

7 Identify and Access Community Agencies

TRANSITION OBJECTIVE

Students will learn about the agencies and programs in their community and the kinds of services they provide.

RELEVANCE TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

Each community has agencies and organizations that provide services, assistance and help to those who qualify. It is important for students to be aware of these agencies and organizations so that they can access them in the future.

INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

❑ STEP 1: Update Journal

I ask for help when . . .

❑ STEP 2: Convene Roundtable

"When I ask for help, I feel ____."

❑ STEP 3: Advance Organizer

"Today you will learn about agencies and organizations in the community and the services they can offer to you."

would cause a person to need the services of the agency and an example of how the agency helped someone. Tell students to put an X in the box next to agencies that will be helpful to them in the future. Also explain that most of these agencies are supported by tax dollars such as income tax, property tax and sales tax.

175



PERSONAL MANAGEMENT: Unit 4 LESSON 7

Community Agencies

Read about each agency and mark the box for each agency that would be helpful to you in reaching your future goals.

- ☐ **Adult Education**
Adult education programs are provided through most school districts. They are for persons 18 years and older. Programs offer a wide variety of subjects. These may include English as a Second Language, Math and General Education Development or GED. Vocational classes such as typing, computer training and auto technology may also be offered.
Contact: _____ Phone: _____
- ☐ **Community College**
Community colleges provide a variety of degree and certificate programs. In addition, each college has an office for disabled students and for students with learning disabilities. This office provides services such as: tutoring, note-taking, testing and readers.
Contact: _____ Phone: _____
- ☐ **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.
Contact: _____ Phone: _____
- ☐ **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 in home support, health-related and employment-related services, family planning, licensing day care, foster care and adult homes and adoption.
Contact: _____ Phone: _____
- ☐ **Department of (Vocational) Rehabilitation - DLR or DVR**
DLR is a federal agency that provides employment services to persons with a vocational disability. High school students may be referred for services as seniors. Services include: on-the-job training(OJT), training consultation and books for college, or books and uniforms.
Contact: _____ Phone: _____
- ☐ **Employment Development Department - EDD**
EDD provides information on local job openings, job-seeking skills, training and unemployment insurance payments.
Contact: _____ Phone: _____

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175

❑ STEP 4: Activity - 20 Minutes

Go over the handout **Community Agencies** using a screen image. Have students take turns reading the description, then add other information such as circumstances that

176



PERSONAL MANAGEMENT: Unit 4 LESSON 7

Community Agencies

Page 2

- ☐ **Goodwill Industries**
Goodwill provides work experience, sheltered employment, job readiness and placement services for individuals with disabilities ages 16 and older. There may be other adult service providers in your area who provide a similar service. Contact your local Department of Rehabilitation office for more information.
Contact: _____ Phone: _____
- ☐ **Habilitation Services**
Habilitation provides services to persons with developmental disabilities. This includes supported employment or competitive employment. To receive services, clients must be 18 years or older and have developmental disabilities. Contact your local Department of Rehabilitation office for more information.
Contact: _____ Phone: _____
- ☐ **Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities**
This provides a wide range of services for persons with developmental disabilities. Services may include: parent training, advocacy and vocational training and placement. Contact Development Disabilities Services for more information.
Contact: _____ Phone: _____
- ☐ **Social Security**
Every person is required by law to have a social security number. The local Social Security office will have applications for social security cards. Social Security also 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. SSI provides a monthly income as well as medical benefits.
Contact: _____ Phone: _____
- ☐ **Vocational Training or Technical Education Programs**
For persons age 14 and older, vocational training programs 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 career, cosmetology, office occupations and banking.
Contact: _____ Phone: _____

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176

❑ STEP 5: Activity - 15 Minutes

Have the class pair up. Have each pair find websites for agencies and government offices. 1) Find an agency or government office for the following: City, County, State, Federal. 2) Find an agency for each of the government sections. 3) Make up a short

story about a person who uses one of the agencies and why they need it.

Have the pairs race for five minutes using the internet or cell phones to find phone numbers for the remainder of the agencies described in the **Community Agencies** handout. The student who finds the most is the winner. After the race, allow students to share numbers with each other so that everyone writes down all of the phone numbers on their handouts. Suggest that some students start at the beginning, middle and end of the list so that the numbers can be shared.

❑ **STEP 6: Evaluate Outcomes**

For me, the most helpful agency is “_____.”

❑ **STEP 7: Connecting Activity**

Have students contact three agencies they feel will be helpful to get information. They should find out: 1) how to qualify for the service, 2) services offered, 3) how to make an appointment and 4) the name of a contact person. Students report this information to the class. Contacts may be most successful by using the Internet to gather the information. A few agencies may still provide telephone access.

KEY WORDS

community

agency

**government
service**

federal

county

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Student Handouts: **Community Agencies**, pages 175-176.
- Make a screen image of the handouts. Become familiar with the agencies on the handout. Have local phone books for each student.
- Become familiar with the location of agency listings in the phone book. Provide a prize for the winner of the game.

SCANS FOUNDATION SKILLS

- Basic Academic Skills: Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking
- Thinking Skills: Creative Thinking
- Personal Qualities: Self-Management