



## **What is Transition Planning?**

- Transition planning is defined as a set of coordinated activities that involve students, parents, schools and community agencies that create a plan for employment, post secondary education, community participation and daily living skills.
- Each student with an I.E.P. MUST have a transition plan once the student turns 14.5 years old.
- Transition activities should be based on the student strengths, preferences, interests and needs.
- Activities should involve input from the student, their families, school personnel, and community agencies.

## **Timeline of Various Transition Activities**

Below is a list of various transition activities broken down by grade/age level. Some of these activities may or may not be beneficial for each student. If you have any questions regarding these activities, please contact Kate Ross at the Cooperative Office: 815-942-5780.

If any of the mentioned activities request or require payment, the parent must provide that payment unless specifically stated otherwise in the student's IEP.

### **Important Transition Planning Discussions:**

*The following topics are discussions you should have with your student once they enter high school. Although these decisions seem like a long way away, the time to talk about it is before it becomes an emergency.*

- Planning for medical care
- Planning for housing
- Planning for education
- Planning for finances
- Planning for employment
- Planning for recreation/leisure



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### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- Participate in Annual Review (Transition Plan will be reviewed and updated)
- Attend transition conference at Joliet Junior College (March)
- Continue reinforcing advocacy, self-help, and independent living skills
- Explore SSI and health care benefits (if applicable)
- Obtain or locate Social Security Card
- Investigate community services in the area and research services that are provided

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- Participate in Annual Review (Transition Plan will be reviewed and updated)
- Attend transition conference at Joliet Junior College (March)
- Continue reinforcing advocacy, self-help, and independent living skills
- Explore SSI and health care benefits (if applicable)
- Explore Living Will Trusts (if applicable)
- Investigate career training centers, school-based vocational training, or community-based work training experiences.
- Obtain information about driver's education
- Begin application for group homes or other supported living arrangements

(If applicable)

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- Participate in Annual Review (Transition Plan will be reviewed and updated)
- Attend transition conference at Joliet Junior College (March)
- Continue reinforcing advocacy, self-help, and independent living skills
- Explore SSI and health care benefits (if applicable)
- Investigate service providers and possible linkages in the community
- Investigate or consider obtaining employment or enrolling in GAVC.
- Explore and research post-secondary education and attend college night or college visits.
- Obtain a driver's license or a state ID
- Research testing needed for post-secondary education
- Plan test



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### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Participate in Annual Review (Transition Plan will be reviewed and updated)
- Attend transition conference at Joliet Junior College (March)
- Continue reinforcing advocacy, self-help, and independent living skills
- Explore SSI and health care benefits (if applicable)
- Explore and establish Living Will Trusts (if applicable)
- If desired, start seeking employment
- Visit alternative housing options, such as group homes, supported apartments ext if applicable
- Apply for and participate in PSAT/ACT or IAA
- Explore and research post-secondary education and attend college night or college visits.
- Apply for post secondary education opportunities
- Apply for financial aid (FASA) for post secondary colleges/school (Complete after taxes are filed)
- Contact disability service offices at post-secondary colleges/school
- Research and gain information about Transfer of Rights

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- Participate in Annual Review (Transition Plan will be reviewed and updated)
- Attend transition conference at Joliet Junior College (March)
- Continue reinforcing advocacy, self-help, and independent living skills
- Explore SSI and health care benefits (if applicable)
- Complete Age of Majority documentation
- Complete vocational training and gain employment if desired
- Secure housing if not living at home
- Secure transportation if not already done so
- Complete registration or paper-work for post-secondary education or training
- Connect with community service providers
- Register for draft if male
- Apply for SSI/SSDI/Medicare/



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## The “System of Adulthood”

<b>Agency or Government Department</b>	<b>My Local Contact</b>
<b>Social Security Administration (SSI &amp; SSDI)</b>	158 N. Scott St Joliet, IL 60432 815-740-2079  1-800-772-1213 <a href="http://www.ssa.gov">www.ssa.gov</a>
<b>Individual Service Coordination Agency (Also referred to as a PAS agency)</b>	Service of Will, Grundy and Kankakee Counties 1740 McDonough Street Joliet, IL 60436 815-741-1678
<b>Local Special Education Office</b>	Grundy County Special Education Cooperative 725 School Street Morris, IL 60450 815-942-5780 Kate Ross Transition Coordinator
<b>Judicial System (Guardianship)</b>	Grundy County Circuit Clerk 111 E. Washington Street Room 12 Morris, IL 60450 815-942-3258  Will County Circuit Clerk 14 W. Jefferson Street Joliet, IL 60432 815-727-8592
<b>Local Transition Planning Committee</b>	Will-Grundy TPC <a href="http://www.transitionplan.org/">http://www.transitionplan.org/</a>



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Agency or Government Department	My Local Contact
<b>Health Department</b>	Grundy County Health Department 1320 Union Street Morris, IL 60450 (815) 941-3404 <a href="http://www.grundyhealth.org/">http://www.grundyhealth.org/</a>  Will County Health Department 501 Ella Ave. Joliet, IL 60433 815-727-8521
<b>Department of Human Services (DHS)</b>	DHS Family Community Resource Center  1560 1st Ave Ottawa, IL 61350 Phone: (815) 433-1572
<b>Office of Developmental Disabilities (ODD)</b>	Service Inc 1740 McDonough St Joliet, IL 60436 815-741-0800
<b>Community College</b>	Joliet Junior College 1215 Houbolt Joliet, IL 60431 Star Program: 815-280-2230 <a href="http://www.jjc.edu">www.jjc.edu</a>
<b>Trade/Vocational School</b>	Grundy Area Vocational Center GAVC 1002 Union Street Morris, IL 60450 815-942-4390 <a href="http://www.gavc-il.org/">http://www.gavc-il.org/</a>



## **Advocacy:**

With in the Grundy-Will county area there are several agencies that are designed to advocate and assist individuals with disabilities and their families. Their job is to protect and advance the legal, human and service rights of people with disabilities.

## **Service Agencies in our area:**

### **1. CAP: Client Assistance Program**

Illinois Department of Human Services

100 N. First Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor West

Springfield, IL. 62702-5197

Phone: 800-641-3929

<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=37637>

CAP helps you understand your rights and services from the Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Rehabilitation Services.

### **2. Equip for Equality**

20 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 300

Chicago, IL 60602

Phone: 312-341-0022

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

Equip for equality provides self-advocacy, legal services, training on disability rights, public policy programs, and abuse investigations for children and adults with disabilities.

### **3. Great Lakes ADA**

University of Illinois at Chicago

1640 West Roosevelt Road Room 405

Chicago, IL 60608

Phone: 800-949-4232

A disability and business technical assistance centering covering ADA issues related to employment, public services and public accommodations.



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### **4. Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission**

Phone: 866-274-8023

[www.gac.state.il.us](http://www.gac.state.il.us)

State of Illinois Commission developed to assist people with issues of guardianship for adults with disabilities.

### **5. Will County Legal Assistance Program**

5 E. Vanburen St. Suite 310

Joliet, IL 60432

Phone: 815-727-5123

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

Provides civil legal services to low income and indigent residents of Will County. Eligibility is determined over the phone.

### **6. Will Grundy Center for Independent Living**

2415-A W. Jefferson St

Joliet, IL 60435

Phone: 729-0162

[www.will-grundycil.org/](http://www.will-grundycil.org/)

This organization provides advocacy, help in explaining and filling out forms. Information referrals, peer counseling. The center also can locate and secure housing in appropriate settings. Deborah Tarrant is our contact person.

### **7. The ARC of Illinois**

20901 LaGrange Rd. Suite #209

Frankfort, IL. 60423

815-464-1832

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

The Arc of Illinois is committed to empowering persons with disabilities to achieve full participation in community life through informed choice.



## **Benefits**

Both the federal government and the state government will provide financial assistance and benefits to an individual with a disability if certain criteria are met.

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI):** Monthly benefits that are paid to people who have a disability and who have limited income and assets. Participants include individuals 65 years of age or older, individuals who are blind in both eyes, and individuals with a disability as described by the Social Security Administration. Parents' income and resources are counted if the individual is under the age of 18. No previous work history is required.

**Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI):** A program that worker, employers, and the self-employed pay for with their social security. Eligibility is based on a persons work history and the amount of monthly benefit is based on past earnings. Individuals who have never worked can earn SSDI if they are considered a Disabled Adult Child (DAC). In order obtain DAC status; the individual must have a disability with an onset before the age of 22, and a parent with a FICA work record that is either retired/disabled themselves/deceased.

**Medicaid:** Provides medical coverage for persons with limited income and resources. Anyone can apply, but depending on income and financial assets, there may be a monthly "spend down" amount before a medical card is issued.

**Medicare:** Another government medical coverage program designed to provide coverage to individuals age 65 and over and to individuals with disabilities. Participants must be 65 years of age or older who are also receiving SSA/SSI/ federal employee. Also, individuals with ALS, individuals with end stage renal disease, and anyone receiving SSDI for 24 months qualifies.

**PASS Plans:** Are SSI provisions to help individuals with disabilities return to work. PASS lets individual's set-aside money he or she owns to pay for items or services needed to achieve specific work goals without discontinuing benefits. Individuals can set aside money to start a business, for school expenses, equipment and tools, transportation, and uniform requests.





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**Ticket to Work:** Is an employment program for people with disabilities who are interested in going to work. The goal of the Ticket to Work program is to increase opportunities and choices for Social Security disability beneficiaries to obtain employment while still receiving SSI/SSDI. One's benefits will be reduced by a fixed amount/rate. However, one will have the potential to earn more working than through benefits alone.

**Medicaid Waiver Programs:** The waiver allows Medicaid funds to enable individuals with disabilities to reside in the living arrangements of their choice with the type and degree of support needed to increase independence in their home and community. These programs allow qualified Medicaid-eligible individuals to choose to live at home, determine their own level of support in an independent, community-based setting rather than being required to live in an intermediate care facility, nursing home, or other type of institution in order to receive benefits.

- Children's Supports Waiver
  - Ages 3-21
  - Supports and services are equal to 2x amount of SSI.
  - Children must live at home with the family.
  - Supports designed to prevent or delay the need for out of home residential services.
  - Services can include private duty nursing, home health aide services, medical equipment and supplies, environmental modifications, and respite care.
- Children's Residential Waiver
  - Ages 3-21
  - Provides twenty-four hour residential support to eligible children and young adults with developmental disabilities.
- Home-Based Support Services Waiver (HBS)
  - Ages 18 and older
  - Supports and services are equal to 2x the amount of SSI
  - Supports designed to prevent or delay the need for out of home residential services.
  - Services can include day programs, therapies, in-home direct services, employment services, transportation, funding for assistive technology.



## **Benefit Service Agencies in our area**

### **1. Illinois DHS- Family Community Resource Center Grundy County**

1715 Division St., Suite 105  
Morris, IL 60450-3101  
Phone: 815-942-3024

This resource is a “one-stop” center for financial assistance, medical assistance, food stamps and job services.

### **2. Social Security**

552 Houbolt Ave  
Joliet, IL 60431  
Phone: 866-783-7302  
815-740-2020  
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

Social Security will provide benefits (monetary income and or health insurance coverage) to individuals who are unable to work due to a disability. Programs include SSI, SSDI, Medicare, and Medicaid. This office will assist youth under the age of 18 with applying for Social Security Disability benefits. Individuals can apply online or with a representative of the agency.

### **3. Service of Will, Grundy and Kankakee Counties, Inc.**

2112 W. Jefferson St.  
Suite 242  
Joliet, IL 60435  
Phone: 815-741-0800

Service Inc. will assist students, adults and families with obtaining Medicaid Waivers. Medicaid Waivers provide funding to individuals who qualify. When a recipient receives these funds, they are allowed to allocate these resources in a format that meets their needs. Service Inc. is the local PAS agency for Will, Grundy and Kankakee counties. They are also the gateway to the PUNS list.



#### **4. All Kids Insurance Information**

Phone: 866-468-7543

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

The All Kids Program is a complete healthcare program for every child in Illinois. Illinois is the first state in the nation to ensure that every child, regardless of medical conditions or income, has access to healthcare. Information and online application are available on this site.

#### **5. Equip for Equality Inc.**

20 North Michigan Avenue

Suite 300

Chicago, IL. 60602

Phone: 312-341-0022

[contactus@equipforequality.org](mailto:contactus@equipforequality.org)

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

Equip for Equality is designed to provide assistance to individuals with disabilities across five programs: self-advocacy and legal services, training seminars, public policy research and advocacy, investigating and monitoring public and private facilities for abuse and instructing on abuse prevention, and individual self-advocacy and legal representation. Seminars include information on and assisting with Social Security Ticket to Work Programs.

#### **6. Family Benefit Solutions**

1110 West Lake Cook Road

Suite 150

Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Phone: 847-279-8506

Family Benefit Solutions is a consulting service for people with special needs and their families. Services include meeting with families to assess each individual situation, then guidance for finding assistance programs, government agencies and other helpful resources. They will assist families with completing necessary documentation for SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, Medicare, Ticket to Work Programs, PASS, and Medicaid Waivers. There is a fee for this service.



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### **7. Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living**

2415-A West Jefferson Street

Joliet, IL 60435

Number: 815-729-0162

Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living offers a variety of services to individuals with disabilities. This organization focuses on providing services across four core domains: advocacy, information and referral, peer counseling, and skills training. Self-Advocacy and independence is a large component of these programs. The center also provides families with assistance for obtaining benefits.



## **Community Living Services**

Community living encompasses a variety of areas. It includes housing, recreation and services designed to assist with living independently in the community. In order to become a participant in one of these programs, one must first open a case with SERVICES INC. (815-741-0800)

### **TYPES OF LIVING SERVICES:**

- 1. Independent Living:** Little or no support services; on own or with family.
- 2. Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA):** A network of support services built upon personalized support and case management. Clients live in a house or apartment with no live-in staff. Staff checks in with clients and assists them with meal planning and budgeting. Residents complete their own shopping, cooking and housekeeping. Eight persons or fewer reside in this type of community-based setting.
- 3. Supported Living Arrangement (SLA):** These arrangements are for individuals that need intermittent support staff. Staff does not generally reside with the residents. This program is similar to a CILA but is generally located within the supervision of a larger support structure rather than in the community.
- 4. Community Living Facility (CLF):** Refers to a program for clients who need training and guidance in most skilled areas (social, vocational, daily living, and mobility). Staff is available on site, and the residence is usually a community-based apartment setting. The goal is to prepare residents for independent living.
- 5. Transition Living Facility (TLF):** This facility is similar to a CLF, but it is on a time-limited basis and used primarily for training purposes or as a transition to a more permanent residential option.
- 6. Intermediate Care Facility (ICF):** Refers to a program for clients who need assistance with daily living skills. The facility offers 24-hour supervision, and residents live in a dorm like setting. It does not provide skilled nursing care.

**7. Intermediate Cared Facility for the Developmentally Delayed****(ICFDD):** Refers to a facility that includes 24-hour skilled nursing care.**HOUSING SERVICE AGENCIES****1. Aunt Martha's****Joliet, IL.****815-768-8750**

Independent living housing options for Homeless youth.

**2. Bethesda Lutheran Home and Service INC****Aurora, IL.****630-820-5780**This is a permanent housing situation for people with disabilities.  
CILA and ICFDD**3. Cornerstone Services****Joliet, IL****815-727-6666**

Provides permanent housing for people with developmental disabilities as well as permanent housing for individuals with mental disabilities, individuals with AIDS and individuals with substance abuse.

**4. Cambridge Professional Property Management****Morris, IL****815-416-0275**

Housing for individuals with disabilities and senior citizens.

**5. Easter Seals****Joliet, IL****815-741-5531**

Provides permanent housing for adults with developmental disabilities or mental illness.

**6. Maycrest Village****Joliet, IL.****815-744-7810**

Provides permanent housing for adults with disabilities and for individuals 62 or older.

**7. Trinity Services****Joliet, IL****815-485-6197**



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Provides permanent housing for individuals 21 and over with  
developmental disabilities and mental illness.

## **Housing Service Agencies Cont.**

### **8. Accessible Living, Ltd.**

308 North Bridge Street (Rt. 47)  
Yorkville, IL 60560  
Phone: 630-553-6607

Accessible Living specializes in home and business accessible products and services for those who are disabled. They understand the importance of assistive technology for the physically challenged. We provide durable medical equipment including wheelchairs, barrier free ceiling lifts, custom wood ramps, indoor/outdoor stair lifts, residential elevators, and exercise equipment.

### **9. Service of Will, Grundy and Kankakee Counties, Inc.**

2112 W. Jefferson St.  
Suite 242  
Joliet, IL 60435  
Phone: 815-741-0800

Service Inc. will assist students, adults and families with obtaining Medicaid Waivers. Medicaid Waivers provide funding to individuals who qualify. When a recipient receives these funds, they are allowed to allocate these resources in a format that meets their needs. Service Inc. is the local PAS agency for Will, Grundy and Kankakee counties. They are also the gateway to the PUNS list.

### **10. Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living**

2415-A West Jefferson Street  
Joliet, IL 60435  
Number: 815-729-0162

Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living offers a variety of services to individuals with disabilities. This organization focuses on providing services across four core domains: advocacy, information and referral, peer counseling, and skills training. Self-Advocacy and independence is a large component of these programs. The center also provides families with assistance for obtaining benefits.



## **Educational and Training Services**

There are a variety of post-secondary education options and services within Grundy County, the surrounding area, and the state of Illinois.

**Four Year University:** A residential or non-residential institution established to service students in order to obtain a bachelors degree or higher.

**2 Year Community College:** A non-residential Junior college established to serve a specific community offering associates degrees, certificate programs, and limited vocational training.

**Trade School/Vocational School:** A school offering instruction in one or more skills or semiskilled trades or occupations.

**Apprenticeship:** A formal method of training a skilled occupation, craft or trade. During the apprenticeship period, the apprentice receives 2,000 hours or more of structured on the job training with at least 144 hours of related classroom instruction. Apprenticeship requires a written agreement between the program sponsor (employer) and the apprentice.

**Certificate Program:** A certificate granted by a two-year college on successful completion of the program of study.

**Associates Degree:** A degree granted by a two-year college on successful completion of the program of study.

**Bachelors Degree:** An academic degree conferred by a college or university upon those who complete the undergraduate curriculum.

### **Our Local Community College**

**Joliet Junior College  
1214 Houbolt Road  
Joliet, IL 60431**

**STAR Program (Disability Service)  
815-280-2230  
Jacque Klicka**





## **Employment Services**

**Competitive Employment:** Work in a competitive labor market paid at or above the minimum wage. Work is without supports in an environment that employs both people with and without disabilities to create an integrated setting.

**Supported Employment:** Work in an integrated setting but with the support of a job coach. A job coach may be present for some or all of the day. As someone learns a job, the job coach may be slowly faded. This program is intended for people who may not be able to be independent in a competitive work environment.

**Sheltered Employment:** Work within an environment designed for people with disabilities who are not able to perform in a competitive work environment. All other workers also have disabilities under close supervision. Wages may be determined based upon the percentage or amount of completed work.

**Job Coach:** A person who provides support to a person with a disability to help them learn or perform a job. A job coach does not perform the work of the employee but will guide and provide assistance to maintain job performance.

**Natural Supports:** Supports within a competitive work environment without outside assistance. (Manager, co-worker)

**Job Developer:** A person who works to find employment specific to a person with a disability. A job developer may assess needs, meet employers, create job opportunities, address reasonable accommodations and match job seekers to potential employers.



## **Services that Assist with Employment**

### **1. Accessible Living, Ltd.**

308 North Bridge Street (Rt. 47)  
Yorkville, IL 60560  
Phone: 630-553-6607  
[www.accessiblelivingltd.com](http://www.accessiblelivingltd.com)

Accessible Living specialized in home and business accessible products and services for those who are disabled. They understand the importance of assistive technology for the physically challenged. We provide durable medical equipment including wheelchairs, barrier free ceiling lifts, custom wood ramps, indoor/outdoor stair lifts, residential elevators, and exercise equipment.

### **2. Aunt Martha's Youth Service Inc.**

19990 Governors Highway  
Olympia Fields, IL. 60466  
Main Campus: 708-747-7100  
Phone Joliet Team: 815-768-8750

Aunt Martha's a local community agency that provides a variety of services. Services include child welfare, health services, juvenile justice services, and prevention. Aunt Martha's provides assistance to youth who have records obtain employment.

### **3. Cornerstone Services**

Career Solutions Division  
800 Black Road  
Joliet, IL 60435  
[www.cornerstoneservices.org](http://www.cornerstoneservices.org)  
815-727-6694  
Contact: Angie Keating

Cornerstone Service is an adult service provider that provides a variety of services to individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness in Will County, Illinois. They provide vocational assistance to individuals with disabilities. The individual grants, or Medicaid pays for services.

Overall, services include assessment of job interests and aptitudes, job training, job development, resume and assistance, follow-up services after employment and assistance with transportation.



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### **4. Illinois DHS- Division of Rehabilitation Services**

100 W. Randolph Street  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-814-5761

DHS's Division of Rehabilitation Services is the state's lead agency serving individuals with disabilities. DRS works in partnership with people with disabilities and their families to assist them in making informed choices to achieve full community participation through employment, education, and independent living opportunities. They help people with disabilities find and keep jobs, their goal is to help our customers find quality employment that pays a living wage and offers a chance for advancement. They help high school students who have disabilities plan for their futures after high school.

### **5. Illinois DHS- Family Community Resource Center Grundy County**

1715 Division St., Suite 105  
Morris, IL 60450-3101  
Phone: 815-942-3024

This resource is a "one-stop" center for financial assistance, medical assistance, food stamps and job services.

### **6. Trinity Services**

100 N. Gougar Road  
Joliet, IL  
815-485-6197

The mission of Trinity Service INC. is to be a leadership organization in providing the highest quality, socially responsible and cost effective services and supports to individuals with disabilities so that they might live full and abundant lives. Services include employment opportunity analysis, personal employment plans, job training, job development and placement, job coaching, follow up and consulting assistance, and access to drop-in center.



## **Health Services**

Awareness of one's health is a vital part of transition planning. It is important that individuals with disabilities know how to manage their own health care and work with appropriate professionals.

**Supplemental Security Income: (SSI)** Monthly benefits that are paid to people who have a disability and who have limited income and assets. Participants include individuals 65 years of age or older, individuals who are blind in both eyes, and individuals with a disability as described by the Social Security Administration. Parent's income and resources are counted if the individual is under the age of 18. No previous work history is required.

**Social Security Disability Insurance: (SSDI)** A program that workers, employers and the self-employed pay for with their social security. Eligibility is based on a person's work history and amount of monthly benefit is based on past earnings. Individuals, who have never worked, can earn SSDI if they are considered a Disabled Adult Child. In order to obtain DAC status, the individual must have a disability with onset before the age of 22, and a parent with a FICA work record that is either retired/disabled themselves/ or deceased.

**Medicaid:** Provides medical coverage for persons with limited income and resources. Anyone can apply, but, depending on income and financial assets, there may be a monthly "spend down" amount before a medical card is issued.

**Medicare:** Another government medical coverage program designed to provide coverage to individuals age 65 and over to individuals with disabilities. Participants must be 65 years of age or older who are also receiving SSA/SSI/federal employee. Also, individuals with ALS, individuals with end stage renal disease and anyone receiving SSDI for 24 months qualifies.

**Medicare Waiver Programs:** The waiver allows Medicaid funds to enable individuals with disabilities to reside in the living arrangements of their choice with the type and degree of support needed to increase independence in their home and community. These programs allow qualified Medicaid eligible individuals to choose to live at home, able to determine their own level of support in an independent community based setting rather than being required to live in an intermediate care



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facility, nursing home, or other type of institution in order to receive  
benefits.

## **Agencies that assist with Health Services**

### **1. Accessible Living, Ltd.**

308 North Bridge Street (Rt. 47)  
Yorkville, IL 60560  
Phone: 630-553-6607

Accessible Living specializes in home and business accessible products and services for those who are disabled. They understand the importance of assistive technology for the physically challenged. We provide durable medical equipment including wheelchairs, barrier free ceiling lifts, custom wood ramps, indoor/outdoor stair lifts, residential elevators, and exercise equipment.

### **2. Aunt Martha's Youth Service Inc.**

19990 Governors Highway  
Olympia Fields, IL. 60466  
Main Campus: 708-747-7100  
Phone Joliet Team: 815-768-8750

Aunt Martha's a local community agency that provides a variety of services. Services include child welfare, health services, juvenile justice services, and prevention. Aunt Martha's provides behavioral health care, dental care, family planning, prenatal and infant medical care, HIV, OB/GYN, primary health care and quick care.

### **3. Easter Seals**

**212 Barney Dr.**  
**Joliet, IL**  
**815-725-2194**

Easter Seals provides a variety of individual and family support services. Services include speech therapy, occupational therapy, developmental therapy and physical therapy.



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### **4. Cornerstone Services**

Behavioral Health Services

800 Black Road

Joliet, IL 60435

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

815-727-6694

Contact: Deanna Watson

Cornerstone Service is an adult service provider that provides an array of treatments and services to individuals and families with mental health needs. These include counseling, psychiatric consultation, case management, crisis intervention, community housing, and residential services. Specific services include assessment, outpatient services, psychosocial rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation, residential treatment, and assistance for mental illness.

### **5. ALL KIDS Insurance Information**

Phone: 1-866-468-7543

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

The All Kids Program is a complete healthcare program for every child in Illinois. Illinois is the first state in the nation to ensure that every child regardless of medical conditions or income has access to healthcare. Information is online and applications are available on line.

### **6. Illinois DHS- Family Community Resource Center Grundy County**

1715 Division St., Suite 105

Morris, IL 60450-3101

Phone: 815-942-3024

This resource is a “one-stop” center for financial assistance, medical assistance, food stamps and job services.

### **7. Social Security**

552 Houbolt Ave

Joliet, IL 60431

Phone: 866-783-7302

815-740-2020

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

Social Security will provide benefits (monetary income and or health insurance coverage) to individuals who are unable to work due to a disability. Programs include SSI, SSDI, Medicare, and Medicaid. This office



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will assist youth under the age of 18 with applying for Social Security  
Disability benefits.

## **Legal Services**

When planning for the future, there are a variety of domains and ideas to consider. Many times, it is beneficial to have legal assistance that specializes in working with individuals with disabilities.

**ADA:** The Americans with Disabilities Act makes it unlawful to discriminate in employment against a qualified individual with a disability.

**Age of Majority:** When a student reaches 18, the rights of the parents/guardian legally transfer to the student. The following activities would shift from the parent to the student: notice of meetings, notice and consent for evaluation, right to invite participants, and notice and **consent for special education services**. The school must notify a student and their guardians of this shift one year prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Estate Planning:** The process of naming those beneficiaries and managing the tax consequences of passing a caretaker's wealth to the individual with a disability. For most families, planning means having a legal will drafted to ensure that your assets go to people you designate and to name a guardian for a minor or adult child with a disability who needs guardianship.

**Guardianship:** Legal means of protecting children and adults who can not take care of themselves, make decisions that are in their own best interest, or handle their assets due to a physical or mental disability. When the court determines that a person is incapable of handling either their personal and/or financial affairs, a guardian is appointed.

**Power of Attorney:** Gives legal authority to another person to make property, financial, and other decisions for the individual. They are often used for medical, financial, educational, property, or health decisions.

**Trusts:** An agreement under which money or other assets are held and managed by one person for the benefit of another. Common benefits that trust arrangements offer include: providing personal and financial safeguards for family and other beneficiaries; postponing or avoiding unnecessary taxes; allowing access to benefits; and meeting other social or commercial goals.





## **Service Agencies Related to Wills, Trusts and Guardianship**

### **1. A Better Life**

P.O. Box 4032  
Lisle, IL. 60532  
Phone: 630-369-2255  
[www.abetterlife.org](http://www.abetterlife.org)

The mission of a better life is to empower our community members who have developmental disabilities and their families by providing information and helping to secure resources that are tailored to their needs. They will work to expand freedom of choice, enhance quality of life, and preserve dignity. They will strive to help all those who wish to remain in the community do so. A better life provides Legal Advocacy, Advocacy information, self-advocacy assistance, and family support resources.

### **2. Brain Rubin and Legal Associates.**

1110 West Lake Cook Road  
Suite 165  
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089  
<http://www.SNFP.net>  
Phone: 847-279-7999

Brian Rubin is a lawyer who specializes in assisting individuals with disabilities and their families. His firm specializes solely in special education law and practices this type of law exclusively. He is also the father of a son with significant disabilities. He can help in all areas of special education funding and the law.

### **3. Equip for Equality**

20 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 312-341-0022  
[www.equipforequality.org](http://www.equipforequality.org)

Equip for equality provides self-advocacy, legal services, training on disability rights, public policy programs, and abuse investigations for children and adults with disabilities.





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### **4. Will Grundy Center for Independent Living**

2415-A W. Jefferson St

Joliet, IL 60435

Phone: 729-0162

[www.will-grundycil.org/](http://www.will-grundycil.org/)

This organization provides advocacy, help in explaining and filling out forms. Information referrals, peer counseling. The center also can locate and secure housing in appropriate settings.



## PUNS

### PRIORITIZATION OF URGENCY OF NEED FOR SERVICES

What is PUNS? Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) is a database of Illinois children, adolescents, and adults with developmental disabilities (Cerebral Palsy, Autism, IQ below 70, Seizure Disorder, Down Syndrome, etc.) who have needs – or anticipate having needs – for developmental disability services or supports. This database will help you and your family whether you need services immediately or anticipate needing services in the future.

Possible services include: In-home supports to help you live more independently, respite care to provide temporary relief to your caregiver, training programs to teach you life and work skills, job coaches to help you succeed in the workplace, residential living arrangements to provide you with the security and care you need, adaptive equipment to make you more independent, and other supports to improve your quality of life.

How do I access these services? Contact **SERVICE OF WILL, GRUNDY AND KANKAKEE COUNTIES, Inc** at **815-741-0800**.

What is the process? Once you have completed your interview and your information is entered into the PUNS database, you are put on a waiting list and your need for services will be categorized as one of the following:

- Emergency
- Critical
- Planning for need

**A COMPLETED PROCESS DOES NOT CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES NOR GUARANTEE THAT SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED. IT DOES ENSURE THAT THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES KNOWS ABOUT YOUR NEED FOR SERVICES.**



## **How to file for Social Security**

- 1. Call toll free: 1-800-772-1213**
- 2. Make appointment to file with local Social Security office**
- 3. Complete the information that is mailed to you.**
- 4. The file is then sent to Springfield to an Adjudicator**
- 5. Paperwork/Records are then requested (by the Adjudicator) from the appropriate sources.**
- 6. Records come in and are placed in file to be reviewed.**
- 7. Adjudicator determines yes/no for disability.**

**If you are denied, you have 60 days to file an appeal.**

**While Social Security eligibility is based on income, every family who has a child with a disability should apply at least once regardless of their income.**



## **The Children's Home-Based Support Services Waiver**

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

- Children with developmental disabilities including children with autism ages 3-21 years currently living at home with their families in Illinois and are believed to be at risk for out of home placement may apply for the new waiver

### **What does “at risk for out of home placement” mean?**

- This means that the extent of care required to maintain the child at home is so extensive, due to the severity of the developmental disability and its impact on the family, that the parents would consider residential placement for their child.

### **How do we apply for the Children's Home-Based Support Services program?**

- The first step in the application process is to schedule an appointment with SERVICE INC. (815-741-0800) to complete the PUNS form and request their assistance in applying for the new waiver.
- This process is most often referred to as the Pre-Admission Screening, or “PAS”.
- Applying for either the Adult or Children's home-based support services program is a process that will typically take a number of months. You will be required to provide a lot of documentation such as “proof of identity” (your birth certificate), and “proof of disability” (medical records and psychological exams). There is other paper work as well. SERVICE INC will guide you through this process. They will also create, with your help, a cover letter that describes your situation and why you need help. This is a very important part of your application process and you need to be very frank about your needs. All of this will be compiled into a packet and submitted on your behalf to the Department of Human Services.



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**PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MAY BE  
ELIGIBLE, BUT THERE MAY NOT BE FUNDING  
AVAILABLE WHEN YOU APPLY.**

In that case, your application is usually held until more funding becomes available.

**What financial resources are available to families?**

- Eligible families can receive supports and services valued up to \$1,246 per month (two times SSI) this year. The number of dollars available is indexed to SSI assuring that the dollar amount keeps pace with inflation.

**Are there any co-payments or family fees for supports in this waiver?**

- At this time, there are no fees or resource restrictions for the family. However, DHS is anticipation that there will be parent fees. We do not yet know what those will be.

**What does the new waiver cover?**

- Services are designed to be very similar to the existing Home-Based Support Services program for adults to provide a seamless transition to adult services between the age of 18 and 21.
- Services to be covered by the new waiver will be determined on an individual basis by the family and their “service facilitator”.
- The waiver is considered to be “the payer of last resort”. This means that the family must document their efforts to obtain needed services and supports from their child’s private insurance (if any), the school system (from the child’s IEP), and any other state funded insurance benefits such as Medicaid or All Kids.

**Examples of services/supports that may be covered by the waiver include:**

1. Service Facilitation/case management
2. Personal Support
3. Behavior Intervention and Treatment
4. Training and Counseling for Unpaid Caregivers
5. Home/Vehicle Modifications, Adaptive Equipment and Assistive Technology



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6. Individual Service and Support Advocacy (ISSA) for each participant Private insurance, Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT), Medicaid, and All Kids are all possible resources for other therapies, medicines, and medical supplies. They should be aggressively explored.

### **Who helps families find providers and access services under the new waiver?**

- Families work with a Service Facilitator to individually design a package of supports and services that will most effectively support the child and the family.
- Participants currently in 72D and transitioning to the new Children's Support Services Program may not have a Service Facilitator. DHS is anticipating that most families will use their current 72D providers as their facilitator. They don't have to, but it is the easiest immediate choice. Some families have told us that their 72D provider isn't prepared to be their service facilitator.

The Family Support Network has posted a complete current list of organizations statewide providing service facilitation on its website at [www.familysupportnetwork.org](http://www.familysupportnetwork.org).

Look for organizations that are close to you, call and ask for whoever is providing service facilitation for the Home-Based Support Services Program within that organization. Service INC should also be a resource as well. They may know organizations or individual service facilitators who will be particularly helpful for your situation.

### **How do the Adult and Children's Home-Based Support Services Programs differ?**

- Family members of adults in the Home-Based Support Services program CAN be personal support workers.
- Parents of children in the Children's Home-Based Support Services Program CANNOT be personal support workers for their own children. Medicaid feels that parents are already responsible for juvenile children, and won't pay them for taking said responsibility.



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- The Children's program is for children age 22 or below. Parents of participants age 18-22 have a choice whether to stay in the Children's Program or switch to the Adult Program. The adult
- Program is for persons 18 and older. Yes, there is an overlap and participants between the ages of 18 and 22 can choose which program will work best for them.
- Workers in the Children's Program require a CANTS form (child abuse history clearance) in their personal support worker enrollment packets, as they are working with children.
- Participants in the Children's program require a new 4-page Medicaid provider enrollment form in their personal support worker enrollment packets. Illinois requires all personal support
- Workers in the Children's and the Adult Program to be enrolled as Medicaid providers.
- Adults in the Home-Based Support Services Program can access supports and services equal to up to 3 times SSI per month instead of the 2 times SSI cap allowed in the children's program.
- Participants in both the Children's and the Adult Home-Based Support Services Program have a choice between an "agency" model and a "consumer-directed" model. They should find out what
- The agency will charge per hour for personal support workers so that they may make an informed decision.
- Participants using workers in the "agency model" are often charged a much higher hourly rate than they would pay support workers they hire themselves in the "consumer directed" model. This can significantly affect how far a participant's budget will "stretch".

### **How can I get more information about the new waiver?**

- Families can contact the Illinois Life Span Project, [www.illinoislifespan.org](http://www.illinoislifespan.org), or 800-588-7002
- The Family to Family Health Information and Education Center, [www.thearcofil.org/familytofamily](http://www.thearcofil.org/familytofamily), or 866-931-1110.
- Information updates will be posted on The Arc of Illinois website, [www.thearcofil.org](http://www.thearcofil.org) on a frequent basis.
- Updates are also available on the Family Support Network website at [www.familysupportnetwork.org](http://www.familysupportnetwork.org).
- Contact the The Arc Family to Family Health Information and Education Center at 866-931-1110 for more information.



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