

Vocational Resources

There are several community agencies available to students with disabilities after graduation from high school. Please note that services may begin prior to a student's actual graduation date to aid in the transition process. Most agencies encourage early contact (a year or two before graduation) so that parents and students are informed about what type of employment assistance is available after high school.

Parents and students should consider the following prior to speaking with agencies offering vocational services:

What kind of employment situation do you and your child desire?

-How much flexibility is currently available to include a work schedule?

-What kind of work environment is best?

-What skills can be offered to an employer?

-What rate of pay is needed?

-What benefits will be needed (example: insurance)?

What kind of support is needed to find and keep a job?

-Help getting a job?

-Help learning a job?

-Help keeping a job?

-Transportation training?

What kind of transportation can you provide for your child or what are the public options?

-Self transport?

-Ride from family/friend?

-Taxi?

- Public Transportation?

-Other?

Questions to ask of vocational service providers:

The following list of questions is helpful when inquiring about available services. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. Your goal should be to match *your child's needs* with the *available support services* of the selected agency.

1. How are the services paid for? Do I have to pay?
2. How long do your services last?
3. What is the process to apply for services? Is there a waiting list? If so, how long?
4. What kind of transportation services are available? How are they paid for?
5. Do you provide services other than employment (Examples: social groups, work support groups, recreation, case management)?
6. How are parents involved?
7. What happens if a job change is necessary?

Types of Vocational Services Offered by Community Agencies

Vocational Evaluation - Testing to determine vocational interests, aptitudes and training needs to be successful on a job or in another vocational goal.

Supported Employment - The individual is provided vocational guidance, assessment and job development to ensure a good job match. One-on-one job coaching is usually provided during the acquisition phase and is faded away as the individual becomes independent. Once an individual is performing the job independently, job coaching is reduced to intermittent follow-up and problem solving on an as-needed basis.

Extended Services - Long-term job coaching services for individuals who are anticipated to require job coaching to maintain employment for an indefinite period of time. Two job-coaching contacts per month is the minimum support provided.

Work Adjustment Training - Training on a short-term basis (up to 12 months) to assist in learning basic work skills and appropriate work habits. The training takes place in an in-house (workshop) setting or the community to prepare the person for supported or competitive employment. This program is limited in DuPage County.

Sheltered Workshop Programs - The agency owns and operates an industry that provides work or subcontract work in an industrial setting. Individuals participating in this program do "piece work" and may be paid according to their productivity, sometimes less than minimum wage. This may be the beginning point for many individuals to gain work skills and work behaviors. Motivated individuals may seek other employment opportunities and programs.

Developmental Training - A day program designed for individuals with disabilities that offers instruction and supervision. Developmental training programs focus attention on functional daily living, recreation & leisure opportunities, and various community activities. Paid work opportunities may also be available to individuals.

Agencies Offering Vocational Services in DuPage County:

**Illinois Department of Human Services-
Division of Rehabilitation Services (DHS-DRS)**

2901 Finley, Suite 109
Downers Grove, IL 60515
Phone (630) 495-0500, Fax (630) 495-4841, TTY (630) 495-2294
www.dhs.state.il.us

DHS-DRS is the state agency that provides funding to organizations for services such as vocational evaluations, supported employment services, trial work experiences, on-the-job evaluations, on-the-job training, and extended services. This is your child's "first stop" in receiving any vocational services. DHS-DRS staff also provide vocational counseling, guidance and job placement services, along with monitoring progress at the vocational programs that your child has been referred to. DHS-DRS may also provide funding for additional services that may be needed for successful employment such as assistive devices, counseling, training, tools, equipment and tutoring. Funding for some services is based on the customer and family's financial need.

Parents Alliance Employment Project

2525 Cabot Drive, Suite 302
Lisle, IL 60532
Phone: (630) 955-2075
TTD: (630) 955-2098
Fax: (630) 955-2080
www.parents-alliance.org

Services provided: Supported Employment, Career Counseling, Job-readiness/Job-maintenance workshops covering Resume Development, Interview skills training among others, and Extended Employment Services, Transportation Training

Ray Graham Association

www.ray-graham.org

Employment Services

1989 University Lane, Unit J

Lisle, IL 60532

Phone: (630) 353-1692, ext. 105

Fax: (630) 353-1789

Services: Career counseling, Resume development, Interview skills training, Job search and Placement assistance, Job coaching and Customized job training (including long-term supports), Assistance to develop self-employment opportunities, Transportation planning assistance, and Public benefits counseling. Vocational evaluations are also offered, including on-site community/employer-based assessments.

Community Learning Centers (CLC) – See below for locations:

Description: A monthly theme topic drives the development of engaging options for people in the following core areas:

- Language Arts and Communication Enhancement
- Health and Fitness
- Personal Enrichment
- Leisure Education and Recreation
- Creative Arts
- Community Life Experiences

Community Learning Centers also offer Economic Growth Opportunities. People are employed at various micro-businesses, on work crews, through contractual work options, and are offered supports to create their own employment ventures. CLC locations are licensed as Developmental Training programs.

Inquiries for admission and intake go to:

Ray Graham Association

Family Support Administrator

15 W. 431 59th Street

Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Tel: (630) 325-3857, ext. 114

neelp@raygraham.org

TDD: (630) 628-2352

Monarch Services

Description: Monarch Services is the newest set of programs offered by RGA and is specifically targeted to young adults leaving the school setting. Programs include Monarch Living – a transitional residential apartment program in Elmhurst; Monarch Academy – a daytime community based training and exploration program in Burr Ridge; Real World 101 – instructional theme-based classes in Burr Ridge; Life Coaching – an intense 1:1 community-based support available throughout the county; and Home and Community Based Supports – a flexible respite/companion program available throughout the county. Services are available with Home Based Service funding or private pay.

Contact:

Community Learning Center Administrator

(630) 353-1697

ubaldoe@raygraham.org

CLC Locations

Lombard Community Learning Center
837 S. Westmore-Meyers, Lombard, IL
60148

Larry J. Bell Community Learning Center
1989 University Ave., Lisle, IL 60532

Hanson Center Community Learning Center
15 W 431 59th St., Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Planjery Community Learning Center
2777 Finley Rd., Downers Grove, IL 60515

Main Street Community Learning Center
1155 N. Main St., Lombard, IL 60148

Elmhurst Community Learning Center
420 W. Madison, Elmhurst, IL 60126

Spectrum Vocational Services

2302 Wisconsin Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
Phone: (630) 852-7520
www.littlefriendsinc.com

Services provided: Vocational Evaluation, Supported Employment, Transitional Work Program, In-House Sheltered Workshop Programs, Developmental Training

Supported Employment Associates (SEA)

P.O. Box 4714
Wheaton, IL 60189-4714
Phone: (630) 653-5662
Fax: (630) 839-3308
www.SEAssociates.org

Services provided: Supported Employment, Extended Services

DuPage County Health Department

Transitional Services Center
422 N. Prospect
Wheaton, IL 60187
Phone: (630) 627-1700
www.dupagehealth.org

Services provided: Supported Employment, specifically for individuals with serious persistent mental illness, Pre-employment and job skills training, Psychosocial rehabilitation

Agencies Offering Vocational Services in Nearby Counties
(some serve DuPage County)

Cares Chicago

3333 W. Arthington, Suite 139

Chicago, IL 60624

Phone: (773) 265-3300

Fax: (773) 265-3308

TTY: 773-265-3309

www.careschicago.org

Services provided: Job-seeking skills development

The Association for Individual Development (AID)

309 West New Indian Trail Ct.

Aurora, IL 60506

Phone: (630) 966-4000

Fax: (630) 844-2065

TTY: (630) 844-5063

www.the-association.org

Services provided: Supported Employment, Work Adjustment Training, Sheltered Workshop programs, Extended Services

Helping Hands Rehabilitation Center

9649 W. 55th Street

Countryside, IL 60525

Phone: (708) 352-3580

www.hhrehab.org

Services provided: Supported Employment, Sheltered Workshop, Work Adjustment Training

Other Agencies Offering Developmental Training

Marklund, Inc.

Developmental Training at Mill Creek

1S450 Wyatt Drive

Geneva, IL 60134

Phone: (630) 593-5500

www.marklund.org

RRAF

613 S. Main Street

Lombard, IL 60148

Phone: (630) 495-7723

www.rraf.org