

RESOURCES – EMPLOYMENT/VOCATIONAL

Disability disclosure

- **South Dakota Disability Employment Initiative “Disability Disclosure”** – video featuring personal testimonies from South Dakotans with disabilities on their choice to disclose their disability in employment, education, and social settings.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOuczENU_dU

Employment Assistance

- **Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) Employment Assistance** – offered through Medicaid 1915 (c) waivers and helps individuals locate paid employment in the community.

<http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/supportedemployment/presentations/chcselfemployment2012.html>

Supported employment

- **DADS Supported Employment** – offered through Medicaid 1915 (c) waivers, state supported living centers, and other DADS programs.

<http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/supportedemployment/presentations/chcselfemployment2012.html>

- **Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) Supported Employment** – offered through the Vocational Rehabilitation program, supports individuals who need ongoing support to maintain employment. <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/supemp/>

Vocational programs

- **DARS Vocational Rehabilitation program** – helps people with disabilities prepare for, find and keep jobs. Counseling, training, medical treatment, assistive devices, job placement assistance, and other services are provided as deemed necessary.

<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/vr.shtml>

Related legislation

- **Americans with Disabilities Act** - http://www.ada.gov/2010_regs.htm
- **Texas SB 45 (83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013)** – Supported employment and employment assistance for Medicaid waiver participants. <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/83R/billtext/html/SB00045F.HTM>
- **Texas SB 1226 (83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013)** – Employment First Policy/Task Force <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/history.aspx?LegSess=83R&Bill=SB1226>
- **Texas SB 1664 (84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015)** – ABLE Act in Texas. Supports federal legislation making it possible for individuals with disabilities to save money in their own name to pay for certain expenses without fear of exceeding the Medicaid individual resource limit of \$2000. <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/history.aspx?LegSess=84R&Bill=SB1664>
- **Texas SB 1881 and HB 39 (84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015)** – Supported Decision-Making Agreements as an alternative to guardianship. <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/history.aspx?LegSess=84R&Bill=SB1881> and <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/history.aspx?LegSess=84R&Bill=HB39>

- **Texas SB 1882 (84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015)** – Bill of Rights for people under guardianship.
<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/history.aspx?LegSess=84R&Bill=SB1882>

- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act** - <http://www.doleta.gov/wioa/>

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and maintaining eligibility while working

- **ABLE Act (Federal law)** – allows people with disabilities (with an age of onset up to 26 years old) who qualify for SSI benefits and their families the opportunity to create a tax-exempt savings account that can be used for maintaining health, independence, and quality of life. <https://www.realeconomicimpact.org/Public-Policy/ABLE-Act.aspx>
- **Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)** – a written plan that helps people receiving SSI set aside money for employment goals while maintaining full SSI benefits
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/pass.htm>
- **Ticket to Work** – a program that helps people who have Social Security benefits go to work, save more money, become financially independent, and maintain health coverage through Social Security benefits <http://www.chooseworkttw.net/>

Other resources

- **Autism Speaks Transition Toolkit** - a toolkit to assist families of youth with autism as they prepare for the move to adulthood. Topics include self-advocacy, transition plans, community living, employment, education, housing, legal issues, health, and technology. The site also offers state-specific transition timelines.
<https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/transition-tool-kit>
- **Disability.gov's Guide to Student Transition Planning** – provides resources for students with disabilities including information and links about education, vocational rehabilitation, employment, health care, and independent living.
<https://www.disability.gov/resource/disability-govs-guide-student-transition-planning/>
- **Independent Living Experience Texas** – an organization that provides community-based independent living and employment supports and social activities to people with disabilities. <http://independentlivingexperience.com/locations/texas/>
- **Muscular Dystrophy Association Transitions Center** – a website with resources for teens and young adults with neuromuscular diseases. Includes blogs of self-advocates, resources on independence, education, employment, technology, and more.
<http://transitions.mda.org/>
- **Navigate Life Texas** - a website created by parent of children, youth and young adults with disabilities and special health care needs for parents. The site offers comprehensive information in English and Spanish for youth, families, professionals, advocates and others including dedicated pages with resources on employment.
<https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/transition-to-adulthood/careers-for-people-with-disabilities>
- **Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights (PACER) Center** – a website for parents of children and youth with disabilities. Includes information about self-determination and person-centered planning, education transition, employment, and more. <http://www.pacer.org/transition/>

- **Texas Parent to Parent** – offers “how to” manuals on housing and work, information about transition action groups, advocacy workshops and monthly advocacy phone discussions for parents and youth, and much more. <http://txp2p.org/>
- **University of Montana Rural Institute** – provides webinars for youth and families related to education, vocational rehabilitation, housing, health care, and more. <http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/transition/default.asp>
- **What do you want to be when you grow up?** – A guide for youth and young adults with mental health conditions to prepare for a career. A publication from the Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures at Portland State University. <http://www.pathwaysrtc.pdx.edu/pdf/pb-What-Do-You-Want-To-Be.pdf>

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