

# Transition Services: Planning for the Future for Students with Disabilities

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Liz Shawl, Employment Advocate  
Disability Rights Michigan



# Disability Rights Logo



**Disability  
Rights**  
Michigan



## Transition Services

# Planning for the Future for Students with Disabilities

**Liz Shawl, Employment Advocate**



# Mission

Empowering all to uphold the rights  
of people with disabilities.



# Who We Are



Michigan's federally designated protection and advocacy agency



There is a protection and advocacy organization in every state and territory



Funded by 9 federally mandated programs, state and private donors



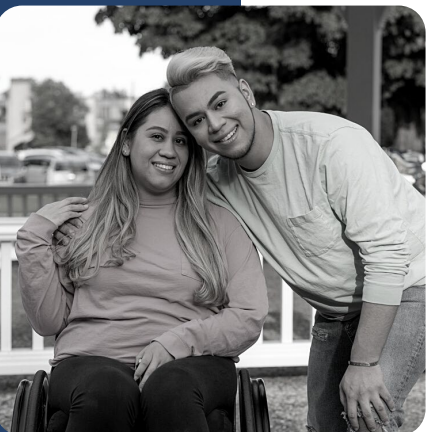
Serve the entire state of Michigan



We receive over 4,000 calls per year



# Our Focus Areas



- End Abuse and Neglect
- Community Supports
- Access to Education for Children with Disabilities
- Competitive, Integrated Employment
- Protect Individual Rights
- Protects the Rights of Individuals that receive Social Security Funds
- Voter Rights
- Access to Vaccinations and Medical Care



# Our Services



- Information and referral
- Self-advocacy assistance
- Select legal representation for rights violations
- Facility monitoring
- Community education, outreach and training
- Systemic and policy advocacy



# Other Important Facts



- Services are **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL**
- We always seek public input into our focus areas
- Offices in Lansing and Marquette
- Contact us by phone or website





# Transition 101



What are transition services?

Transition services are available for students eligible for special education. They are meant to create a smooth pathway for a young person to move from high school to a successful adult life. Transition services can include work-based learning, internships, career exploration, self-assessments, workplace readiness, and counseling.



# Transition 101, cont'd



Why is transition important?

Transition planning confirms a plan is in place for taking the “next step”. These services help students with disabilities and their families think about life after high school.



# 5 Pillars of Transition



Job Exploration



Work Based Learning



Post-Secondary Exploration



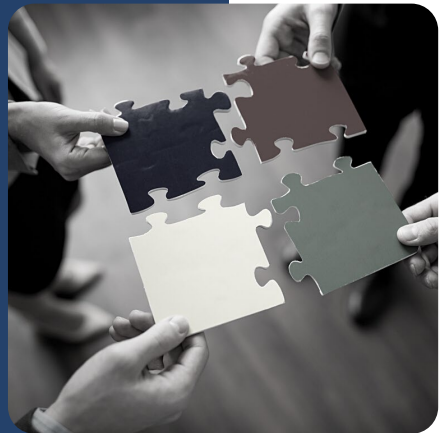
Workplace Readiness



Self-Advocacy



# Who Provides Transition Services?



- The School
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)
- Bureau for Services of Blind Persons (BSBP)
- Services Providers
- Parents and Families



# What is Vocational Rehabilitation?



Vocational rehabilitation is a series of services that are designed to aid entrance into or return to work by people with disabilities or by people who have recently acquired an injury or disability.

Some of these services include vocational assessment and evaluation, training, upgrading of general skills, refresher courses, on-the-job training, career counseling, employment searches, and consulting with potential or existing employers for job accommodations and modification.

These services may also vary depending on the needs of the individual.



# Who Provides Vocational Rehabilitation Services?

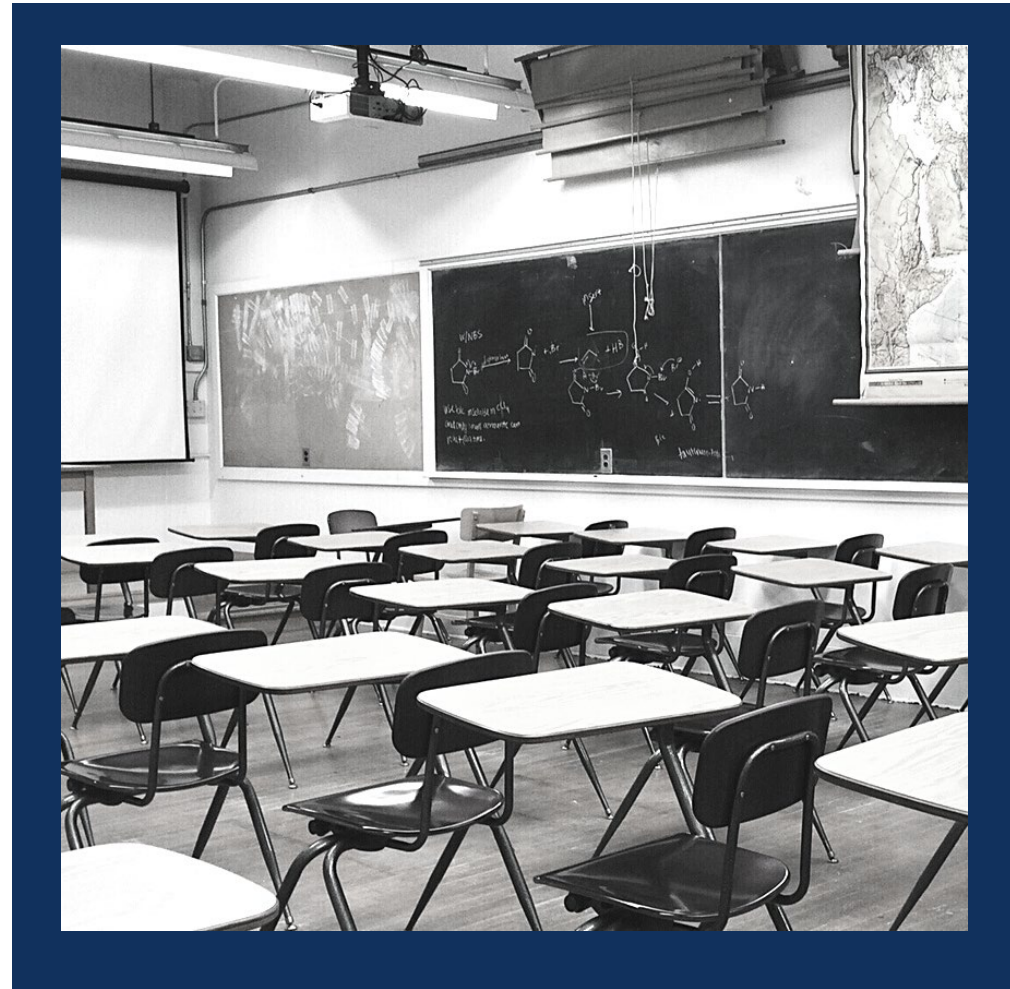


Vocational rehabilitation services are provided by:

- Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)
- Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP)
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program



# IEP vs IPE



## IEP

Individualized Education Program  
(Education)



## IPE

Individualized Plan for Employment  
(Vocational Rehabilitation)



# What are the Centers for Independent Living?



Designed and operated by individuals with disabilities, Centers for Independent Living (CILs) provide independent living services for people with disabilities.

CILs are at the core of ACL's independent living programs, which work to support community living and independence for people with disabilities across the nation based on the belief that all people can live with dignity, make their own choices, and participate fully in society. These programs provide tools, resources, and supports for integrating people with disabilities fully into their communities to promote equal opportunities, self-determination, and respect.





# BSBP Training Center

vs.

# MCTI including PERT/Step Up



# Competitive Integrated Employment

vs.

# Supported Employment



# How do you work while receiving SSI/SSDI?

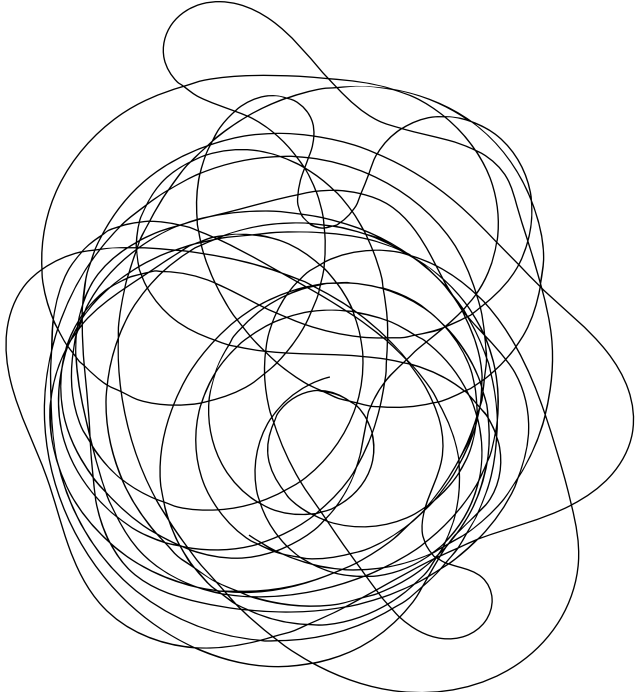


- Substantial Gainful Activity
- Student Earned Income Credit
- Subsidy
- Impairment Related Work Expenses
- Benefits Counseling



# Transition Timeline

Overwhelmed by the process



Tension

14-15

16

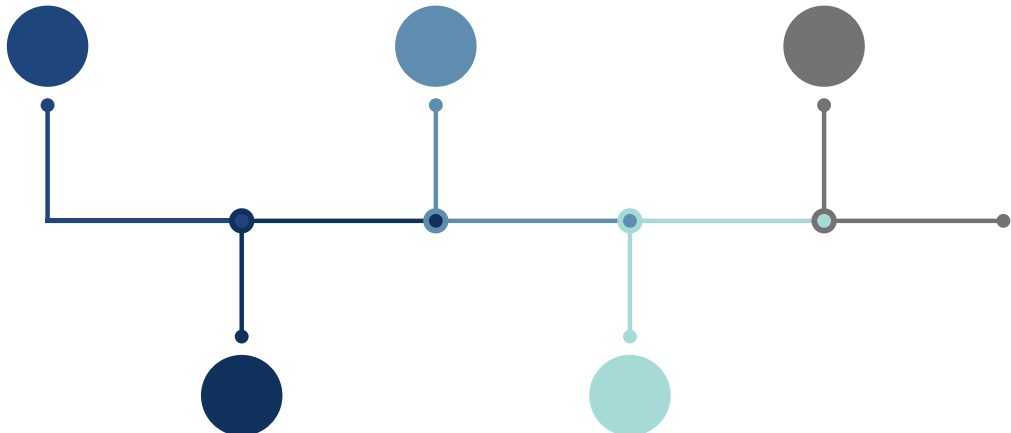
17

18

19

20-26

Proceeding with a plan



Timeline



# Don't Wait!



# Who Can Use CAP Services?



- Applicants of VR services, consumers, youth in transition programs and professionals
- An individual who wants to apply or has applied for VR services
- An individual who has been determined eligible for VR services
- An applicant or client of an Independent Living Program
- A person who wants to know more about available services and benefits under the Rehab Act and/or Title I of the ADA



# Advocacy Tips



- Be involved in every step of the Transition process.
- Keep everything in writing. Follow up on conversations with written confirmation.
- Keep a Transition folder with all important documents.
- Ask for copies.
- Always work towards a solution and address any problems that come up.
- Attend information sessions on Transition services hosted by your school, community, or outside agencies.



# Why Do I Call DRM?







Thank you for this opportunity!  
Questions?



# Disability Rights Michigan

4095 Legacy Parkway  
Lansing, MI 48911

## Hours

9:00am - 4:00pm (Monday - Friday)

## Phone

800.288.5923 (Toll Free)

517.487.1755 (Voice)

517.374.4687 (TTY)

[www.drmi.org](http://www.drmi.org)



# We are here to support you!

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 @MichiganAllianceForFamilies

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For more information visit:

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org>

Call: 800-552-4821

En Español 313-217-1060

Statewide Email: [info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org](mailto:info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org)

# Michigan Alliance for Families

Michigan Alliance for Families is an IDEA Grant Funded Initiative of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education, and Michigan's federal Parent-Training and Information Center (PTIC) funded by U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

[www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org](http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org)

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