THINKING ABOUT POST SECONDARY EDUCATION?

This communication focuses on potential funding sources for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

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Attending Post Secondary Education (PSE) is one PATH to Employment, but you need to start planning early.

Take the Necessary Steps:

Age 14 and older: In Pennsylvania, planning starts at age 14. Explore your career interests as part of your school experience. Think about what kind of job you would like to hold. Explore your community to see the kinds of jobs that exist. Learn about savings plans.

Age 16 and older: Use your time in high school to explore and identify your employment goals. If college is an option, consider all savings programs.

Age 18–21: Identify your employment goals. If possible, get a job working part time, after school, weekends, or during the summer to further develop your employment goals. Explore the options for attending college as part of your transition experience at school.

12 months BEFORE graduation: Consider all funding sources for paying for college and apply for funding as appropriate. If you plan on seeking assistance from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and/or the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) for intellectual disability services, you must be registered and eligible for those services.

Getting a job that pays a living wage is a basic standard for all Americans. When thinking about college, consider all your options:

1) Working a few years to save money or gain work experience.

2) Enroll in a certificate program.

3) Enter a technical school, community college, or university.

Key Topics
- Funding Options
- Resources for Learning More
How can I pay for PSE?

Consider all the possible funding options.

Still in school? Explore these funding sources:

1. Transition services for students with disabilities may include postsecondary education. The IEP (Individualized Education Plan) is always based on the individual needs of the student.

2. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation’s (OVR) Pre-Employment Transition Services can also be considered. Contact your school district for information.

Already Graduated from High School? Explore these funding sources:

1. Explore scholarships and other savings programs.

2. Waiver funding through ODP for intellectual disability services. Education Support Services can help pay for college tuition, classroom support and tutoring.

3. OVR: If the college is a Comprehensive Transition Program, consider OVR funding.

4. Benefits: Individuals receiving SSI and SSDI should explore ways to put money aside to pay college expenses.

Need more information?

⇒ Contact your local school district. Talk to a professional knowledgeable about transition services.

⇒ Contact your local Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

⇒ Contact your local county program to learn about services for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

⇒ Check out these websites:

http://dreampartnership.org

www.thinkcollege.net

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