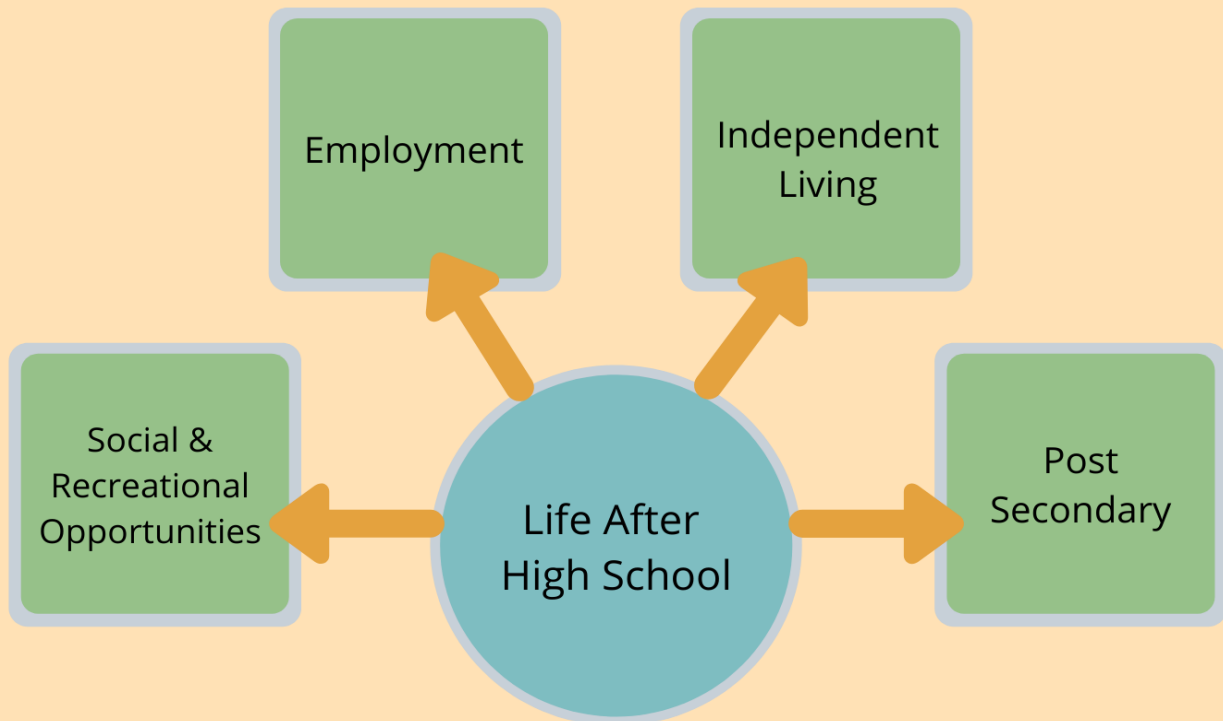


TRANSITION GUIDE

FOR THE GREATER FREDERICKSBURG AREA



created and maintained by the

FREDERICKSBURG AREA COUNCIL ON TRANSITION (FACT)

Table of Contents

Click on the links to go directly to each section.

[Who is FACT?](#)

[What is transition?](#)

[Why should transition be important to me?](#)

[What are transition services?](#)

[Where do I start?](#)

[Age of Majority](#)

[Selective Service](#)

[Post Secondary - College](#)

[Post Secondary - Vocational Programs](#)

[Supported Employment & Self-Employment](#)

[Day Support](#)

[Guardianship](#)

[Special Needs Trusts and Letters of Intent](#)

[SSI - Supplemental Security Income](#)

[Medicaid](#)

[Medicaid Waivers](#)

[Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment \(EPSDT\)](#)

[Resources for Transition](#)

[Autism Services](#)

[Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services](#)

[Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services](#)

[Department of Labor and Industry](#)

[Department of Social Services](#)

[disAbility Resource Center \(dRC\)](#)

[Division of Motor Vehicles \(DMV\)](#)

[Education - Post Secondary](#)

[Emergency Services](#)

[Employment](#)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

[Guardianship](#)
[Housing](#)
[Job Corps](#)
[Mental Health](#)
[Project Lifesaver](#)
[Proprietary Schools](#)
[Public Schools](#)
[Rappahannock Area Community Services Board](#)
[Social Opportunities](#)
[SSI and SSDI \(Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance\)](#)
[Supported Decision Making](#)
[Tax Advantaged Savings Programs for People with Disabilities](#)
[Traumatic Brain Injury Services](#)
[Transportation](#)
[Virginia Department of Blind and Vision Impaired](#)

Important Timelines to Consider

Acronym List

This guide is created and maintained by the
Fredericksburg Area Council on Transition (FACT).

The Fredericksburg Area Council on Transition is a regional, multi-agency nonprofit organization that meets monthly at various community agency locations. Contact any of the Resource Centers for additional information regarding resources or upcoming meetings or events:

Caroline County Public Schools Parent Teacher Resource Center	(804) 633-7083
Spotsylvania County Public Schools Parent Resource Center	(540) 582-7060
Stafford County Public Schools Parent Teacher Resource Center	(540) 899-6000
disAbility Resource Center	(540) 373-2559

Email: councilontransition@gmail.com
Facebook: [@FACTfred](#)
<https://www.factfred.com>

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Who is FACT?

Members of the Fredericksburg Area Council on Transition are comprised of individuals representing the following:

- Caroline County Public Schools
- Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services
- disAbility Resource Center
- Employment Resources, Inc. (ERI)
- Fredericksburg City Public Schools
- Germanna Community College
- King George County Public Schools
- Families of individuals with disabilities
- Consumers with disabilities
- Rappahannock Community Services Board
- Rappahannock Goodwill Industries
- REACH Program - Spotsylvania County
- School Liaison Program, Marine Corp Base Quantico
- Spotsylvania County Public Schools
- Stafford County Public Schools

What is transition?

Transition is the process students and their families use to think about life after high school, to identify their desired outcomes, and to plan their community and school experiences to assure that the students acquire the knowledge and skills to achieve their goals.

Why should transition be important to me?

- *Do you want to have a job and earn money when you leave high school?*
- *Do you want to go to college or attend a trade/technical school when you leave high school?*
- *Do you want to have your own apartment or live with friends when you leave high school?*
- *Do you have favorite activities that you would like to continue when you leave high school like singing in a musical group, bowling, hiking or helping in the community?*

If you answered “yes” to any of these four questions, then transition planning can help you reach those post-high school goals.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

What are transition services?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004 defines secondary transition as a coordinated set of activities designed to be within a results-oriented process, focused on improving the academic achievement and functional performance to facilitate movement from school to post-school activities. The purpose of transition planning for youth at age 14 and 16 is similar; good planning should address academic achievement and functional performance that will facilitate movement from school to post-school activities such as postsecondary education, career and technical education, integrated employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, and community participation.

Where do I start?

1. Review the material in this booklet.
2. Sit down with future caregivers, guardians, or individuals that will support your child to openly discuss plans for your child.
3. Determine what services may be needed and make contact with service agencies to start the application process. Many agencies and programs have waiting lists, some as long as 8-10 years.
4. Start a file of paperwork (dates/times/contact persons, names and contact information) to keep a record of who you have contacted and who you need to follow up with.
5. As services are identified, schedule visits to any programs of interest to educate yourself. This way you have firsthand knowledge on the facilities and staff available to carry out the vocational/employment, residential/independent living, or support services needed.

Age of Majority

In Virginia the age of majority is 18 years old. When a student turns 18, he or she gains the legal power to make key decisions about school services and life decisions.

At least one year before your child reaches the age of majority (18), the IEP must include a statement that you and your child have been informed of the rights that will transfer from you to your child at age 18. You may, however, continue to make educational decisions for your adult child through either full guardianship, limited guardianship, a power of attorney, or a limited certification by individual agencies (i.e. Department of Education).

Supported Decision Making

Supported decision making (SDM) is a tool that allows people with disabilities to retain their decision-making capacity by choosing supporters to help them make choices. A person using SDM selects trusted advisors, such as friends, family members, or professionals, to serve as supporters. Contact the National Resource Center for Supported Decision Making for more information: <http://supporteddecisionmaking.org/>

Transfer of Rights

1. “Age of Majority: Preparing Your Child for Making Good Choices”, www.ncset.org/publications/viewdesc.asp?id=318
2. “Transfer of Rights for Students with Disabilities Upon Reaching the Age of Majority in Virginia” (click on the link below to download word document) https://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/transition_svcs/transfer-of-rights-for-students-with-disabilities.docx (VA Department of Education)
3. “So You’re 18: A handbook on your legal rights and responsibilities, www.vsb.org/site/conferences/clba/ (Conference of Local Bar Associations)

Guardians and conservators are appointed by the court for persons who do not have the physical and/or mental capacity to care for themselves and/or their property. Guardians and conservators make decisions regarding personal and financial affairs. Contact your lawyer of choice or your local Parent Resource Center/Parent Teacher Resource Center for more information.

Selective Service

Almost all males living in the U.S., 18 through 25 years of age, are required to register with Selective Service. You must register within 30 days of the 18th birthday, however Selective Service accepts early registrations as young as 17 years and 3 months. It's important to know that when a man is registered, he will not automatically be inducted into the military.

Men with disabilities who live at home must register with Selective Service if they can reasonably leave their homes and move about independently. A friend or relative may help him fill out the registration form if he can't do it himself.

Men with disabilities that would disqualify them from military service still must register with Selective Service. Selective Service does not presently have authority to classify men, so even men with obvious disabilities must register now and if needed, classifications would be determined later. You can register online and find more information at www.sss.gov.

Post Secondary - College

As a student makes the transition from high school to college, it is important to recognize the significant differences between high school and college.

Public High School	College
Applicable Laws: IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act); Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973)	Applicable Laws: ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990); Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973)
Students with an IEP are guaranteed an education by law through age 21, or until they obtain a high school diploma.	Students have no rights for education but cannot be discriminated against.
Schools must screen and evaluate students with a possible disability.	Colleges are not obligated to screen or evaluate.
An Individual Education Plan (IEP) must be developed for students identified with a disability under IDEA.	Students are responsible for disclosing their information to the office of disability services if accommodations are needed and wanted.
High schools must provide appropriate fundamental services, modifications and accommodations to meet the individuals' needs.	Colleges are obligated to provide "reasonable accommodations," as long as documentation includes specific functional limitations and demonstrates the need for specific accommodations.
Students and parents have the right to request a due process hearing.	Students may only file a grievance with the college and have no right to due process.
Parents are legal advocates for students until age 18.	Students, age 18 and older, act as their own advocates.

Individual Roles

Due to these differences it is important to recognize the individual roles the parent, student and others play in selecting a college or post secondary education.

- **Parent** needs to . . .
 - Transition from being the primary advocate to being a supporter.
 - Assist the student in understanding and following through the search and selection process of selecting the school.
 - Encourage the student to self-advocate and be prepared to speak on his/her own behalf.
 - Be realistic about options.

- **Student** (“Key Player”) needs to . . .
 - Assume responsibility for the process in search and selection of the school.
 - Understand his/her disability.
 - Be able to explain his/her disability to others.
 - Be able to self-advocate.
 - Take responsibility for his/her future.

- **General Educators/Special Educators/Counselors** need to . . .
 - Prepare the student to be responsible for the search and selection of the school.
 - Encourage the use of appropriate strategies and accommodations that enable the student to be successful.
 - Be a mentor to the student.
 - Be encouraging and supportive.

Additional Tips

- Parents and students need to identify and prioritize the student’s most important areas of need in regards to accommodations.

- Parents and students need to utilize the expertise of their high school academic counselor, transition coordinator, teachers and other school personnel.

- Parents and students need to take advantage of both print and computer resources.

- Parents and students need to seek information for their specific question(s). i.e. college admission policy, fees for services, deadlines, etc.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

- Parents and students need to collect and compare all information to determine the college that best fits their criteria. All colleges that receive Federal funding must provide accommodations based on the Americans With Disabilities Act.
- In most cases, for students with disabilities, there might be additional steps such as identifying the special services office or person, student services application, release of current Eligibility reports and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) documentation that identifies disability, etc.

For more information:

Note: There are specific programs for students with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities in some colleges and universities. See Section: “Education - Post Secondary” under Community Resources for Transition, for local and state program information.

Virginia’s College Guide for Students with Disabilities

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/transition_svcs/outcomes_project/college_guide.pdf

Post Secondary - Vocational Programs

There are several local vocational training options available for students who have exited high school.

The Rappahannock Goodwill Industries (RGI)

RGI focuses services on the person served. RGI consistently follows an approach of working with the individual served to (1) determine where s/he would like to be, (2) where s/he is currently, (3) identify gaps/hurdles, and (4) develop a plan of service built around the needs of the individual. This approach recognizes that each individual served, regardless of disability, is unique in terms of gifts and challenges, approach to learning, individual life circumstances, and drive/resolve to work on self-development.

www.fredgoodwill.org

Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center

WWRC is sponsored by the Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services (DARS) and offers evaluations and job training for students and adults. Training may include life skills, driving, carpentry, masonry, food service, childcare, materials handling, business skills, cosmetology, medical assistant, horticulture, auto body, small engine, electronics,

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

maintenance, welding, etc. To learn more about WWRC, visit their website, or contact your local DARS counselor.

Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center: <https://wwrc.net/https://www.vadars.org/>

Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services: <https://www.vadars.org/>

Community Colleges

Local Community Colleges can offer:

- Associate's Degree - Awarded upon completion of a two year program of study which includes specialized curricula, as well as career specific classes.
- Certificate - Awarded to students who complete one of the approved non-degree curricula which are usually less than two years in length.
- Coursework that can be utilized for career readiness, career advancement or transferred into a four-year college or university.

Also note that community colleges have connections with DARS and the Virginia Employment Commission's (VEC) One Stop Centers in various Workforce Development programs. Another thing you need to consider is the Virginia's *Career Readiness Certificate* (CRC), an assessment-based credential endorsed by the Governor that gives employers and career seekers a uniform measure of key workplace skills. The opportunity to earn a CRC is available through Virginia's Community Colleges and Workforce Centers. Call (804)819-4985 or visit the VCCS website for more information.

<https://www.vccs.edu/workforce/career-readiness-certificate/>

Job Corps

Free training for individuals with low income offering live-in programs such as: health occupations, LPN, CNA, medical assistant, automotive repair, business technologies, carpentry, culinary arts, hotel clerk, network cable installer, painter, masonry, electrician, plasterer, plumber, welder, computer service technician, security officer, landscape technician, data entry, pharmacy technician, or facilities maintenance. Contact your local Job Corps Counselor for more information. Visit the [Community Resources](#) section for local contact information, or visit <https://www.jobcorps.gov/>.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships in Virginia are sponsored by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI). A registered apprenticeship program is a structured training program which combines on-the-job training with technical classroom training at a community college for careers that require a high level of skills. Areas offered include manufacturing and construction trades. One to six years are often needed to complete an apprenticeship. See your local Department of Labor and Industry representative for more information. <https://www.virginia.gov/agencies/department-of-labor-and-industry/>

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Proprietary Schools

Proprietary Schools are for-profit, privately run schools in Virginia. They should be certified by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). All schools offer “placement assistance” but none can guarantee a job. Many of these offer good, flexible, alternative education but be sure to do plenty of research before paying the high tuition. Some examples are computer technology schools, cosmetology schools, massage schools, bartending schools, medical assistant schools, dog grooming schools, nail technician schools, automotive schools, etc.

Military

A military career offers possible training options for individuals with disabilities. Contact a local recruiter to discuss these options. Some medications and physical/mental conditions may not qualify an individual for military service. Research is recommended before talking to a recruiter. Guide books are available such as Scott Ostrow’s **Guide to Joining the Military**. You can also download a PDF of “The Need to Know Guide to Joining the Military” at <http://images.military.com/media/shared/guides/join-the-military.pdf>.

On-the-job Training

On-the-job training offers individuals the chance to learn the job while getting paid. Most employers will not be able to provide extended one-on-one job coaching. They will expect an individual to learn the job quickly with minimum support.

Supported Employment & Self-Employment

Supported Employment

Supported employment facilitates competitive work in integrated work settings for individuals with the most significant disabilities (i.e. mental health, intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injury). Supported employment can provide assistance such as job coaches, transportation, assistive technology, specialized job training, and individually tailored supervision. Supported employment encourages people to work and encourages work, social interaction, and integration within their local communities.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Definitions

A **job coach** provides specialized on-site training to assist the employee with a disability in learning and performing the job and adjusting to the work environment.

Natural supports are support from supervisors and co-workers, such as mentoring, friendships, socializing at breaks and/or after work, providing feedback on job performance, or learning a new skill together at the invitation of a supervisor or co-workers. These natural supports are particularly effective because they enhance the social integration between the employee with a disability and his/her co-workers and supervisor. In addition, natural supports may be more permanent, consistently and readily available, thereby facilitating long-term job-retention.

Basic Components

Supported employment services should achieve the following outcomes: opportunity to earn equitable wages and other employment-related benefits, development of new skills, increased community participation, enhanced self-esteem and improvement in quality of life. The types of supported employment services used depend on the needs of individual consumers. The following are the basic components of supported employment:

- **Paid Employment** - Wages are a major outcome of supported employment. Work performed must be compensated with the same benefits and wages as other workers in similar jobs. This includes sick leave, vacation time, health benefits, bonuses, training opportunities, and other benefits. Employment must be for at least 18 hours per week.
- **Integrated Work Sites** - Integration is one of the essential features of supported employment. Individuals with disabilities should have the same opportunities to participate in all activities in which other employees participate and to work alongside other employees who do not have disabilities.
- **Ongoing Support** - A key characteristic which distinguishes supported employment from other employment programs is the provision of ongoing support for individuals with significant disabilities to maintain employment.

Self-Employment

Self-employment is an employment option in which an individual with a disability creates, with a support team, his/her own business and is employed by that business. Self-employment allows a person to do something they like and can do...when, where and how they want. This employment option is a good choice for those individuals that have unique needs and abilities or for those that live in rural settings. The Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services (DARS) may be able to help. More information can also be found in the following publication

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

from the National Collaborative on Workforce & Disability (NCWD): [ROAD TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY: A Guide to Entrepreneurship for Youth with Disabilities](#).

Day Support

Day Support Services can provide a planned combination of individualized activities, support, training, and supervision to individuals with developmental disabilities to improve their skills or maintain an optimal level of functioning.

Enrollment in these programs varies and frequently requires a form of sponsorship through one of the three types of DD Waivers, private pay, or income-based rate.

A day support program can be center-based where individuals meet at a facility and might travel in the community on various outings or non-center based where individuals participate in community activities for the entire day. A day support program is designed to provide training and support in a variety of areas, examples might include self-care, independent living, communication, socialization and motor skills. Some programs focus on non-vocational areas and others specialize in building work readiness skills through community volunteer opportunities.

With the redesign of DD Waivers, day options have expanded. Some organizations provide a variety of services in a given day and others concentrate on a specific area:

- Community Coaching- is a service designed for individuals who need one-to-one support in order to build a specific skill or set of skills to address barrier(s) preventing a person from participating in activities of community engagement.
- Community Engagement- provided in groups of no more than three individuals. Community Engagement fosters the ability of the individual to acquire, retain, or improve skills necessary to build positive social behavior, interpersonal competence, greater independence, employability and personal choice necessary to access typical activities in community life such as those chosen by the general population. These may include community education or training, retirement, and volunteer activities.
- Group Day services are provided in groups of no more than seven individuals. They provide opportunities for peer interactions, community integration, career planning and enhancement of social networks. Support may also be provided to ensure an individual's health and safety.
- Programs that are not sponsored by the DD waiver might offer the same or additional areas of concentration.

Individuals are encouraged to tour day programs of interest to learn more about program operations. Program may offer transportation and others might refer individuals to transportation providers in the community. When individuals enroll, an Individual Support Plan

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

(ISP) meeting should occur to develop an individual's plan tailored to address specific needs and desires of the individual participant.

Guardianship

Guardianship is a legal, court-ordered relationship in which one court appointed individual becomes the substitute decision maker for another. The substitute decision making by a guardian is the most restrictive form of legal rights, restricting all legal decisions that arise in the life of the incapacitated person. Guardians are appointed to protect an incapacitated person, i.e. someone who cannot make decisions without assistance. Incapacitation should not be confused with poor judgment or foolishness.

Only a Circuit Court judge can decide that a person is incapacitated and appoint a guardian to act for the person. A guardian's authority can be very broad or can be limited to making specific decisions. Usually a guardian will make personal and health care decisions but may be responsible for other personal decisions that most people take for granted. Guardians' authority to make decisions may be limited depending on the ability of the incapacitated adult to care for some of his own personal, health and safety needs. The extent of the guardian's authority will be set forth in the judge's order and in the Virginia Code.

The appointment of a Guardian removes a person's right to make decisions for themselves and should be considered only as a last resort. This option should be used only when there are no less restrictive alternatives that will protect the interest of the incapacitated person. Sometimes a person who might otherwise need a guardian can be served in a less restrictive way.

Once a Circuit Court judge has decided that a guardian is needed for an incapacitated adult, the judge has some flexibility in determining what authority to give the guardian. The judge may make specific provisions to preserve as much of the incapacitated person's independence as possible.

Full Guardianship

Unless the Court order appointing them limits their authority, a guardian is responsible for making all personal and personal care decisions for the incapacitated person. Full guardianship should be used only as a last resort, i.e. when there are no less restrictive methods that will provide the needed protection. A guardian is required to report annually to the local department of social services about the care provided to the incapacitated adult.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Limited Guardianship

A limited guardianship is used when decisional help is needed for specific tasks but not for all tasks. For example, an incapacitated adult may be able to take care of his own daily needs but is unable to make health care decisions and has not designated an agent under an Advance Medical Directive. In this situation a judge may appoint a guardian to make healthcare decisions leaving the person free to make all other decisions. A limited guardian has the same responsibility as a full guardian to report annually to the local department of social services about the care provided to the incapacitated adult.

Alternatives to Guardianship

Power-of-Attorney

An Agent, also called an Attorney-in-Fact, is an individual given written authority, under a Power-of-Attorney, to make decisions and take action on behalf of another person (the principal). A power-of-attorney is a document executed by one person (the principal) to choose some other person to act as his agent. The person who is selected as the agent for a principal and named in a power-of-attorney must be someone who is totally trustworthy.

There are three types of powers-of-attorney:

- A **general power-of-attorney** gives the agent the authority to take action on behalf of the principal in order to manage the principal's financial and/or property affairs. However, if the principal becomes incapacitated the agent's authority under a general power-of-attorney is automatically terminated by Virginia law.
- A **durable power-of-attorney** gives the agent the authority to act even if the principal becomes incapacitated. Having a durable power-of-attorney may make the future appointment of a guardian unnecessary.
- A **health care power-of-attorney** grants the agent authority to make medical decisions for principal if unconscious, mentally incompetent, or otherwise unable to make decisions on their own. While not the same thing as a living will, many states allow you to include a preference about being kept on life support. Some states will allow you to combine parts of the health care power-of-attorney and living will into an advanced health care directive.

Regardless of the type of power-of-attorney, the power ends when the principal revokes it or dies.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Advance Medical Directive

An Advance Medical Directive is a method by which the principal provides instructions about his health care treatment wishes. The principal also designates an agent to make health care decisions when the principal cannot make his own decisions. The agent's powers under the Advance Medical Directive are defined.

Supported Decision Making

Supported decision making (SDM) is a tool that allows people with disabilities to retain their decision-making capacity by choosing supporters to help them make choices. A person using SDM selects trusted advisors, such as friends, family members, or professionals, to serve as supporters. Contact the National Resource Center for Supported Decision Making for more information: <http://supporteddecisionmaking.org>

Special Needs Trusts and Letters of Intent

Special Needs Trust

A **Special (or Supplemental) Needs Trust (SNT)** is a specialized legal document, which creates an entity to hold assets on behalf of a person with disabilities. Careful planning should be put in place when planning for beneficiaries with disabilities. As the parent of a child with special needs, you know that your child may have financial and other support needs that differ markedly from traditional planning strategies for children. A Special Needs Trust houses assets on behalf of a beneficiary with disabilities, and has specific, federally-mandated language included to direct discretionary distributions on behalf of the beneficiary.

When a parent, grandparent, or guardian creates a Special Needs Trust for the benefit of a beneficiary, the beneficiary remains eligible to receive federal, state, and local benefits, such as medical care and insurance, housing, or professional training or assistance. Special Needs Trusts are allowed under federal law but must be specifically worded to avoid unintended consequences. This type of specific plan can protect inherited assets, and ensure that the beneficiary continues to have access to funds for a higher quality of life; these funds can be used for items not covered by government programs, such as dental care, clothing, and vacations and entertainment.

Who can create a Special Needs Trust?

Under federal law, a Special Needs Trust can be established by a parent, grandparent, or guardian of a beneficiary with disabilities and funded with assets or by the estate of the grantor; if an individual with disabilities owns the assets, a separate type of SNT is established, with different requirements for payback provisions to be built into the establishing document.

Letter of Intent

No one knows your child better than you. A Letter of Intent can help ease the transition to a new caregiver, and ensure that your child's immediate needs are met. Letters of Intent are documents created by a parent or other primary caregiver for a person with developmental or physical disabilities, and are much more detailed than general letters to guardians in standard planning scenarios. An effective Letter of Intent is usually a multi-page document that details the day-to-day care and assistance required by the individual, provides medical and dental information, description of mental and physical conditions and courses of treatment. Letters of Intent should also include preferences for food, clothing, individual habits and pet peeves, daily routines, and various levels of independence.

SSI - Supplemental Security Income

SSI stands for Supplemental Security Income and is one of the most important federal programs for people with disabilities. SSI is an income support program and provides monthly payments to persons who have disabilities and have limited income and resources. It is not necessary to have worked to be eligible for SSI. An individual can be considered for SSI regardless of age and whether single or married. SSI may be used as a financial support during periods when an individual is unable to work only minimum hours or is in the process of finding employment. SSI benefits can also be received while in vocational training or attending post-secondary institutions. Almost everyone who receives SSI is also eligible to have health care coverage through Medicaid. SSI rules also allow an individual to take deductions for the cost of special work related expenses while working, training for a job, or attending postsecondary institutions.

Eligibility

In general, an individual is likely to be eligible for SSI if they meet both disability and financial criteria.

Disability Criteria

This means that an individual must be a person with a physical or mental disability. They are unable to perform Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) because of that condition and that condition is expected to last at least 12 months or result in death. Determination for benefits is made by Disability Determination Services. **If an individual is not determined to have a qualifying disability as determined by DDS by the time they are 19 years of age, the person will not qualify for SSI and may put current Medicaid benefits, including a Medicaid Waiver, at risk.**

Financial Criteria

There are two types of financial assets that are considered when an individual applies for SSI:

1. **Income:** An individual is either unemployed or they are working and earning less than the gross monthly amount established by the Social Security Administration (for up to date income guidelines go to www.socialsecurity.gov). If they are under 18 and living with their parents, the parents' income will be considered for SSI purposes.
2. **Resources:** The individual's financial assets and other assets must be under \$2,000 (excluding house and car if used to obtain medical care or work).

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Local Social Security Information

- To schedule an appointment call 1-800-772-1213; (TDD 1-800-325-0078).
- Appointments are scheduled for the Fredericksburg office, 9915 Jefferson Davis Highway, Fredericksburg, VA 22407.
- For a complete review and planning of benefits and income, contact VA ACCSES at <http://www.vaaccses.org/wipa/>.

Medicaid

Medicaid Waivers

Medicaid Waivers provide a variety of supports and services for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families who need long-term support systems to live successfully in the community rather than in institutional settings. Unlike general Medicaid, household income is not considered. For a waiver, only the income/assets of the individual seeking eligibility are reviewed.

There are two waiver programs that are most commonly used by people with developmental disabilities. They are:

Developmental Disability Waiver (formally the DD, ID, and Day Support Waivers)

DD Waivers are for individuals with a diagnosis of intellectual or developmental disability by a credentialed professional. To learn more about eligibility, application procedures, and the types of services that the waiver provides, visit <https://thearcofnova.org/programs/waivers/all-about-waivers/> for the most current information. **Note: There is a long waiting list for Developmental Disability Waivers.**

Must be screened to be placed on the waiting list for all three types of DD Waivers:

- Building Independence
- Family and Individual
- Community Living

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

To schedule a screening, or to apply, call the [Rappahannock Area Community Service Board](#):

- Fredericksburg, Caroline, and King George: 804-633-9997 ext. 6116
- Spotsylvania: 540-582-7326
- Stafford: 540-659-2725 ext. 6214

The [disAbility Resource Center](#) has a trained Virginia Medicaid Mentor on staff available for information or training. Contact dRC at 540-373-2559 to inquire.

CCC Plus Waiver (formerly the EDCD and Technology Assisted waivers)

The CCC+ Waiver serves residents 65 years of age or older **OR** under the age of 65 and disabled. Individuals must also meet nursing home eligibility criteria, including both medical needs and functional capacity needs (daily living activities). Individuals previously served under the Elderly and Disabled with Consumer Direction (EDCD) and Technology Assistance Waivers are included in CCC+ Waiver.

For children under the age of 18: Contact your local Health Department.

For those 18 years of age and older: Contact the local [Department of Social Services](#).

The CCC+ Waiver requires individuals to meet both financial and functional criteria. For financial eligibility, only the income/assets of the individual seeking Medicaid are considered. Children are considered a household of one for the purposes of the CCC+ Waiver financial determinations.

For the CCC+ Waiver you will be required to complete the [Medicaid application](#). You must also complete [Appendix D](#) for long term care.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)

This is a federal Medicaid benefit, not a waiver. The EPSDT benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under the age of 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventative, dental, mental health, developmental and specialty services. Individuals who qualify can utilize EPSDT benefits while on the DD waiting list. For more information, visit <https://momsinmotion.net/waivers/epsdt/> or visit <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/files/links/942/EPSDT%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf> for a downloadable fact sheet provided by the [Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services](#). Contact EPSDT at 804-786-6134.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Resources for Transition

Autism Services

- **CA Human Services** (formerly Commonwealth Autism)
4108 E Parham Rd, Richmond VA 23228
804-355-0300; 800-649-8481
cahumanserives.org
- **Youth and Adult Self Advocacy Teams**
disAbility Resource Center
409 Progress St, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540-373-2559
www.cildrc.org
- **Rappahannock Area Autism Council (RAAC)** - Comprised of professionals in the community who work with individuals on the autism spectrum, the RAAC's mission is to provide leadership and coordination for agencies and providers to increase knowledge of autism in order to maximize outcomes for those with ASD.
Email: raacinfo@gmail.com

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

- **The Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**
1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Suite 203, Richmond, VA 23229
804-662-9502 (V/TTY); 800-552-7917 (V/TTY); FAX: 804-662-9718
Email: frontdsk@vddhh.virginia.gov
vddhh.org

Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services

The Division of Rehabilitative Services offers vocational rehabilitation to assist people with disabilities to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment. You may be eligible for these services if you have a physical, mental or emotional disability; this disability keeps you from working; you live, work or attend school in Virginia; and DRS certifies that there is a good chance that these services will result in your employment. Learn more about [Pre-Employment Transition Services](#) (Pre-ETS) available for rising high school graduates at <https://www.vadars.org/drs/transitionservices.htm#gsc.tab=0>.

10300 Spotsylvania Ave. Ste.220, Fredericksburg VA 22408
Phone: 540-899-4161; Fax: 540-710-2060
<https://www.vadars.org/>

Assistive Technology / Devices and Equipment

Assistive Technology Services directly assist individuals with disabilities in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Employment

Employment services to help individuals with various disabilities prepare, find, or maintain competitive integrated employment.

Pre-Employment Transition Services

DARS collaborates with high school students with disabilities, their families, schools and community service providers to support transition beginning at age 14.

Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center

Fishersville, VA <https://www.wwrc.net/>

- Post-Secondary Education Rehabilitation Transition (PERT)
- Transition Academy

Contact the transition specialist at your school or your case manager for more information.

Hearing Impaired

800-464-9950

Department of Labor and Industry

For a listing of registered apprenticeships visit the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry at doli.virginia.gov or call 804-371-2327.

Department of Social Services

Linkage to Medicaid, Food Stamps and CCC+ Waiver: (Medicaid application is made separate of the SSI application).

- Caroline County: 804-633-5071; 17202 Richmond Turnpike, PO Box 430, Bowling Green, VA 22427
- Fredericksburg: 540-372-1032; 608 Jackson St., Suite 100, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
- King George: 540-775-3544; 10069 Kings Hwy, PO Box 130, King George, VA 22484
- Spotsylvania: 540-507-7898; 9019 Old Battlefield Blvd., PO Box 249 Spotsylvania VA 22553
- Stafford: 540-658-8720; County Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Rd, PO Box 7, Stafford VA 22555

disAbility Resource Center (dRC)

Assists people with disabilities to achieve the highest potential and benefit of independent living by providing them, those who support them and the community with information, education, and resources.

Programs: advocacy, independent living skills training, information/referral, peer counseling, transition (from school to adult life and from nursing home to one's own home), exercise and nutrition, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, durable medical reuse program, support groups, and youth services, Medicaid Waiver facilitation and DD Waiver Case Management.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

disAbility Resource Center (dRC)
409 Progress Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540-373-2559; CAPTEL: 540-373-5890; Fax: 540-373-8126
www.cildrc.org

Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

Students with disabilities, if appropriate, can obtain an ID card or valid driver's license in Virginia. Visit dmv.virginia.gov/drivers/#disability/index.asp for more information and learn how to obtain testing accommodations, if needed.

Driver assessments can also be done at Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center. [Contact DARS for more information.](#)

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles:

<http://www.dmv.state.va.us/>

Education - Post Secondary

Programs for students with disabilities

- **ACE-IT@VCU**-Academic and Career Exploration Individual Techniques, Through a federal grant, the Partnership and the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center are supporting Virginia Commonwealth University students with ID (aged 18- 26) in a 30-month inclusive, individualized certificate program. 804-828-0352, dvyarbrough@vcu.edu, <https://aceitincollege.org/>
- **Courage to Succeed** is a UMFS (United Methodist Family Services) program for students with Asperger's Syndrome. The program uses a positive behavior support approach to assist participating students. Social, communication, academic, leisure and personal living skills are assessed through person-centered planning. Students participating in the program must be accepted at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and admitted to Charterhouse School's Courage to Succeed program through a separate application process. 804-239-1080, info@chs4u.org
<https://www.charterhouseschool.org/courage-to-succeed/>
- **The Mason LIFE Program** at George Mason University is an innovative post-secondary program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who desire a university experience in a supportive academic environment.
Helen A. Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities
Graduate School of Education 4400 University Drive, MSN 1F2
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Phone: (703)993-3905, or (703)-993-3681
<https://masonlife.gmu.edu/>
- **The College Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder** at Marshall University uses a positive behavior support approach to assist participating students. Social, communication, academic, leisure and personal

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

living skills are assessed through person-centered planning. Students participating in the program have met acceptance criteria for Marshall University and have been admitted to The College Program through a separate application process.

Phone: 304-696-2332

<http://www.marshall.edu/collegeprogram/>

Local Virginia Colleges

- **Germanna Community College**
Contact the Disabilities Services Coordinator: 540-891-3000
<https://www.germanna.edu/>
- **J. Sargeant Community College**
Downtown Campus Program Coordinator: 804-786-6486 or 804-523-5455
Parham Road Campus: 804-371-3362
<http://www.reynolds.edu/>
- **NOVA**
Woodbridge Campus, Disability Counselor: 703-878-5760
www.nvcc.edu
- **UMW**
Disabilities Services Coordinator: 540-654-1266
<https://www.umw.edu/>
- **Rappahannock Community College**
Glenns Campus Disability Counselor: 804-758-6732; Warsaw Campus: 804-333-6732
<https://www.rappahannock.edu/>

Think College

Think College is a national organization dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving inclusive higher education options for people with intellectual disability. Find and compare information on 259 college programs for students with intellectual disabilities at <https://thinkcollege.net/>.

CollegeBoard

Use the CollegeBoard's comprehensive college search engine, Big Future, to find colleges that meet your needs. Filter by major, size, location, setting, diversity, and additional support programs. <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

Virginia College Guide for Students With Disabilities

The Virginia Department of Education's guide to college planning for students with disabilities has practical information about the differences between levels of support in high school and college, what to consider when picking your college, and how to look for disability support services, in wanted.

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/transition_svcs/college_planning/college_guide.pdf

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Emergency Services

Crisis intervention services

- Mary Washington Hospital/Snowden: 540-741-3900
- Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center: 540-498-4000
- 911
- RACSB Emergency Services
Fredericksburg: 540-373-6876; King George: 540-775-5064; Caroline:
804-633-4148
- **REACH Hotline: (855) 897-8278**

REACH (Regional Educational Assessment Crisis Services Habilitation)

REACH is a statewide crisis stabilization and intervention program for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities with co-occurring behavioral health needs, which put them at risk for homelessness, incarceration, hospitalization, and/or danger to self or others. <http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/developmental-services/Crisis-services>

REACH Hotline: 855-897-8278

Employment

Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

10300 Spotsylvania Ave. Ste.220, Fredericksburg VA 22408

Phone: 540-899-4161; Fax: 540-710-2060

<https://www.vadars.org/>

- **Assistive Technology / Devices and Equipment**
Assistive Technology Services directly assist individuals with disabilities in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.
- **Employment**
Employment services to help individuals with various disabilities prepare, find, or maintain competitive integrated employment.
- **Pre-Employment Transition Services**
DARS collaborates with high school students with disabilities, their families, schools and community service providers to support transition beginning at age 14.
- **Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center**
Fisherville, VA <https://www.wwrc.net/>
 - Post-Secondary Education Rehabilitation Transition (PERT)
 - Transition AcademyContact the transition specialist at your school or your case manager for more information.
- **Hearing Impaired**
800-464-9950

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries (RGI)

4701 Market Street, Suite A
Fredericksburg, VA 22408
Phone: 540-371-3070
<http://fredgoodwill.org/>

RGI is an approved vendor of **Individual Supported Employment Services** and Group Supported Employment Services with the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). As an approved vendor RGI provides individual planning and services to include situational assessment, job development & training and long term follow along services to qualified individuals referred by the local DARS offices.

RGI has a provider participation agreement with the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services to provide Medicaid Waiver funded **Individual Supported Employment**. To access these services, one must have a Developmental Disability Medicaid Waiver and be referred for services by the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board's Support Coordinator. Individuals in this program are supported to apply for employment in the community and supported by an Employment Specialist.

RGI is the operator of the Virginia Career Works Centers in both Fredericksburg and Culpeper. RGI is the provider of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title 1 Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs in both Culpeper and Fredericksburg.

Virginia Career Works Center Fredericksburg Center

10304 Spotsylvania Avenue
Suite 100
Fredericksburg, VA 22408
Phone: 540-322-5765

RGI offers free Job Help Services to any and all job seekers in the region. Career Navigation, Resume Writing, Job Search, Interviewing Skills support, and other job readiness related items are the mainstays of our offerings. RGI also offers free digital skills training throughout the area to all levels of digital skill. Job Help Services are available in person and virtually.

Virginia Employment Commission

The Virginia Employment Commission Workforce Center provides employer and job seeker services, unemployment benefits and labor market information. They also offer free workshops, WIA funding and career assessment testing.

10304 Spotsylvania Avenue, Suite 100, Fredericksburg, VA 22408
Phone: 540-322-5768
<http://www.vec.virginia.gov/>

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Guardianship

- **Bridges** - Public Guardianship Info
PO Box 1310 Fredericksburg, VA 22402
Phone: 540-899-3404
Email: Bridgessenior@aol.com
<http://bridgespgp.com/>
- **The Arc of Northern Virginia** - Public Guardianship Info
2755 Hartland Road, Suite 200, Falls Church, VA 22043
Phone: 703-208-1119
<https://thearcofnova.org/programs/info-referral/guardianship/>
- **DARS Office for Aging Services of the Division for Community Living** - Public Guardianship Info
Virginia Public Guardian & Conservator Program
Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
1610 Forest Ave., Suite 100
Henrico, VA 23229
Phone: 804-588-3989
<https://vda.virginia.gov/publicguardianship.htm>
- **Private Guardianship Info** - consult with your local legal representative that specializes in elder care and guardianship/conservatorship law. Contact the disAbility Resource Center or your local Parent Resource Center for more information.

Housing

Housing Financial Assistance

- Central Virginia Housing Coalition: 540-604-9943
- Quin Rivers - HIP Rent Assistance: 804-966-8720
- SERVE, Incorporated: 540-288-9603

Please contact your Local Social Services or United Way for subsidized housing.

Group Homes and Sponsored Placement

A **group home** is a private residence designed to serve individuals with chronic disabilities. Typically there are no more than four to six residents and there is a trained caregiver there twenty-four hours a day. **Sponsored Placement** allows individuals with an Intellectual Disability the opportunity to live and work in their own communities with a family that best matches the individual's personality and needs. For more information, contact:

- Rappahannock Area Community Services Board: 540-373-3223
<https://rappahannockareacsb.org/>
- Human Kind | Fredericksburg: 540-373-1237
<https://www.humankind.org/locations/fredericksburg/>

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

- Wall Residences: 540-745-4216
<http://www.wallresidences.com/services/#sr>

Emergency Shelter

- Micah Ministries: 540-479-4116
- Thurman Brisben Center: 540-899-9853

Housing Loan Programs

- Central Virginia Housing Coalition: 540-604-9943
- Direct Homeownership Assistance: 540-372-1179
- Quin Rivers – Mortgage Assistance: 804-966-8720
- USDA Rural Development: 540-899-9492
- Emergency Home Repair Program: 540-372-1179
- Fredericksburg Habitat for Humanity: 540-891-5009
- Rebuilding Together (repair): 540-373-9807
- Rappahannock Area Agency on Aging: 540-371-3375

Rental Housing for Individuals with Disabilities

- Project FAITH: 540-775-3492
- HOME, Inc.: 540-361-7477

Contact your local Social Services or United Way for more resources.

Housing Voucher

Housing Choice Vouchers are for individuals with DD who would like to live in their own rental housing with appropriate support. This is for individuals with DD “within the DOJ Settlement Agreement Population,” which means that the individual must have DD and either be 1) transitioning out of a facility or center, 2) receiving one of the three DD waivers, or 3) on the DD waiver waiting list. To learn more or to apply:

<http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/developmental-services/housing/housing-choice-voucher>

Additional Housing Information for Individuals with DD

<http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/developmental-services/housing/housing-choice-voucher>

Job Corps

2217 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Phone: 540-370-0595

<https://www.jobcorps.gov/>

Mental Health

Contact your insurance company for referrals.

- **NAMI** - provides support, education, and advocacy groups for family, friends and individuals with mental illness.
NAMI Rappahannock - Regional Office
PO Box 7511, Fredericksburg VA 22404

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Phone: 540-479-3044
Local: <https://namirapp.com/nrwp/>
National: <https://www.nami.org/>

- **Mental Health America of Fredericksburg (MHAF)** - provides information and referral, crisis intervention and helpline, public education, advocacy
2217 Princess Anne Street Suite 104-1
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Office/Helpline: 540-371-2704
Toll free: 800-684-6423
Email: mhafred@mhafred.org
<https://www.mhafred.org/>
- **Rappahannock Area Communities Services Board (RACSB)** - medication management, counseling, residential programs, child and adolescent services, crisis intervention
Emergency Services: 540-373-6876
Caroline: 804-633-9997
Fredericksburg City: 540-373-3223
King George: 540-775-9879
Spotsylvania: 540-582-3980
Stafford: 540-659-2725
<https://rappahannockareacsb.org/portfolio/mental-health/>

Project Lifesaver

An electronic tracking device that helps provide rapid response to save lives and reduce the potential life threatening injuries to children and adults who wander off from their loved ones.

- Caroline County Sheriff's Office: 804-633-1120
www.carolinesheriff.org
- Fredericksburg Police Department: 540-373-3122
www.fredericksburgva.gov/Departments/police
- King George County Sheriff's Office: 540-775-2049
<https://www.king-george.va.us/300/Sheriffs-Office>
- Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office: 540-582-7115 <https://www.spotsylvaniasheriff.org/>
- Stafford Sheriff's Office: 540-658-4400
www.staffordsheriff.com

Proprietary Schools

For profit vocational and academic institutions and schools:

www.schev.edu/students/collegeListAlpha.asp

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Public Schools

Students with a disability are eligible for school services, ages 2-21 inclusive.

Age of Eligibility: In Virginia Schools, age of eligibility means all eligible children with disabilities who have not graduated with a standard or advanced studies high school diploma who, because of such disabilities, are in need of special education and related services, and whose second birthday falls on or before September 30, and who have not reached their 22nd birthday on or before September 30 (two-21, inclusive) in accordance with the Code of Virginia. A child with a disability whose 22nd birthday is after September 30 remains eligible for the remainder of the school year. (22.1213 of the Code of Virginia; CFR 300.101(a) and CFR 300.102(a09309ii))” (from the VDOE “Parent’s Guide to Special Education”)

Caroline County Public Schools:

16221 Richmond Turnpike, Bowling Green, VA 22427; 804-633-5088

- Parent Teacher Resource Center (PRC): 804-633-7083; same address
<http://prc.blogs.ccps.us/>
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) - Contact the Parent Resource Center for more information on meetings.

Fredericksburg City Public Schools:

817 Princess Anne Street. Fredericksburg, VA 22401; 540-372-1130

- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) - contact Pupil Personnel Services for more information on meetings.

King George County Public Schools:

9100 St. Anthony's Road (Parcel Post Address)

Post Office Box 1239 (Mailing Address)

King George, VA 22485; 540-775-8621

- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) - contact the Supervisor of Special Services for more information on meetings.

Spotsylvania County Public Schools:

8020 River Stone Dr, Fredericksburg, VA 22407; 540-834-2500

- Parent Resource Center (PRC) - Center for Family and Preschool Services
7409 Brock Rd. Spotsylvania, VA 22553; 540-582-7060
<https://www.spotsylvania.k12.va.us/prc>
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) - Contact the Parent Resource Center for more information on meetings.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Stafford County Public Schools:

31 Stafford Ave. Stafford, VA 22554; 540-658-6500

- Parent Teacher Resource Center (PRC) - Washington Building 11
610 Gayle Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22405; 540-658-6710
<https://www.staffordschools.net/Page/13883>
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) - Contact the Parent Resource Center for more information on meetings.

Rappahannock Area Community Services Board

Rappahannock Area Community Services Board (RACSB) is committed to improving the quality of life for people residing in Planning District 16 with mental health, intellectual disability, and substance abuse problems and to preventing the occurrence of these conditions.

- Caroline: 804-633-9997
- Fredericksburg City: 540-373-3223
- King George: 540-775-9879
- Spotsylvania: 540-582-3980
- Stafford: 540-659-2725

Social Opportunities

- Special Olympics- Area 11 Coordinator, 540-219-3340 or
<https://specialolympicsva.org/who-we-are/find-special-olympics-near-you/rappahannock-region/area-11>
- Bowling-
 - AMF Bowling Lanes 12100 Kilarney Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407, off of Rt.3 in Fredericksburg, 540-786-2695.
 - Liberty Lanes, 5801 Southpoint Center Boulevard, Fredericksburg, VA, 22407; Phone: (540)
- Young Life- Capernaum Club- <https://fredericksburg.younglife.org/>
- Challenger Baseball (Little League)-
<https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/challenger/>
Use the League Finder to find a Challenger League near you:
<https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/league-finder/>
- dRC Exercise Program: contact Tennie Gratz at tgratz@cildrc.org
- Parks and Recreation Departments:
 - Caroline: 804-633-7277
 - Fredericksburg: 540-372-1086
 - King George: 540-775-4386
 - Spotsylvania: 540-898-7529
 - Stafford: 540-658-4871

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

- Rappahannock Area YMCA:
 - Stafford- Massad Family Branch - 212 Butler Rd Fredericksburg, VA 22405; 540-371-9622.
 - Spotsylvania - Ron Rosner Family Branch - 5700 Smith Station Rd Fredericksburg, VA; 540-735-9622.
 - King George Family Branch - 10545 Kings Hwy, King George, VA 22485; 540-775-9622.
 - Caroline Family Branch - 17422 Library Blvd, Ruther Glen, VA 22546; 804-448-9622.

SSI and SSDI (Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance)

Several benefits programs provide financial assistance to seniors and persons living with disabilities. SSI and SSDI are two of the most common federal programs from the Social Security Administration.

- To schedule an appointment: 800-772-1213; (TDD 800-325-0078)
- Working while receiving SS benefits? Contact a benefits counselor at <http://www.vaaccses.org/home/>.
- The Red Book serves as a general reference source about the employment-related provisions of the Social Security Disability Insurance and the Supplemental Security Income Programs for educators, advocates, rehabilitation professionals, and counselors who serve people with disabilities. www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook

Supported Decision Making

Supported decision making (SDM) is a tool that allows people with disabilities to retain their decision-making capacity by choosing supporters to help them make choices. A person using SDM selects trusted advisors, such as friends, family members, or professionals, to serve as supporters.

- **National Resource Center for Supported Decision Making (NRC-SDM)**

Contact for more information or to request assistance:

Phone: 202-448-1448

Email: JHJP@dcqualitytrust.org

<http://supporteddecisionmaking.org>

Tax Advantaged Savings Programs for People with Disabilities

The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014 allows states to create tax-advantaged savings programs for eligible people with disabilities (designated beneficiaries). Funds from these 529A ABLE accounts can help designated beneficiaries pay for qualified disability expenses. Distributions are tax-free if used for qualified disability expenses. For more information visit

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

<https://www.irs.gov/government-entities/federal-state-local-governments/able-accounts-tax-benefit-for-people-with-disabilities>.

Traumatic Brain Injury Services

Brain Injury Services (BIS) - Since 1989, BIS has taken a leadership role in developing community based services for survivors of acquired brain injury. Brain Injury Services' Fredericksburg Office was established in 2002 and has evolved to become a hub for providing services to the city of Fredericksburg and its surrounding counties.

927 Maple Grove Dr. Suite #107
Fredericksburg, VA 22407
Phone: 540-785-6122

Transportation

Public transportation is available through the following.

- Fredericksburg Regional Transit (FRED) - Contact FRED for eligibility for deviated routes from your home.
Phone: (540) 372-1222
<http://www.ridefred.com>
- Virginia Railway Express (VRE)
<http://www.vre.org/service/schedule.htm>
<http://www.vre.org/service/newrider.htm>
- C and C Mobility: 877-325-7733 (vehicle modifications)
- Comfort Keepers: 540-370-0008 (in home care)
- LifeCare Medical Transports, Inc.: 540-752-7721
- Logisticare-Medicaid Transportation: 866-386-8331
- Medicaid Cab: 866-973-3310
- Mobility Center of Virginia: 800-231-7774 (vehicle modifications)
- Mobility Options (GWRC) - Call in advance for ride reservation. 800-627-2892, located at RAAA.
- Rappahannock Area on Aging: 540-371-3375
<http://healthygenerations.org/>
- Ride Away: 877-275-4907
<https://www.ride-away.com>
- Ride share apps: Uber & Lyft

Virginia Department of Blind and Vision Impaired

Assessments and training to assist blind consumers in achieving their independent living goals are available including skills of daily living, home management, orientation and mobility, Braille and other communication skills, and use of adaptive technologies are available.

401 Azalea Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23227
804-371-3151
Toll Free: 800-622-2155
<https://www.vdbvi.org/>

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Important Timelines to Consider

Waiting Lists

If waiting lists are identified for services or waivers, and you even remotely believe you may need the service in the future- **get on the list now!** You can always decline a service later if you change your mind. **Note: There is a long waiting list for Developmental Disability Waivers.**

Prior to age 18, you need to be aware of major life issues such as guardianship, special needs trust, registering with Selective Service (for male students), and SSI (Supplemental Security Income).

Guardianship

Be aware that, no matter the disability, once a person turns 18, they are their own legal guardian unless a court has ordered otherwise. If you determine that you will be pursuing guardianship, start the guardianship process **4 to 6 months before your child turns 18**. It is necessary if a parent wants to maintain legal co-signature rights to provide help to their child in any matters that require legal consent.

Special Needs Trust

This is the only trust that protects money, property, stocks, or other financial resources from being counted against a student as income for the purposes of SSI/Medicaid benefits. It is a legal arrangement regulated by law in which one party holds assets for the benefit of another. This arrangement allows assets to exceed the SSI resource limits of \$2000 and protects funds for use in the future. A lawyer or financial advisor can help you set up this kind of trust.

Selective Service Registration

This is a requirement for all males. **Registration is to be completed 30 days prior to 30 days after the age of 18.** Registration cards are available at the post office or you can register on the internet at www.sss.gov. There currently is not a military draft, but this registration requirement is federal law. Proof is required until the 26th birthday and is necessary to continue to receive most federal financial benefits.

SSI (Supplemental Security Income) / Medicaid Benefits

Some students already receive these financial/medical services and will continue to do so after graduation. However, in many cases prior to age 18, the amount of a family's income will disqualify a student from these benefits. **At age 18 a student may apply and their parents' income will no longer be considered.**

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Acronym List

504 A section of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

ADA Americans with Disabilities Act

ADD Attention Deficit Disorder

ADHD Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

ADR Alternative Dispute Resolution

APD Auditory Processing Disorder

APE Adaptive Physical Education

APR Annual Performance Report

ASD Autism Spectrum Disorder

ASL American Sign Language

AT Assistive Technology

AYP Adequate Yearly Progress

BIP Behavioral Intervention Plan

CAP Corrective Action Plan

CAPD Central Auditory Processing Disorder

CFR Code of Federal Regulations

CSA Comprehensive Services Act

CSB Community Services Board

DB Deaf-Blindness

DBVI Virginia Department of Blind And Visually Impaired

DD Developmental Delay

DSM-IV-TR Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth edition, Text Revision

ED Emotional Disability

EDGAR Education Department General Administrative Regulations

EHA Education of the Handicapped Act

EOC End of Course

FBA Functional Behavioral Assessment

FERPA Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

FOIA Freedom of Information Act

HI Hearing Impairment

HIPAA Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996

HOH Hard of Hearing

IAES Interim Alternative Education Setting

ID Intellectual Disability

IDEA Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

IDEIA Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act of 2004 (otherwise called IDEA)

IDELR Individuals with Disabilities Education Law Reporter

IEE Independent Educational Evaluation

IEP Individualized Education Program

IFSP Individual Family Service Plan

IHO Impartial Hearing Officer

IQ Intelligence Quotient

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

ISP Individual Services Plan

LAC Local Advisory Committee (otherwise called SEAC)

LEA Local Educational Agency (School division or SOP)

NAMI National Alliance on Mental Illness

NCLB No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

NIMAC National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center

NIMAS National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard

NVLD Non-verbal Learning Disability

OCD Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

OCR Office for Civil Rights (at USED)

ODD Oppositional Defiant Disorder

OHI Other Health Impaired

OI Orthopedic Impairment

O and M Orientation and Mobility Service

OSEP Office of Special Education Programs

OSERS Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

OT Occupational Therapy

PDD Pervasive Developmental Disorder

PE Physical Education

PLOP Present Level of Performance

PRC Parent Resource Center

PSD Procedural Safeguards Document

PT Physical Therapy

PTSD Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

PWN Prior Written Notice

RTI Response to Intervention

SEA State Educational Agency (otherwise called VDOE)

SEAC Special Education Advisory

SLI Speech Language Impairment

SOL Standards of Learning Test

SOP State-Operated Program

SP/L; S/L Speech/Language

SPED Special Education

SPP State Performance Plan

SSEAC State Special Education Advisory Committee

STO Short-term Objective

TBI Traumatic Brain Injury

T/TAC Training /Technical Assistance Center

USC United States Code

USED United States Department of Education

VAAP Virginia Alternative Assessment Program

VAC Virginia Administrative Code

VDOE Virginia Department of Education

VGLA Virginia Grade Level Alternative Program

VI Visual Impairment

VR Vocational Rehabilitation

VSDB Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton

VSEP Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program

WIA Workforce Investment Act

[Back to Table of Contents](#)