

Transitioning from High School to Adulthood: Post-Secondary Services & Resources for Youth with Disabilities

For youth transitioning to adulthood and life after high school, numerous resources within our state can help. Here are some broad categories with links for you to research which ones seem the most beneficial for you and your child.



Post-Secondary Education

Beyond our state's private colleges and universities, Tennessee has an excellent and robust **Community College** system. Tennessee is also home to several Post-Secondary Programs for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD), which provide a campus learning experience for those who graduated without a regular high school diploma. In addition, Tennessee has the exceptional **Tennessee Promise** program, which in certain circumstances can provide two years of free tuition.

Community Colleges: tbr.edu/institutions/community-colleges

Post-Secondary Programs: tnihealliance.org/

Tennessee Promise: bit.ly/TN-Promise-Scholarship



Post-Secondary Training

Tennessee's **Colleges of Applied Technology**, located conveniently throughout the state, provide training in many practical fields, including cosmetology, auto mechanics, graphic design, and many more. In Smyrna, the **Tennessee Rehabilitation Center**, funded by **Vocational Rehabilitation** (VR), provides on-site training in a number of fields, as well as residential housing to develop independent living skills.

Colleges of Applied Technology: tbr.edu/institutions/colleges-applied-technology

Tennessee Rehabilitation Center: tn.gov/humanservices/ds/trc-smyrna.html

Vocational Rehabilitation: tn.gov/humanservices/ds/vocational-rehabilitation.html



Employment

An excellent way to find out what employers are looking for, and what industries have the most openings, is to check out Tennessee's **American Job Centers**. For those who are eligible, **VR** has supports for individuals with disabilities who want to begin working or return to the workforce. In some situations, VR can also help with post-secondary tuition.

Tennessee's American Job Centers: bit.ly/American-Job-Ctrs



Independent Living

For some youth with disabilities, finishing high school means looking for a place and a way to live outside of the family home. Tennessee's **Centers for Independent Living (CIL)** provide several resources, including training, benefits counseling, social and learning opportunities, and peer-to-peer support.

Tennessee's Centers for Independent Living: silctn.org/contact-us.html



Financial Support

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues designed to help people with disabilities who have little or no income, and provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. In addition, the **Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE)** program allows for tax-advantaged savings accounts that an eligible individual with a disability can establish and use to pay for qualified disability-related expenses.

Social Security Income: ssa.gov/ssi

ABLE program: able.treasury.tn.gov



Links & Resources

STEP Transition to Adulthood Resources:

Handout: bit.ly/Trans-to-Adulthood-Five-Points

Facebook Video: bit.ly/Transition-to-Adulthood-5-Things-to-Count-On-Video

STEP Booklets and One-Page Guides:

bit.ly/STEP-Transition-Guides-Complete-Set

bit.ly/diploma-postsecondary-options

bit.ly/transition-planning-resources

For more information about post-secondary services and resources, visit:

<https://bit.ly/STEP-TTA-Links-Resources>

