



Learning and Working

There is a range of vocational services available in this area. It is important to obtain as much work experience as possible while you are still in school. The earlier you start in a program, the more opportunities you may have in obtaining work in your area of interest. A good place to start is with the Office of Rehabilitation Services and/or your high school community based employment program.

Ask that community based vocational training be included in your IEP. In community based vocational training, students leave the school grounds to learn to work in a community work site. At first, this may only amount to a few hours each week. This should gradually increase to incorporate a larger portion of your school day.

Everyone can learn some part of a job in “the real world”. You deserve the opportunity to make a contribution to your community!

Keep in mind, you should “check out” an agency. Philosophies vary greatly from agency to agency. It is much easier to work with people who share the same values as you.

Vocational Supports and Services are typically stressed through school and adulthood for individuals who choose not to work in the community or the level of support is too cost prohibitive for community employment to be cost effective. School age students typically focus on job readiness skills, job shadowing opportunities and community work experiences to ascertain their vocational interests. Adult vocational services can involve job readiness skills, performing subcontract work and individuals are paid based on productivity for work commenced at a prevailing wage. Individuals may participate in vocational services full-time or part-time and participate in other day services.

There are three main categories of vocational services provided by agencies.

Sheltered Employment: involves placement of individuals in a workshop that serves people with disabilities. During your experience at a sheltered workshop, you will receive various training and work experiences. Your pay will be based on your performance (piece rate).

Supported Employment: involves placement, training, and support for people with disabilities at integrated jobs in your community. This type of service utilizes a place/train model to serve individuals with most significant disabilities. The customer is paid at least minimum wage and applicable fringe benefits by the employer.

Competitive Employment: involves placement and training for individuals with disabilities in community work sites. Training and support are available on a time-limited basis.

Day Services are typically for individuals who have interests, preferences or needs other than vocational supports and employment services or in conjunction with the afore-listed services. Individuals can participate in day services on a full-time or part-time basis. Day services are an array of services based on preferences, interests, needs and resource allocation availability.



Typical services include supports that are functional to the service, activities of daily living skills training, community access training and personal growth.

Many specific vocational and related services are provided by agencies that offer employment services. These may include vocational evaluation, help in locating a job, job coaching, career counseling, interpreter service, mobility training and the design, selection and purchase of adaptive equipment. Services are based on the individual needs of the consumer. Not all services are offered by all agencies. Agencies may have eligibility requirement for specific services. Explore the range of vocational options in your community!

Educational Supports and Services can be provided from preschool age through one's lifespan. Individuals with developmental disabilities are entitled to an appropriate education from age three through twenty-one due to federal legislation. There is nothing that prevents individuals continuing their formal educational pursuits per qualifications and requirements of the educational institutions. In addition, one can pursue informal educational opportunities based on ones interests and preferences.

You may wish to contact the following agencies for further information:

Adult Education Program (IVCC)
815 N. Orlando Smith Avenue
Oglesby, IL 61348
(815) 224-0358

Friendship Facilities
1718 N. 2525th Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 434-0737

Business Employment Skills Team, Inc.
1500 First Avenue
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 433-4550

Gateway Services
406 S. Gosse Blvd.
Princeton, IL 61356
(815) 875-4548

3691 Cougar Drive, Unit B
Peru, IL 61354
(815) 224-1586

Horizon Industries
4140 Progress Blvd.
Peru, IL 61354
(815) 223-2515

225 Backbone Road East
Princeton, IL 61356
(815) 872-0255

IL Employment & Training Center
815 Second Street
LaSalle, IL 61301
(815) 224-1400

IL Dept. of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS)
905 Second Street
LaSalle, IL 61301
(815) 224-1314

1550 1st Avenue
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 434-3111

Illinois Valley Transition Planning Committee
www.lease-sped.org/ivtpc



IL Valley Center for Independent Living
(IVCIL)
18 Gunia Drive
LaSalle, IL 61301
(800) 822-3246 Voice/TTY

Illinois Valley Community College
815 N. Orlando Smith Avenue
Oglesby, IL 61348
(815) 224-2720

North Central Behavioral Health Systems,
Inc.
PO Box 1488
LaSalle, IL 61301
(815) 224-1610

Starved Rock Association for Voc-Tech
Education (SRAVTE)
627 Chartres Street
La Salle, IL 61301
(815) 220-8195

Streator Unlimited
305 N. Sterling Street
Streator, IL 61364
(815) 673-5574

Tri-County Opportunities Council
1005 N. Main
Princeton, IL 61356
(815) 875-6064

Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley
424 W. Madison
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 433-3953
ysboiv@ivnet.com

Dept. of Human Services / Office of
Rehabilitation Services
905 2nd Street
LaSalle, IL 61301
(815) 224-1314

Ottawa Friendship House
1718 N. 2525 Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 434-0737