

Agencies & Programs

Read about each agency and place a mark next to any agency that would be helpful to you in reaching your future goals.

○ Adult Education

Adult education programs are provided through most school districts for persons 18 years and older. Programs cover a wide variety of subjects that may include English as a second language, math and preparation classes for the General Educational Development (GED) test. Vocational classes, such as typing, computer training and auto technology also may be offered.

○ Community College

Community colleges provide a variety of degree and certificate programs. In addition, each college has an office for students with disabilities. This office provides services, such as tutoring, note taking, testing and readers.

○ Department of Public and Mental Health

Mental health services cover a range of programs and services for the treatment, rehabilitation and prevention of mental health problems, including hospital care, day care, out patient services and emergency services.

○ Department of Public Social Services - DPSS

DPSS provides a variety of social services for children and families. Services include: protective services and out-of-home care for children and adults; home support; health-related and employment-related services; family planning; licensing of day-care, foster-care and adult-care homes; and adoption.

○ Department of (Vocational) Rehabilitation - DR or DVR

DR is a federal agency that provides employment services to persons with a vocational disability. High school students may be referred for services in the last year of high school. Services provided by DR may include: On the Job Training (OJT); tuition; books, and supplies for training or college programs; counseling; equipment purchasing and other services related to job placement.

○ Employment Department

The Employment Department provides information on local job openings, job-seeking skills, training and unemployment insurance payments.

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○ Habilitation Services

Habilitation provides services to persons with developmental disabilities, including training support, workshop employment and supported or competitive employment settings. Clients must be 18 years old and affiliated with the Regional Center.

○ Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

These state agencies provide a wide range of services for persons with disabilities. Services may include parent training, counseling, assessment, advocacy, referrals for out-of-home placement and referrals for vocational training and placement.

○ Vocational Training Programs

Vocational training programs for persons ages 16 and older provide the following services: entry-level training, upgrading of skills, preparation for advanced training and internships. The type of training may include auto technology, medical careers, cosmetology, office occupations and banking.

○ Social Security

Every person is required by law to acquire a social security number. A social security card can be obtained through the local Social Security office. Social Security provides Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for persons of any age with disabilities. To qualify for SSI, you must be disabled, a legal resident of the U.S. and have a low income with limited resources.

○ Transition Programs

The Department of Rehabilitation offers transition programs to high school students during their junior or senior year. In addition, students complete a one- to two-year career and life skills course. Students may participate in paid internships or complete vocational training or college programs, before becoming employed.

Seek Assistance

Use the Internet, newspaper, phone book and other resources from this unit to find solutions to these problems.

- _____ Your baby is sick and you have no medical insurance
- _____ You filed your tax return but the IRS is asking for another form.
- _____ You need to register for the draft.
- _____ You lost your Social Security card and need another one.
- _____ You need assistance with housing.
- _____ You have lost your job and need to apply for food stamps.
- _____ You lost your job and need to be retrained for a new job.
- _____ You are having a hard time staying off of drugs.
- _____ You ran away from home and you need help.
- _____ You would like to make a little money by recycling cans and plastic.
- _____ You think you may be pregnant.
- _____ You moved into a new apartment and would like to get a free cat.
- _____ You would like your two-year-old son to go to Head Start.
- _____ You have high credit card bills and need financial counseling.
- _____ You had unprotected sex and want to be tested for H.I.V.
- _____ You broke up with your girlfriend and are feeling depressed.

