

# What is SSI?



Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provides monthly payments from the U.S. Treasury to qualifying persons with disabilities. Payments are made to persons who have limited income and resources and who meet living arrangement requirements. Social Security follows rules and policies and reviews recipients' disabilities periodically to ensure they meet program requirements. Until a child turns 18, Social Security considers the income and resources of family members who are a part of your household with regard to program income requirements. If your child qualifies, Social Security assigns a representative payee (parent, family member, or other caregiver) to help manage the money and pay for basic living expenses and needs.

After the child turns 18, Social Security reviews the child's disability, and only the child's income and resources. The adult definition of disability is based on one's ability to work. Sometimes people who qualified for SSI payments under the children's rules do not meet the rules and policies of the adult program. Be sure to give Social Security any requested information about your child's medical condition and doctors who have treated his/her disability. On the other hand, the adult rules consider only the child's income and resources, not those of others in the household. Even if the child could not receive SSI payments before his/her 18th birthday because the family made too much money, he/she may now qualify as an adult.

If Social Security makes a decision about SSI payments that you do not agree with, you can appeal through several levels in the agency and the federal district court.

SSI is to be used to pay the costs of food, clothing and shelter for the recipient. If your child is living with you and is approved for SSI after he/she turns 18, the SSI check will be reduced by one-third unless he/she is paying living expenses. The amount of living expenses does need to be a fair amount, one that a parent would charge for anyone who may rent a room in their household. A rental agreement between the parent and child should be developed and provided to the Social Security Administration (SSA). SSA website: <https://www.ssa.gov>

## Employment Supports

There are a variety of vocational rehabilitation services that **Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)** can offer to students with disabilities. If your child hasn't applied for these services, please request the school to invite a VR counselor to meet with you and/or your child or attend an IEP meeting. Some services DRS may provide (based on eligibility, financial need and individual needs) are:

- ✓ guidance in transition planning;
- ✓ financial assistance for college or training, when appropriate;
- ✓ vocational counseling and guidance;
- ✓ work experience through Project Skills and/or job placement, job coaching, and employment/follow along services for competitive employment in the community.
- ✓ transportation, equipment and other services if needed for training; and
- ✓ assessing the need for assistive technology equipment and services.

For information on the address and phone number of the DRS office nearest you, go to <http://dhs.sd.gov/rehabservices/default.aspx>

## Final Thoughts .....

- ✓ Help your child understand his/her disability. Share information with your child about others with disabilities who have achieved success in their lives!
- ✓ You and your child should take a leadership role in planning and implementing his/her transition IEP.
- ✓ Communication is essential - you and your child's IEP team need to begin the transition to post-secondary services early!
- ✓ Involve your son or daughter in completing ordinary tasks in your home.
- ✓ Make your child's school responsibilities (homework, projects) his/hers, not yours.
- ✓ Visit and share with other parents who are in the transition stage for their child!



## Transition Services Liaison Project

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

**Black Hills Special Services Coop.**

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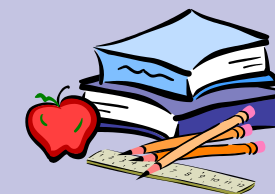
# Tips For Parents

## Transition Services for Students with Developmental Disabilities

*Where will your child live and work after high school? Will they need supports to live and work independently?*

*The intent of this brochure is to assist you and your child in preparing for the future. More knowledge of the transition process typically means feeling more confident and comfortable in advocating for services and programs that will lead to a better quality of life for your child.*

### While in high school, your child should...



- ✓ Learn about his/her disability.
- ✓ Become involved in extra-curricular activities.
- ✓ Share strengths, learning styles, challenges and needed accommodations with all of their teachers.
- ✓ Actively participate in IEP meetings.
- ✓ Contact a Conflict Free Case Manager (CFCM).
- ✓ Tour and visit with adult service providers.
- ✓ Apply for services through the Division of Rehabilitation Services and gain work experience through Project Skills.
- ✓ Consider applying for the Youth Leadership Forum. (For more info, see [www.tslp.org](http://www.tslp.org))
- ✓ Identify supports your child will need when school is over.

## Did you Know?



When students decide to graduate with a regular high school diploma, the school district will no longer be responsible to provide services for them.

When students graduate with an unsigned diploma, they could continue to receive services until the end of the school year (June 30) following their 21st birthday based on an IEP determination. (In many schools in SD, students are given the option to 'walk' through graduation ceremony and receive an unsigned diploma.)

If the IEP team determines that a student will not meet the graduation requirements or is in need of continued transition services, the IEP team must develop a new IEP for the next school year and the student can continue to receive services. Many school districts in South Dakota are developing and implementing creative educational opportunities for students who continue to receive special education services through their 21st birthday. Funding for many adult agencies may not be available until a student is 21 years old, so if a student graduates too early, they may be unable to access long term adult services.

The mission of the **Division of Developmental Disabilities** (DDD) is 'to ensure that people with developmental disabilities have equal opportunities and receive the services and supports they need to live and work in South Dakota communities.' Through the programs and services that they provide, this mission can be accomplished when individuals with developmental disabilities access services available through this Division.

Some examples of an individual who may be eligible for services through DDD are an individual with Down Syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and/or cognitive impairment.

Intervention and Support Specialists (Resource Coordinators) are employed by DDD and contacting one of them is your first step in accessing these services. Intervention and Support Specialists assist individuals with developmental disabilities and their families understand and access the services available through DDD, and connect with other resources available in their communities. Four Intervention and Support Specialists are available in South Dakota and can attend IEP meetings with you to provide insight when you need support. If you have a question about whether your child would qualify for services through DDD, please contact the Intervention and Support Specialist in your area.

### Intervention and Support Specialists Contact Information:

<b>Central Area</b> - Phone: (605) 773-3438	Toll Free: 800-265-9684
<b>Northeast Area</b> - Phone: (605) 688-5103	Toll Free: 877-647-0024
<b>Southeast Area</b> - Phone: (605) 367-5250	Toll Free: 888-510-9388
<b>Western Area</b> - Phone: (605) 394-2302	Toll Free: 888-895-4502



### Encourage your Child to Attend a Transition Forum or Agency Fair with You!



**Transition forums** or Agency Fairs are informal and interactive meetings that allow you to network and make connections with adult service agency staff and identify resources that your child may access in the future. Representatives from Division of Rehabilitation Services and/or Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, area Independent Living Centers, Community Service Providers, Employment Specialists, Post Secondary Disability Services, Social Security Benefits Planning Specialists, and Division of Developmental Disabilities Services are invited to answer questions students & families may have. For more information on dates and locations throughout SD, contact the transition liaison in your area or go to the TSLP website at [www.tslp.org](http://www.tslp.org).



### The Law & Guardianship

It can be a particularly worrisome time if you question your child's ability to make important life decisions when he/she turns 18. Is full guardianship necessary or would a less restrictive option be more suitable for you and your child?

To learn about the pros, cons, and alternatives to guardianship or for more information, contact either:

**SD Dept. of Human Services Guardianship Program**  
<https://dhs.sd.gov/guardianship/default.aspx>

**Disability Rights South Dakota**  
 2520 E. Franklin St. Ste 2  
 Pierre, SD 57501  
 (605)224-8294 or  
 1-800-658-4782  
<https://drsdlaw.org>



## Adult Service Options through the Division of Developmental Disabilities

### Community Support Provider (CSP)

There are numerous nonprofit CSP's in South Dakota that provide services and supports to 2000+ people with developmental disabilities. They may offer residential and vocational services, as well as nursing care. Community-living training and residential expanded follow-along are also provided for those who are living on their own or are working toward that goal.

Vocational opportunities may include:

- job coaching
- pre-vocational training for participants looking for community jobs
- vocational expanded follow-along for those working in the community.

CSPs also provide residential options for people, such as group homes and supervised apartments.

### Conflict Free Case Management (CFCM)

If you are looking to access services at a Community Support Provider (CSP), your first step would be to access a **CFCM** provider. CFCM providers are available in South Dakota to deliver person-centered case management services to people with intellectual disabilities.

#### Conflict Free Case Managers -

- Help your child develop an Individual Service Plan
- Focus on services and supports based on preferences and interests
- Create a person-centered plan
- Advocate for your child's desired services

### Shared Living

This arrangement of services provided in the private home of a participant, or a family, in which care is provided to a participant is a new concept in SD. Shared living can take several different forms from the participant living in the home of the host home provider to a companion living in the home of the participant to provide support.

Companions and host home providers need to be at least 21 years old and can be college students, families, single people, couples, or empty nesters. Services provided by the host home provider/companion include assistance, support, and guidance, in the following life domain areas:

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Daily Living          | • Citizenship & Advocacy |
| • Community Living      | • Safety & Security      |
| • Social & Spirituality | • Healthy Lifestyle      |

### Family Support 360

The mission of the **Family Support 360** is to empower people to achieve their dreams through choice of services and supports.

Family Support Coordinators will help identify services you or your child needs so it is possible for them to live on their own or with family.

#### Supports & services may include:

- Service Coordination - community resources and services
- Companion Care - social activities, recreational opportunities, community living skills, independent living skills
- Personal Care Services and Supplies
- Adaptive Equipment
- Respite Care
- Employment Services



#### Websites for more Information

**SD Community Support Providers:** <http://dhs.sd.gov/developmentaldisabilities/csp.aspx> or call 1-605-773-3438.

**CFCM agencies:** <http://dhs.sd.gov/developmentaldisabilities/cfcms.aspx>

**Family Support 360 Program:** <http://dhs.sd.gov/developmentaldisabilities/familysupport360.aspx>

**Shared Living:** <http://dhs.sd.gov/developmentaldisabilities/sharedliving.aspx>