

ADULT AND COMMUNITY AGENCIES

Special education services are mandated or required for all eligible students with disabilities in K-12 education. Services through adult agencies may have eligibility requirements and waitlists. Partnerships between the school, family, and agencies are an important aspect of the transition planning process.

IDEA requires that the student's Individual Education Program (IEP) include statements of interagency responsibilities or any linkages that are needed for the student to successfully transition (§300.347(b)(2)). A representative from any agency that is likely to provide or pay for transition services during the current school year (§300.344(b)(3)) must be invited to the IEP meeting.

There are many agencies that serve youth and adults with disabilities. Some offer vocational and residential services, others provide personal support or financial assistance. State agencies have services available in most local communities throughout the state.

PRIMARY STATE AGENCIES

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT -- WORKFORCE CENTERS

Workforce Centers offer numerous services including work registration, job referrals, career guidance and counseling, job data banks, interviewing and networking skills, resume writing, training, and assessment. The Centers work closely with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to obtain more intensive services that may be needed by clients with disabilities. Find the nearest Workforce Center in your local phone book or <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdle/wfc>

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

The Social Security Administration provides supplemental security income (SSI or SSDI) to persons who are disabled, fall below a specified level of income, and are unable to generate an adequate income through employment. Additional services include medical benefits through Medicaid. Youth with disabilities can apply 6 months before age 18. Generally, it takes 3-5 months to get a decision. <http://www.ssa.gov/>

COLORADO DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (DVR)

Vocational Rehabilitation assists individuals who have a physical or mental disability to enter, re-enter, or maintain employment and increase skills for living independently. DVR counselors can be helpful in linking clients with other agencies for support services that will enhance their ability to work. The appropriate time to refer is when the student's focus shifts from education to employment and the student is available for services, typically during the last year of school. To find the nearest VR office, call the state DVR office at (303) 866-4150 or <http://www.dvrcolorado.com>

SCHOOL TO WORK ALLIANCE PROGRAM – SWAP

SWAP is an optional, collaboratively funded program between school districts and DVR. The program serves youth that have mild to moderate needs in employment, meet eligibility requirements for DVR services, and are likely to require short-term services to become successfully employed. Referrals can be initiated by school staff or through a DVR office. To find out if SWAP is available in your area, talk to your special education teacher or contact your local DVR office. <http://www.dvrcolorado.com>.

**INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS (ILC)**

Independent Living Centers provide a variety of services to persons with significant physical, mental, cognitive or sensory disabilities to help them function more independently in their home, workplace, and community. There may be a small fee for some services. To find the ILC nearest to you, call the state DVR office at (303) 866-4150 or

<http://coloradosilc.org/>

DIVISION OF INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DIDD) AND THE COMMUNITY CENTERED BOARD SYSTEM (CCB)

This agency is responsible for services for people who have a developmental disability, typically with an IQ score of 70 or below and adaptive behavior needs. The Division for Development Disabilities, part of the Department of Healthcare Policy and Finance, contracts with private not-for-profit agencies in local communities who are designated as Community Centered Boards (CCBs). Each of the CCBs throughout Colorado has a designated geographical service area and offers a range of services including employment, residential, and community participation. It is important for parents to register their child for services at the age of 14 even if they are unsure about the types of services their child may need as an adult. Contact your local CCB or call the Division for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at (303) 866-7450 to identify the center nearest to you. <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/division-intellectual-and-developmental-disabilities-didd-reports-and-documents>

DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS

This agency serves persons with mental health needs through mental health centers and clinics throughout the state. An array of services is available to persons with major psychiatric diagnosis, chronic mental illness, or psychiatric emergency and their families. Mental health services are provided to persons with mental illness who are Medicaid eligible or who are without or have limited health insurance. For services nearest to you, refer to the website at <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-BehavioralHealth/CBON/1251578892077> or contact the state office of Human Services, Mental Health Services at (303) 866-7400

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF CHILD WELFARE – CHAFEE INDEPENDENCE SERVICES

This program provides independent living preparation for youth who are preparing to emancipate from foster care services. Services are provided through county service coordinators. For youth who are receiving special education services, and are living in a foster care setting, efforts should be made to coordinate transition services with the student's case manager. Find more information at

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-ChildYouthFam/CBON/1251589743194>

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

This agency is responsible for protecting and improving the health and environment for people in Colorado. Services are provided through local health departments and county nursing service agencies. Services available include nutrition, pre-natal care, drug and alcohol intervention, immunization, health management of chronic conditions, and family planning. For further information call (303) 692-2000 or refer to <http://www.colorado.gov> and enter Public Health

COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM (CCCS)

This state agency is responsible for secondary and postsecondary career and technical education. Services and support provided at secondary and postsecondary levels assist persons with disabilities to select and succeed in career/technical training programs. Each community college and vocational school has a Disability Services Coordinator on staff.

<https://www.cccs.edu/>



POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM

Coordinators of Disability Services are on staff at most community colleges, four-year colleges and universities to assist students with disabilities to select courses and obtain the supports necessary to succeed in the postsecondary education setting. Students must contact the Office of Disability Services at the college and provide documentation of disability in order to request accommodations and/or services. For further information, contact your high school counselor, special education teacher, or the postsecondary schools. Colorado Options: A Handbook of Postsecondary Education Services for Students with Disabilities is available on the CDE website under Transition Resources.

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/options>

Sample Questions to Ask

Once you have identified agencies that may possibly provide services to your child or student, the following questions may be helpful in gathering and clarifying the information you will need to make a referral. Based on the agency, and the needs of the individual, some questions may not apply.

Agency Name _____

- What services does your agency provide?
- What are the eligibility requirements?
- How old does an individual need to be to apply for and receive your services?
- Is there a waiting list for your services?
- Is there a fee for services offered?
- Do you provide vocational evaluation?
- Do you provide financial assistance toward vocational training or postsecondary education?
- Do you offer tutorial help?
- Do you provide job placement?
- Do you provide on the job training?
- Do you offer individual or family counseling?
- What information and documentation is required in order to apply for services?
- What is my role and level of involvement?

This CDE guidance document is meant for clarification, is not legally binding, and is not to be confused with legal advice. This guidance reflects CDE's recommendations, but Administrative Units (AUs) may have developed their own policies or procedures that differ from those described herein. Be sure to refer to your local AU's policies and procedures through the Director of Special Education. If you are seeking legal advice, please contact your legal counsel.

The contents of this handout were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, the content does not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.

Colorado Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services Unit
(303) 866-6694 / www.cde.state.co.us/offices/exceptionalstudentservicesunit