

ADULT AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

This fact sheet provides brief descriptions of the state and national organizations and agencies that provide supports for transition-age students and adults with disabilities, and their families.

Association of People for Supporting Employment First (APSE)

A national non-profit organization that provides information, advocacy, and education on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities.¹

Commissions for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Commissions for the Blind and Visually Impaired are state agencies that provide training and support to individuals who experience vision loss.

Commissions for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

State agencies that promote communication access for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing by focusing on advocacy, information dissemination, referral to appropriate agencies, interpreting services, public policy, and state-wide planning.²

Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs)

Accredited organizations that act as vendors for state developmental disabilities and vocational rehabilitation services.

Departments of Developmental Disabilities

State agencies with programs to improve the lives of children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities.³

Family-to-Family Health Information Centers (F2Fs)

Family-led centers in each state that provide information on topics such as how to apply for Medicaid, CHIP, or private insurance, find appropriate care and services, and identify and access community support programs.⁴

Independent Living Centers (ILC)

ILCs are non-profit, community-based organizations designed and operated by people with disabilities. Services include peer support, information and referral, individual and systems advocacy, and independent living skills training.⁵

National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) – iCanConnect

A national program that provides accessible communication tools (e.g., braille devices, computers, mobile phones) at no cost to individuals who have significant combined hearing and vision loss and meet income eligibility requirements. The program also offers funding for in-home training on the equipment and software it provides.⁶

National Family Association for Deaf-Blind (NFADB)

The largest national nonprofit organization serving families of individuals who are deaf-blind. It offers connections with families who have similar needs; support and information via telephone, email, a website, and Facebook page; affiliation with state family organizations for local support and collaboration; and opportunities to advocate for deaf-blindness at local, state and national levels.⁷

Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)

A federal agency that coordinates with employers and all levels of government to endorse policies that promote workplace success for adults and youth with disabilities.⁸

State Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As)

P&As work at the state level to protect individuals with disabilities by empowering them and advocating on their behalf. Services include legal support, information and referral, and self-advocacy training. They also work to raise public awareness of legal and social issues affecting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.⁹

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services

State agencies that provide services to individuals with disabilities to help them prepare for, obtain, maintain, or regain employment.¹⁰

Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC)

A national center tasked with providing technical assistance and training to state vocational rehabilitation programs on the skills and processes required to meet the requirements of WIOA.¹¹

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