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Services:

Through sports training and competitions, Special Olympics helps people with ID find joy, acceptance and success. As their lives open up, athletes gain the confidence that comes with achievement. They feel empowered. They are ready to take on new challenges to make use of their new abilities.

They can become mentors for other athletes. They can train to become coaches and officials. They can also move toward a more public role as a speaker or spokesperson. They can speak to audiences and journalists about the positive changes that Special Olympics helped bring about in their lives.

At Special Olympics, our athletes are empowered to share their many gifts and talents with society. Yet, it's more than that. Our athletes also become empowered to be leaders in society -- and teach us all about acceptance and understanding.

Eligibility:

Individuals are eligible for Special Olympics provided they are:

* Persons age eight and older who are considered to have an intellectual disability or cognitive delay as determined by their localities.

* Persons who have closely related developmental disabilities such as those who have functional limitations, both general learning and in adaptive skills such as recreation, work, independent living, self-direction or self-care.

NOTE: Persons with functional limitations based solely on a physical, behavioral, emotional, specific learning disability or sensory disability are no **Continued on next page**

There is no maximum age limitation for participation. While the minimum age requirement for competition is eight years of age, an accredited program may permit children who are at least six years old to participate in age-appropriate Special Olympics training programs.

How are services started?

FILL OUT AND SEND IN ALL REQUIRED PAPERWORK TO STATE OFFICE:

* Download the required from our website (www.somt.org/resources). The forms you will need are: Athlete Participation, Athlete Consent, & Athlete Code of Conduct. The Athlete Participation form must be completed by a doctor for all new athletes – those who do not get a physical cannot compete.

NOTE: If you are unable to access the forms from the website please call (406) 560-2363 and hard copies will be mailed to you directly.

* Send all completed forms to Special Olympics Montana, Attn: Daniel Sheasby, PO Box 3507, Great Falls, MT 59403

CONTACT THE SOUTHWESTERN AREA TEAM:

* If you know your Local Program Coordinator, then you should contact them and start participating in practices. If you do not know your Local Program Coordinator, then you should call Pamela at 406-560-2363. She will get you in contact with the individual in charge of your local team.

Other Offices:

Special Olympics Montana is headquartered in Great Falls. The state of Montana has twelve (12) Areas that are geographically sectioned to provide services to all Special Olympics Athletes.

REACH

Empowering Adults With Disabilities

PHONE: 406-587-1271

322 Gallatin Park Drive, Bozeman MT 59715

<http://reachinc.org/>

Reach Inc. is a local, private, non-profit organization that's been providing services to adults with developmental disabilities since 1974. Our mission is to empower the people we serve to attain their individual goals and aspirations.

For more than 42 years, Reach Inc. has grown to serve 116 clients. We support people 18 years or older, who are diagnosed with an intellectual disability, by providing residential, vocational, and transportation services. Reach is centrally operated from our main offices on Gallatin Park Drive in beautiful Bozeman, Montana.

Supported Living —People served in supported living typically reside in their own apartments or in family homes. Staff work to meet the needs of each individual. This can include health, safety, independent living, banking, budgeting, and bill paying.

Transitional Living —This program offers daytime and evening on-site staffing to individuals who live in two Reach-owned apartment complexes. There, staff provide supports that include health, safety, independent living, banking, budgeting, bill paying, and housekeeping. Individuals receiving this service must be independent in their evening and morning routines. On-call staff are available for emergency situations 24-hours per day.

Standard Group Homes —Reach has two standard adult group homes in Bozeman, which offer 24-hour staffing. People served in this setting are assisted in achieving their individual goals, which can include housekeeping skills, meal planning and preparation, money management, and interpersonal relations.

Intensive Group Homes —Reach provides 24-hour services to people with a need for more intensive care at two homes in residential Bozeman neighborhoods. A high staff-to-client ratio is offered in these homes where individuals may need more support to achieve their goals.

Supported Employment Program —Reach Work Services Specialists assist our clients to gain and maintain employment in the community. As of August, 2015, Reach Inc. is proud to report an 85% community employment rate, compared to a national average of 18% for similar agencies.

Work Services —Job Preparation Services enable our clients to work on skills that will increase their professional success. This type of support is accessed both by clients who are currently employed in the community, as well as by those who are not. At the Work Center, clients have the opportunity to earn a paycheck, completing assembly work and production tasks for many local businesses, as well as participating in cleaning and recycling crews. Vocational staff assist with learning and skill development needed for community employment.

Intensive Day Services —This program offers daytime services to adults with intensive needs. These individuals have the opportunity to work in Supported Employment or to participate in Job Preparation Services at the Work Center.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) —Reach contracts with the Vocational Rehabilitation Program of Montana to provide a variety of vocational services to their clients. Reach assists with interviewing skills, resume development, job searching, on-the-job-training, and long term follow along.

Project SEARCH—Reach Inc. is a proud partner with Project SEARCH, an international internship program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Over the course of nine months, through classroom time and practical experience, interns acquire valuable work skills. Reach Inc. helped to bring the first Project SEARCH program in Montana to the Bozeman Health host site, with interns at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital and Bozeman Health Hillcrest Senior Living. We are excited to add this opportunity to the services we offer.

Transportation —Reach provides transportation services, including rides to and from job sites, interviews, medical appointments, shopping, banking, and recreational activities, as indicated by individual needs. We currently have a fleet of 19 vehicles.



Bozeman Area Special Education Parent Teacher Association

<http://www.bozemansepta.org>

Mission Statement

Bozeman Area SEPTA (Special Education Parent Teacher Association) is a coalition of families, teachers, administrators, and other advocates united in the effort to promote quality education and services for individuals with special needs and their families. The group was formed on April 7, 2008, as the first district-wide Special Education PTA in the Bozeman School District No. 7 and neighboring schools in the Bozeman area. SEPTA provides a forum enabling parents, teachers and experts in the field of Special Education to share their knowledge and experience.

Our **MISSION** is to network, educate, and provide a unified voice for the rights of our children to quality education and services.

Bozeman Area SEPTA is a valuable link between home and school, providing both with important information benefiting our children. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in children with special education needs and in how special needs can benefit the entire learning community.

Education

Student Assistance Foundation

Nolan Glueckert or Abbey Schmaltz
Bozeman High School
205 N. 11th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715
Office 406-522-6189



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

Mission

To provide students with the knowledge and tools to fund and pursue post-secondary education.

Services:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion help
- Loan Counseling
- Scholarship Searches and Applications including disability related scholarships.
- College planning assistance
- Career Planning
- Budgeting
- Financial Literacy help - such as managing credit, saving, understanding various financial topics.
- Connection to higher education resources and referrals if needed.

Who is eligible?

Everyone!

Starting Services:

Contact Nolan to schedule an appointment. Open Monday-Friday.

Office: There are offices in Miles City, Billings, Great Falls, Helena, Bozeman, Missoula, and Kalispell.

Circle of Success Scholarship

Montana State University Disability Services

<http://www.montana.edu/drv/disability/>

Disability, Re-Entry and Veteran Services

Montana State University

P.O. Box 173960

Bozeman, MT 59717-3960

180 Strand Union Building

Email: drv@montana.edu

Tel: (406) 994-2824

TTY: (406) 994-6701

Fax: (406) 994-3943

Director:

Brenda York

(406) 994-2824

byork@montana.edu

Hours:

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (M-F)

Employment

Bozeman Job Service

Certified One-Stop Center



121 North Willson Ave. Bozeman, MT 59715

Phone: (406) 582-9200

Fax: (406) 582-9210

BozemanJSC@mt.gov

Michele Letendre - Disability Consultant

Services to Persons with Disabilities:

- Job Listings and Referrals
- Resume Assistance
- Community Resource Information
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Resource Library and Computers
- Child Care Information
- Labor Market Information
- Career Exploration
- Job Search Assistance
- Career Planning
- Occupational Training Information
- Copier, Fax, TTY Services

Career Transitions, Inc.

189 Arden Dr.

Belgrade, MT 59714

<http://www.careertransitions.com/>

Postal address: PO Box 145, Belgrade, MT 59714

Telephone: (406) 388-6701

Fax :(406) 388-6592

Electronic mail:

General Information: ct@careertransitions.com

Montana Project Search

To learn how YOU can become a Montana Project SEARCH intern, contact:

Christy Sofianek

MT Project SEARCH @ Bozeman Health

Coordinator / Instructor

406-581-8315

csofianek@ymail.com

www.montanaprojectsearch.com

Job Corps

Admissions Office:

305 W. Mercury, Suite 202

Butte, MT 59701

(406) 782-4600



www.jobcorps.gov

What is Job Corps?

Job Corps is a residential education and training program through the U.S. Department of Labor. This federally funded program serves economically challenged students from the ages of 16 through 24. Each year Job Corps helps almost 70,000 students get their high school diploma or GED, learn a trade and gain the experience necessary to get a job.

Why Job Corps?

Is Job Corps the right place for you?

Do you want to begin a career with real opportunities for your future?

Do you want the security of a good paying job?

Do you want a career that may one day allow you to own a home and buy a new car?

If so, Job Corps is for you!

Vocations:

Auto Body, Auto Part Sales, Auto Repair, Bricklaying, Business Technologies, Carpentry, Cement Masonry, Computer Service Technician, Computer Support, Culinary Arts, Dental Assistant, Diesel Mechanics, Electrician, Facility Maintenance, Forestry, Graphic Design, Health Occupations, Heavy Equipment Mechanic, Heavy Equipment Operator, Landscaping, Machinist, Material Handling, Medical Assistant, Medical Records, Network Cable Installation, Painting, Plumbing, Tile Setting/Brick Laying, United Auto Workers Advanced Automotive, Welding.

Job Corps in Montana:

Anaconda

Trapper Creek

Kicking Horse

Clearfield

Weber Basin

Montana Vocational Rehabilitation Services

For Youth with Disabilities

Bozeman Vocational Rehabilitation Office

220 West Lamme, Suite 1E

Bozeman, MT 59715

1-877-296-1759 (toll-free consumer line) (voice/TTY)

(406) 587-0601 (voice/TTY)

(406) 587-7863 (fax)

www.dphhs.mt.gov/vocrehab/vrs/index.shtml

Who?

Our mission is to promote work and independence for Montana's youth with disabilities. Montana Voc Rehab provides a wide range of services to help eligible youth prepare for, get and keep jobs. **Referrals can be made when a student is 16.**

What?

The types of services provided are based on what you need to get and keep a job. Services **MAY** include some of the following.

- **Evaluation Services** – Medical, psychological, and vocational evaluations may be used to determine your rehabilitation needs, limitations, interests and abilities.
- **Career Counseling and Guidance Services** – Using the evaluation information, you and your counselor will develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) outlining the services you require to get and keep a job.
- **Medical or Psychological Services** – These services may be available on a limited basis should you need them to get and keep a job.
- **Training** – Vocational Rehabilitation may coordinate and help fund such services as on-the-job training, job coaching, business/trade school, college or other vocational programs if you need them to qualify for employment.
- **Job Development and Placement Services** – Vocational Rehabilitation will provide assistance to help you with your job search. Assistance may include help completing a job application and help to preparing for a job interview.
- **Rehabilitation Technology** – You and your counselor may identify and obtain adaptive aids or equipment necessary to help you get or keep a job. For example, computer adaptations, workstations, modifications, etc.
- **Post Employment Services** – Once you are employed, support services related to your disability may be provided to help you keep your job.

- **Referrals** – Vocational Rehabilitation can coordinate with other programs and services to increase your opportunities for employment.

For some Vocational Rehabilitation services, you must meet financial criteria.

How?

You are eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation if you meet all three of the following criteria:

1. You have a physical or mental disability
2. Your disability prevents you from getting or keeping a job
3. You want to work and you need VR services to help you get or keep a job.

Where?

To gather more information or to apply, contact the Vocational Rehabilitation office nearest you.

Other offices in:

Helena Vocational Rehabilitation Office

3075 North Montana Avenue Suite 106

Helena, MT 59601

1-877-296-1757 (toll-free consumer line) (voice/TTY)

(406) 444-1710 (voice/TTY)

(406) 444-9659 (fax)

Butte Regional Office

1-888-279-7531 (toll-free consumer line) (voice/TTY)

Vocational Rehabilitation

(406) 496-4925 (voice/TTY)

700 Casey Street, Suite B

(406) 782-8728 (fax)

Butte, MT 59701

Supported Employment/ Job Coaching Options

Family Outreach

1315 E. Main St.

Bozeman, MT 59715

(406) 587-2477

Beacon Employment Services in cooperation with Gallatin Mental Health Center

699 FARMHOUSE LANE

BOZEMAN, MT 59715

PHONE: (406) 556-6500

FAX: (406) 522-8361

www.gallatinmentalhealth.org

Services Provided:

Job Development/Job Placement and Supported Employment

Identify employment opportunities including job development, job placement, job coaching and job accommodation supports.

Who is eligible?

Anyone meeting criteria for job assistance from Montana Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Health

Community Health Partners

Belgrade Medical: 406-924-5754

Bozeman Dental: 406-585-8701

Bozeman Medical: 406-585-1360

Livingston Dental: 406-922-0881

Livingston Medical: 406-222-1111

West Yellowstone Medical: 406-646-9441

Our Mission

To Enhance Community Health and Well-being

Our Vision

100% Access, Zero Disparity for All

Community Health Partners (CHP) provides high-quality, affordable care to everyone.

Community Health Partners is:

- Medical Clinics in Belgrade, Bozeman, Livingston and West Yellowstone, Montana
- Dental Clinics in Bozeman and Livingston
- Educational support services through Learning Partners
- An integration of all these areas, including behavioral health, with the Client at the Center

CHP accepts all forms of insurance:

- All private insurances
- Medicaid and Medicare
- Healthy Montana Kids (formerly called CHIP)

CHP offers sliding scale fees based on income. No one is ever turned away from our doors due to inability to pay.

Community Health Partners is recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance as a Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home

For quality, compassionate care, you won't find a better place.

Gallatin City-County Health Department

215 W. Mendenhall

Bozeman, MT 59715

Phone: 406-582-3107

Fax: 406-582-3112

<http://healthygallatin.org>

The Gallatin City-County Health Department

The Gallatin City-County Health Department, overseen by the Board of Health & Administration, is dedicated to protecting and promoting the health of county citizens and the environment through the efforts of dedicated and skilled employees and application of sound public health principle. The programs run through the health department include:

- Environmental Health
- Immunization
- WIC Nutrition Services
- Emergency Preparedness
- Chronic Disease
- Public Health Home Visitation
- Communicable Disease
- Cancer Screening and Tobacco Use Prevention

Vision

Healthy People Living in Healthy Communities

Mission

To promote and protect health while preventing disease

Guiding Principles

- Evidence-based practices
- Collaboration and communication with community members and partners
- Education and outreach
- Empowering people to make healthy choices

Essential Services

- Monitor public health risks
- Diagnose and investigate public health problems and hazards
- Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and environmental health efforts
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect public health and ensure safety
- Link people to needed personal health services and with community partners, assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
- Assure a competent public health workforce
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of public health services
- Participate in research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Housing

Bozeman Area Housing Options-most of these housing options have waiting lists. It is best to plan ahead by putting in an application as early as possible. Apartments designated "disabled" require Social Security documentation of a disability.

Subsidized Rental Units – No Section 8 Vouches Accepted:

(~30% household monthly income=rent)

Big Sky Villa
 204 W. Jefferson
 Belgrade MT 59714
 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms
 (406) 388-2097

Gallatana Apartments
 404 W. Main Street
 Manhattan, MT 59741
 1 and 2 bedrooms
 (406) 587-3921

Greenwood Plaza
 (Families with kids only)
 802 N. Grand
 Bozeman, MT 59715
 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms
 (406) 587-3921

Darlington Manor
 (Senior/Disabled)
 606 N. 5th Avenue
 Bozeman, MT 59715
 Studio & 1 bedroom
 (406) 587-2981

Legion Villa
 (Senior/Disabled)
 1215 W. Durston
 Bozeman, MT 59715
 1 and 2 bedrooms
 (406) 587-7612

Spring Run Apartments
 (Physically Disabled)
 1325 N. 15th
 Bozeman, MT 59715
 1 bedroom
 (406) 585-1421

Timberline Apartments
 (Senior/Disabled)
 1006 Cardinal Dr.
 Belgrade, MT 59714
 1 bedroom
 (406) 388-9088

Boulevard Apartments
 6 W Babcock
 Bozeman, MT 59715
 Studio, 1 and 2 bedrooms
 (406) 585-5612

OTHER AFFORDABLE UNITS

(Fixed affordable rates)

Alliance Properties

2621 W. College Ste. D
Bozeman, MT 59718
59715

Various Apartments
(406) 585-0880

Castlebar Apartments

1201 N. 25th
Bozeman, MT 59718
2 and 3 Bedrooms
(406) 522-8778

Bridger Property Management, Inc.

1871 S. 22nd
Bozeman, MT 59718
Various Apartments
(406) 556-9900

Comstock Apartments

777 Haggerty Ln.
Bozeman, MT 59715
1, 2 and 3 Bedrooms
(406) 585-9351

Aspen Meadows

1062 Oak St.
Bozeman, MT

1, 2, and 3 Bedrooms
(406) 556-1394

Gallatin Manor

1806 W. Beall
Bozeman, MT 59715
2 and 3 Bedrooms
(406) 522-587-1591

T&W Cowdrey Property Inc.

Various Apartments
(406) 522-5686

MSU Student/Family Housing (Students & Employees Only)

1502 W. Garfield
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 994-3730

Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley

Bruce Industrial Park

230 Arden Drive

Belgrade, MT 59714

(406) 388-2851



*Building
houses,
building
hope*

Hours:

Wed. — Sat: 9am-4pm

<http://habitatbozeman.org>

Mission:

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Services:

Home ownership housing opportunities for low income, disabled, veterans, and elderly individuals and families in SW Montana through Mutual Self-Help Housing Program.

The Brush with Kindness Program assists those home owners who are elderly, disabled or financially unable to perform minor home repairs and exterior house painting. This service is provided to home owners through volunteer hours and donations.

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore sells new and gently used donated building materials to the public at a fraction of the retail price; with proceeds going to fund Habitat's housing programs.

All of these services are available to individuals and families in SW Montana through the generosity of local residents who give financial contributions as well as donations of their time. Habitat for Humanity is always looking for willing volunteers for our various programs.

Who is eligible?

Low income families and individuals, Disabled, Veterans, Elderly Those in need of housing or those interested in home ownership.

How are services started?

Interested persons should contact Habitat for Humanity at 406-388-2851 or email at info@habitatbozeman.org and request an application. Assistance can be given to those who require it.

Counties Served:

Since 1991, we have built 72 homes in the Gallatin Valley and Park County, and through our tithing to Habitat for Humanity International we've helped fund over 60 homes internationally.

Mental Health Services

Western Montana Mental Health Center



BOZEMAN MENTAL

HEALTH CENTER

699 FARMHOUSE LANE

BOZEMAN, MT 59715

PHONE: (406) 522-7357

FAX: (406) 522-8361

bozeman@wmmhc.org

www.gallatinmentalhealth.org

Mission:

To assist adults and children in receiving mental health and co-occurring care to help them in their recovery process.

Services:

Description of Services Provided:

The Drop-in center is a peer-operated, community-based center for people 18 years and older that provides a safe, friendly, confidential, supportive and recovery-oriented environment. Open Arms Drop-in Center provides a safe place for individuals to share experiences regarding treatment and recovery without fear of judgment. We offer comprehensive support groups (including PTSD, Bi-Polar, Depression Exploration, Panic and Anxiety, recovery support, wellness groups, creative expressions and many more!), peer support, journaling workshops, plus meditation/Yoga and relaxation training. Open Arms' staff and volunteers empower clients to change the quality of their lives; listen, respect and validate individuals; offer supportive and constructive feedback; and facilitate clients helping one another to gain greater insight and understanding. Services are available to anyone who just needs to talk to someone who understands; all are welcome. Please take a moment to review our newest services, and we look forward to meeting you!

Who is eligible?

WMMHC accepts all major insurances and will assist people in applying for the Mental Health Service Plan if they qualify financially and clinically for the coverage. Please bring in your driver's license or a picture ID, social security card, and last two pay stubs if applying for MHSP. If you are not working please bring in the first two items and you will be asked to sign a statement of no income.

How are services started?

Referrals from primary care physicians, Crisis Response Teams, family, friends, and our open access program to assist people in receiving mental health care.

Open access is the starting place each Thursday from 8:00A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at our 81 West Park Street, Butte location. Everyone must have a completed clinical assessment prior to receiving other services with the exception of emergency care.

Other offices in Montana:

WMMHC offers services in most of western Montana from Thompson Falls to West Yellowstone.

OTHER RESOURCES

Bozeman Public Library

626 E. Main Street

Bozeman, Montana 59715

PHONE: (406) 582-2400

FAX: (406) 582-2424

TTY (406) 582-2432

<http://bozemanlibrary.org/>

All library services and facilities are open to the general public. If you have a disability that requires assistance, please contact Lois Dissly at (406)582-2403.

Handicapped parking and automatic door openers are available at both public entrances. A wheelchair is available for use while visiting the library - ask at the Information Desk. Amplifying headsets are available for patrons who need help hearing presentations in the large meeting room.

Thanks to a generous donation, the Library has purchased a VideoEye LCD PowerZoom machine, a monitor and magnifier that allows magnification of materials up to 65 times. Items may be placed under the magnifier, which can be moved to various positions. There is also a reading platform that allows easy moving of reading materials. This is located in the listening area near the Large Print books.

The Bozeman Lions Club has supplied the Library with a VTEK Voyager machine, a closed circuit television device which magnifies print. A book or any other print material can be placed on a viewing platform and magnified up to 40 times onto a viewing screen similar to a TV screen. People can also write a letter or fill out forms with small print. The device is located upstairs near Computer Services.

As part of the Broadband Opportunities Technologies Program (BTOP) grant through the Montana State Library, the Library received software and equipment to allow visually-impaired and those with dexterity issues to access information. Two accessible stations have Magic magnification software, ZoomText and a ZoomText large-print keyboard. A handheld electronic magnifier can be used to increase the size of any document. A TrackMan Marble mouse, with large trackball and more comfortable shape, is also available. The accessible station on the first floor also has JAWS text-to-speech software installed.

Montana Youth Leadership Forum

1617 Euclid, Suite 1

Helena, MT 59601

(406) 442-2576

June Hermanson

mylfjune@bresnan.net



<http://montanaylf.org/>

Mission:

To identify students with disabilities who have exhibited leadership skills and equip them with additional training so that they may become leaders by example.

MYLF Students will expand their knowledge of the culture of disability, learn about all types of disabilities, and meet adults who are living successfully with disabilities.

What is MYLF?

MYLF (pronounced "my life") is a unique career and leadership training program for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors with disabilities. By serving as delegates from their communities at a 5-day intensive training, youth with disabilities will cultivate leadership, citizenship, and social skills.

Delegates gain access to vital resources related to assistive technology, community support, and self-advocacy. Successful men and women with disabilities serve as role models in helping youth realize their abilities and obligations to pursue meaningful employment and contribute to society. This educational and motivational forum involves an intense schedule. Throughout the training, small "working groups" explore personal leadership and career plans. The key to the MYLF is leadership by example. Adults with disabilities who have traveled the same path these young people are facing serve as faculty and staff. Many other volunteers, some with disabilities and some without, help to make the program a success. Delegates will have a one-year follow along upon completion of the program.

Goals:

Develop Individual:

- Leadership Plans to use upon return to his/her community
- Academic and Career Goals
- Work ethics and a belief that work is not only a right but also a social obligation to reach his/her full potential
- Resource Development Plan in order to attain continued or more complete independence through the following: Technology, Community Support, Peer Mentoring, Civil Rights.

****see website for application and deadlines.**

Mission:

To improve transition services and increase the number of youth with disabilities who achieve their desired post school outcomes.

Vision:

All individuals with or without disabilities- live, learn, work, play, and participate together in all life experiences.

What is MY Transitions?

The MYTransitions Project is comprised of four major components:

Regional Transition Teams that develop short term and long range goals to address transitions issues in their region. The Regional Teams are comprised of youth with disabilities, families, and professionals. Information about the work of all the Regional Teams can be found on regional page of the web site.

Job Shadowing opportunities are provided through the MYTransitions Project for youth with disabilities 15 years of age and up.

Annual Conference where youth with disabilities, their families and professionals can gain resources and knowledge of current events on the issue of transition

MY Transitions is a website created to help students and families gain information about transition. By planning ahead students can transition successfully.

Topics:

- Employment
- Housing
- Transportation
- Education
- Social/Recreation
- Money
- Health
- Resources
- Parent Information
- Professional information
- Youth Information
- Regional Information
- Blog

Rural Institute Transition and Employment Projects

52 Corbin Hall

The University of Montana

Missoula, MT 59812

(406) 243-5467

<http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu>

The University of Montana Rural Institute has been a leader in the area of transition planning for youth with disabilities since 1995. Activities have included:

- Provision of education and training to schools, families, students and agencies;
- Development of innovative strategies and transition models;
- Demonstration, outreach and technical assistance, both on-site and long distance;
- Promotion of systems changes to support effective transition for youth from school to adult life; and
- Information dissemination.

Since 2000, we've focused several of our projects on customized community employment for youth with significant disabilities. We have developed and implemented unique models of transition planning that continue to evolve as we learn more from the youth and families with whom we work.

Our transition activities are unique in that they promote:

- Customized Employment strategies for youth with disabilities;
- The use of Social Security work incentives for students;
- Transition planning for middle school students;
- Collaborative funding across agencies to create individually-driven employment supports;
- Self-employment as vocational experience or as a post-school outcome; and
- Self-determination for youth as we empower them to identify strengths, skills, and needs for transition planning.

SSI & Children Turning 18

When your child with a disability turns 18, several things happen in relation to his/her Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. First, the young adult must reapply with Social Security for SSI benefits as an adult. For this application, Social Security will use somewhat different disability criteria than were used to evaluate his/her disability as a child. (If your child has been receiving Social Security Child's benefits, when he/she turns 18, he/she will have to apply to begin receiving benefits as a "Disabled Child" who is an adult.)

You can prepare for this inevitable re-application by keeping your child's medical and school records updated and complete. If your child is working, any support staff who assist your child should document what your child actually does in relation to what a person without a disability might accomplish. All supports your child receives should be documented. Emphasize support needs and performance on worst days.

Secondly, the family's income and resources will no longer be considered when determining your child's financial SSI eligibility. Only your child's resources and income will count. This frees the rest of the family from the SSI resource limits, so the family can begin to accumulate cash, stocks, bonds, and all the other financial assets prohibited when your minor child was receiving SSI. The family's combined income can also increase without risking your child's SSI benefits and Medicaid.

Once your child turns 18, the amount of his/her SSI check will be based on his/her monthly income, and also on his/her living arrangement. Social Security will count your child's income (earned and unearned income) just like it counted your family's income when your child was a minor, and will adjust his/her monthly SSI check based on that countable income. The same formula for calculating countable earnings applies: $\text{wages} - \$85$ (general and earned income exclusions) $\div 2 = \text{countable earned income}$. The countable earned income is subtracted from the Federal Benefit Rate (\$733 in 2016) to determine the amount of the SSI check due. For example: your child has a part-time job and earns \$240 gross each month. $\$240 - \85 (general and earned income exclusions) $= \$155 \div 2 = \77.50 /countable earned income; $\$733$ (Federal Benefit Rate) $- \$77.50 = \655.50 (amount of SSI your child will be due two months later). If your child's income fluctuates, the monthly benefit amount will fluctuate. If your 18-year-old is still in school, the Student Earned Income Exclusion still applies.

Living Arrangement and Sharing

The example above assumes the 18-year-old child is living alone in his/her own home. If the 18-year-old lives with the family, his/her living arrangement can impact the amount of the monthly SSI check.

If your 18-year-old lives with you, or others, and doesn't pay any portion of the household's food and shelter expenses, he/she will be considered to be "living in the

household of another” and receiving “in-kind support and maintenance” from someone else. When Social Security views your child as “living in the household of another” he/she is only eligible to receive the one-third-reduced rate (\$488.67/month in 2016) and not the full Federal Benefit Rate (\$733/month in 2015). Regardless of the value of the food and shelter your child is receiving, SSI will reduce your child’s SSI check by only one-third, at the most.

In-kind support is calculated as unearned income. If your child pays for shelter but someone else is paying \$120 per month for his/her food, SSI will reduce the \$733 by \$100 (\$120 - \$20 general income exclusion = \$100 countable unearned income), and he/she will be eligible for a \$633 SSI check. The same would be true if your child paid for food but someone else was providing shelter worth \$120 per month.

NOTE: your child is eligible for more than the one-third-reduced payment for “living in the household of another” (\$488.67/month in 2016) if he/she can establish that he/she has paid his/her “fair share” of household expenses for at least one month, and is able to continue that contribution. When this is the case, your child’s classification changes to Sharing/Independent (\$733/month in 2016).

Determining “Fair Share”

If your household has income other than public assistance, SSI, etc., the expenses listed in the Sharing Worksheet are Sharing Worksheet

1. Rent or mortgage payment (including any amount for insurance that is part of the mortgage payment and required by the mortgager) \$ _____
2. Property taxes (if not already included in the mortgage) \$ _____
3. Electricity (monthly average) \$ _____
4. Gas (monthly average) \$ _____
5. Any other heating fuel (monthly average for coal, oil, propane, wood, etc.) \$ _____
6. Water (monthly average) \$ _____
7. Sewer cost (if any and if not included in water bill) \$ _____
8. Garbage removal cost (if any) \$ _____
9. Food (do not include soap, paper products, personal hygiene articles, etc.) \$ _____

Monthly Total \$ _____

Divide monthly total \$ _____ by # of people in household = \$ _____ your "fair share" amount used to determine your child's fair share contribution. Every household does not have expenses in every category. Only those listed that apply to your household can be included in figuring your child's fair share. No other additional expenses can be considered (e.g., cable TV, phone).

Determine the average monthly expense for each item listed. Add those average monthly expenses and divide the total by the number of persons in your household, regardless of their age or relationship to you. Babies, grandparents, and unrelated persons living in the home should all be counted, as should any adult children away at college during the school year. After the total is divided by the number of people in your household, the resulting number will be the "pro rata" or "fair share" for each household member.

While Social Security doesn't usually require documentation for these expenses, the fair share should always be figured based on real expenses. When establishing an amount for food, use an estimate that reflects food only, not laundry soap, paper goods, personal hygiene articles, etc.

The fair share will generally remain unchanged for a year, and your household expenses should be re-evaluated every year to determine whether or not a change in the amount is warranted. The amount of money your child contributes toward household expenses must be within \$5 of this "pro rata" share to establish the existence of a "sharing" arrangement.

Sharing and Income Taxes

If your child lives with you, you can legally claim the child as a dependent on your income tax return if the child is receiving SSI at the "living in the household of another" rate. You will have to be able to show that you spent at least 1¢ more on your child than the total of all your child's SSI payments for the year. Once a child establishes "sharing" and receives an increased SSI check (\$733 per month in 2016), parents can no longer claim the child as a dependent. Your tax accountant may say it is okay to claim your son or daughter because you can show how you spent more on the child than the yearly total of SSI payments. The accountant may be correct as far as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules are concerned, but if you tell SSA that your child is paying a "fair share," it is not appropriate to tell the IRS your child is not really paying his/her own way. When most families do the math, they find they gain more by having a son or daughter receive the increased SSI check than they do by claiming them as dependents and getting a small credit on their taxes.

Sharing Worksheet	
1. Rent or mortgage payment (including any amount for insurance that is part of the mortgage payment and required by the mortgager.)	\$ _____
2. Property taxes (if not already included in the mortgage)	\$ _____
3. Electricity (monthly average)	\$ _____
4. Gas (monthly average)	\$ _____
5. Any other heating fuel (monthly average for coal, oil, propane, wood, etc.)	\$ _____
6. Water (monthly average)	\$ _____
7. Sewer cost (if any and if not included in water bill)	\$ _____
8. Garbage removal cost (if any)	\$ _____
9. Food (do not include soap, paper products, personal hygiene articles, etc.)	\$ _____
Monthly Total \$ _____	
Divide monthly total \$ _____ by # of people in household = \$ _____ your "fair share" amount	

The only exception to this general rule is when parents can continue to carry a child on their health insurance only if the child is a dependent for tax purposes. If your child is covered by Medicaid and has good healthcare providers who accept Medicaid, your insurance may be of little additional benefit. However, if it is better for your child to remain covered by your insurance, it may be beneficial to forego the sharing rate and to stay at the "household of another" rate.

This Rural Factsheet was written by Marsha Katz, Ellen Condon, and Kim Brown
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Adapted to 2016 standards by Cassie Weightman, MILP, Community Work Incentives Coordinator

*****The numbers in this article change yearly and are accurate for 2016 only*****

Transportation

Bozeman Area Transportation

StreamLine (THE BUS)

(406) 587-2434

406.587.4486 (Relay 711)

<http://www.streamlinebus.com/>

1812 N Rouse Ave Bozeman, MT 59715

EMAIL: info@streamlinebus.com

WEEKDAY Service	SATURDAY Service	LATE-NIGHT Service	LIVINGSTON Service
Monday thru Friday	Every Saturday	Thursday, Friday & Saturday	Monday thru Friday
6:30am to 7:15pm	7:30am to 6:15pm	8:00pm to 2:30am	5:50am to 6:45pm to Bozeman

Galavan Transit

(406) 587-2434

1812 North Rouse

Bozeman, MT 59715

<http://www.thehrdc.org/how-we-help/transportation/door-to-door/>

Must fill out an intake form and be approved

Greater Valley Taxi

Belgrade (406) 388-9999

Bozeman (406) 587-6303

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