

Road to Transition A Guided Tour for Accessing Adult Services

WELCOME!

The transition of moving from childhood to adulthood is a very important time in a person's life. As a young adult or parent/caregiver of a young adult, you play a large role in the planning process when transitioning from school and children's services to adult services and supports. Adult supports and services are voluntary, individualized and person centered. Thoughtful planning, helpful information and clear communication will assist in guiding you toward success.

The process of transitioning to adult services can seem overwhelming. Starting early enables you to take smaller and more manageable steps toward a successful outcome. The purpose of this Road Map is to give you and your family an overview of this process and provide helpful links to information.

The sections in your Road to Transition guide can be found as follows:

On Ramp-Where do I start? https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/transitioning-adult-services Transition begins at age 14 and continues through age 22. Talk with your teacher about transition services to help you begin to plan for life after high school.

What is BHDDH? https://bhddh.ri.gov/about-us The Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH) strives to provide high-quality, safe, and accessible health care services for all individuals with differing intellectual/developmental abilities, mental health or substance use disorders.

I have questions about Developmental Disabilities Services: https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities Developmental Disabilities services is a statewide network of community services and supports for Rhode Islanders living with significant intellectual/developmental disabilities. These services are available through community provider agencies and/or self-directed services.

Can DDD come to my Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting? https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/transitioning-adult-services Yes; please discuss with your teacher about inviting a representative from DDD to your IEP meeting.

How do I apply for services? https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/eligibility-and-application Students are encouraged to apply at age 17. Applications are available through this link or by calling 462-3421 and asking to speak with a staff person in the Eligibility unit.

Can I get help to complete my application? https://ripin.org/ Yes, if you are transitioning from High School to Adult Services, staff at RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN) are available to assist. They can be reached at 270-0101.

I'm approved for services, what's next? brochure-whats-next-for-me_sept-2021.pdf (ri.gov) Discuss with your teacher about inviting DDD to your IEP meeting. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Transition Coordinator Carolee Leach at 462-1723 or carolee.leach@bhddh.ri.gov



What is the SIS? https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/eligibility-and-application/support-intensity-scale-sis The Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) is a standardized assessment tool used to identify the support needs and funding for individuals eligible for service https://bhddh.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur411/files/2021-03/SIS%20FAQ%202019.pdf

Are there other resources I need to know about? https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/links-other-resources or Additional information on resources and planning can be found by perusing our website https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/transitioning-adult-services or by contacting the Transition Administrator Susan Hayward at 462-2519 or susan.hayward@bhddh.ri.gov You can also find transition resources and information by going to https://ripin.org/webinars/

Special Thanks: Elizabeth Messier, Rhode Island College MSW intern; Jacqueline Reilly, Programming Services Officer BHDDH; Karen Lowell, Eligibility Supervisor BHDDH; Susan Hayward, Transition Administrator BHDDH; Dimitra Caris, Associate Director Transition & Vocational Services, Groden Center; Amy Stone, Transition Coordinator, Pathways Strategic Teaching Center; Kerry Walker, Transition Teacher, Warwick Transition Program; Krystal Uricchio, Special Education Teacher, Narragansett School District; Claire Rosenbaum, Family Supports Specialist & Self-Directed Supports Network Facilitator, Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at RIC; Susan Donovan, Senior Program Director, RI Parent Information Network; Shelley Bigelli, Special Education Coordinator, Coventry Public Schools; Mike Wilson, Director of Transitions, West Bay RI

