

PARENT/STUDENT GUIDE To TRANSITION



*"Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning."
-Winston Churchill*

TUCSON UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This is the sixteenth revision of Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) Exceptional Education's *Parent/Student Guide to Transition*. This revision is updated and edited by TUSD transition staff. If you would like additional information on this guide, please contact:

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PREFACE

Transition planning focuses on post-school outcomes and allows students and their families to make "real-life" plans based on informed decisions. One goal of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, which may include adult service providers, is to develop a meaningful and individualized student transition plan with a focus towards the future. Long-range transition plans with goals measurable over time means students leave high school with the necessary skills and supports to make their post-secondary vision a reality. Transition plans based on individual student needs, strengths, career interests and preferences form the foundation for relevant school experiences and course work. This process and coordinated effort provides students and their families the opportunity to experience excitement and confidence as they look towards the future with anticipation and assurance.

In order to identify and connect students and their families with the necessary postsecondary resources and services, the TUSD Exceptional Education Community Transition Program continues to update the *Parent/Student Guide to Transition*. In its sixteenth revision, this guide is designed as a tool for parents and their young adult child to explore agencies, services, and programs within the local community. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that parents and students be involved in all aspects of their transition planning. The information contained in the *Parent/Student Guide to Transition* is one way for parents and students to gain a better understanding of resources within the community, make informed decisions, and take an active role in advanced planning.

This document is available in English and Spanish
On TUSD's Exceptional Education web page at:

<http://tusd1.schooldesk.net/Departments/ExceptionalEducation/tabid/78202/Default.aspx>
and on TUSD's Intranet for Employees at:
<http://intranet/exced/transition.asp>

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INTRODUCTION

The transition from school to community living is a major process for all students and their families. It is an important time for making decisions about careers, living arrangements, and lifelong goals. For students with disabilities and their parents, it can be a confusing and challenging time. Parents may wonder: Where does my child get help finding a job? How can he or she get more education or job training? Who will pay for the additional costs? Answers to these and many more questions are provided within this guide.

The key to a meaningful transition involves advanced planning while a student is still in school. A carefully planned transition from school to adult life can help reduce many of the concerns associated with leaving. A student's transition plan will reflect individual strengths, choices, and preferences in the areas of education and training, employment, adult living arrangements, and community experiences and will lay the path towards adulthood. Transition needs and services with both short-term and long-range goals for life upon graduation are addressed during this planning process.

While the *Parent/Student Guide to Transition* is intended to be used by students in special education and their families, it is also an excellent resource for teachers, administrators and community agency staff. Information within the guide will identify services and agencies to assist and help both during and after high school. Although there are a multitude of agencies within the community, this guide includes the agencies and programs found to be the most widely accessed and useful to students with disabilities and their families. Adult services vary greatly from the services that are provided under public education laws and all stakeholders are encouraged to use the information in this guide to become familiar with the transition services that are available to them including eligibility requirements, available openings, and potential costs.

GETTING STARTED

WHAT ARE TRANSITION SERVICES?

Transition services are a coordinated set of activities for a student, designed within an outcome-oriented process, which promotes movement from school to post-school activities. The activities are based upon the individual student's needs and strengths and take into account student preferences and interests.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE TRANSITION PLAN?

A transition plan is part of the IEP and consists of individualized assessments and postsecondary goals along with activities, services and a projected course of study designed to help students reach their goals. A transition plan may include agency collaboration to facilitate the student's passage from high school to post-high school adult life. Transition activities and services addressed in the plan are instruction, education and training, employment, daily living skills, post-school adult living, community participation and related services.

WHEN DOES TRANSITION TAKE PLACE?

According to IDEA, Transition planning must begin no later than the first IEP to be in effect when a student turns 16, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP team, and updated annually. In TUSD, transition planning begins when the student enters high school even if the student has yet to turn 16 in the upcoming IEP year.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRANSITION PROCESS?

The student or anyone involved in the student's life can begin the transition process. Since students are at school and teachers are aware of graduation requirements and dates, the transition process is typically initiated by a teacher or someone designated by the school district. To assist with implementing the transition plan, additional school personnel, along with representatives from community agencies or vocational programs, may be asked to participate. Parents are a very important member of the IEP team and should not be afraid to ask questions and know why something is being recommended for their child.

HOW DOES A PARENT GET STARTED?

It is never too early to start. Start with the following three-step process.

- Step 1.* Ask yourself and your son/daughter these questions:
- ✓ Are there specific skills I would like my son or daughter to learn prior to graduating from high school?
 - ✓ What do I want for my son/daughter after they graduate from high school? (Will he/she live on their own, go to college, have a job, get married?)
 - ✓ What concerns me the most about the future of my son/daughter?
- Step 2.* Meet with your son/daughter's teacher(s) and ask about transition planning and how it will be implemented.
- Step 3.* Review the program and services listed in this guide. Identify those of interest to you and discuss them with your son/daughter's teacher(s).

WHY IS PLANNING SO IMPORTANT?

When a student attends school with outcome-based goals, they leave with more than just a diploma. They leave with a plan that clearly defines choices and enhances opportunities for future success. Goals are updated annually as a student grows and matures into a young adult with dreams and aspirations.

In the transition process, a student's preferences, interests, needs and strengths are used to guide appropriate course selection, transition services and activities. Transition planning targets postsecondary results and projects a course of study to help students attain targeted desired outcomes. In addition, community agencies and service responsibilities are identified to assist students along the way.

Transition planning is addressed in the first part of the IEP conference. By developing transition plans at the beginning of the IEP meeting, individual interests and preferences direct the focus of academic and career planning. The importance of planning for the future in middle school and secondary education is the key to a successful transition. Transition planning is a valuable tool and will require input from not only the student, but the parent. Careful and thoughtful planning aids students throughout his or her entire high school career, and will help to reduce the anxiety and stress often experienced when leaving high school.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Obtaining appropriate transition services in a timely manner can be a challenge. This transition guide will present a limited number of the more commonly used agencies. However, there are literally hundreds of federal, state, county, city, and private agencies to assist with transition. At times, this process can become very confusing and frustrating. To minimize the confusion and frustration you may wish to consult with additional resources not included in this guide.

A comprehensive list of resources in Arizona can be found through Information and Referral (I&R). I&R in partnership with Our Family Services, collects and updates information for the state and operates the 2-1-1 helpline. Together these two agencies maintain a free, searchable online database of health and human service organizations across Arizona. Disability related services on the database include caregiver services, disability information, general services, support groups, volunteering and donating.

Call the helpline at 2-1-1 or 877-211-8661

Specialists will help callers clarify their needs and provide referrals to the appropriate service agencies. Hours are Monday - Friday 7AM to 5PM. Closed evenings, weekends and holidays.

You may prefer to search the database at www.211arizona.org

In addition, an updated directory for Pima County is published annually and available for purchase at:

Our Family Services
2590 N. Alvernon Way
Tucson, AZ 85716
520-323-1708 ext. 260
www.ourfamilyservices.org

PRIMARY RESOURCES

Primary resources that parents and students may find useful are the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), formerly called Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), and Arizona Complete Health (ACH). These resources are part of the State of Arizona and established to provide assistance for people with disabilities. RSA provides short-term vocational services that result in the person obtaining employment. DDD offers long-term support and medical services, which enables a person with developmental disabilities to live more independently within the community. ACH delivers and manages integrated behavioral and health services. Based on the student's disability, age, and transition goals, one or more of these agencies may be considered a possible resource. The following is a brief summary of each agency and how they may assist you.

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA/VR)

A counselor from RSA is assigned to work specifically with high school students. An "intake" or planning meeting with the counselor usually occurs during the student's later years in high school. Vocational objectives are included as part of the transition plan. For further information, contact TUSD teachers or call RSA/VR offices directly and visit their website.

628-6810 ext.246 www.azdes.gov/rsa

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

Students can apply for services through DDD at any time by calling and requesting an "intake" interview. The types and extent of services available are contingent on the student and the needs of the family. Support services can be included as part of the transition plan. For further information, contact TUSD teachers or call DDD offices directly and visit their website.

**745-5588 www.azdes.gov/ddd
1-844-770-9500 DDD Customer Service Center**

Arizona Complete Health (ACH)

Integrates both physical and behavioral health services into one network. Call customer care to speak with a representative for more information.

1-866-495-6738 www.azcompletehealth.com

POST-HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

MANY STUDENTS CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION

For those students who wish to continue their academic preparation, there are several options available in the Tucson area. Some programs offer students with disabilities a variety of support services. These services may include tutoring, counseling, note taking, readers, interpreting, on-campus medical assistance, and job placement. Financial assistance for the cost of tuition, fees, and books may be available through RSA, Federal grant programs, student loans, and scholarships.

Pima College Adult Education (PCAE)

Adult Education provides adult learners with opportunities to increase basic skills in math, reading and writing, prepare for high school equivalency testing, acquire English language proficiency, increase civic engagement, learn the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship and develop the skills to transition to further education and jobs.

Individuals must attend an orientation to take Adult Basic Education courses. To enroll in classes you must provide documentation to show you are lawfully present in the United States. Visit PCAE's website and click on "Becoming a Student" to learn how to participate in any of the Adult Basic Education programs listed below. These programs and courses are free and open to the public. Courses are offered throughout the community and online to meet your busy schedules.

The learning centers are open from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Fridays. Please call for class locations, times and registration information.

Administrative Office

401 N. Bonita, B230, Tucson, Arizona 85709

E-mail: pcae@pima.edu

[www.pima.edu/programs-courses/adult-education /index.html](http://www.pima.edu/programs-courses/adult-education/index.html)

Becoming a student: 206-3987

General Information: 206-3987

Adult Education Services: 206-6500

Programs

Adult Basic Education: Geared to entry-level study and teaches basic reading, math and language skills.

High School Equivalency (HSE) Preparation and Testing: Prepares individuals to take the GED test. HSE classes are also offered online. PCC administers the GED on a regular basis.

English Language Acquisition for Adults (ELAA): Classes focus on speaking, listening, reading and writing skills from beginning to advanced skill levels to improve English language skills.

Math Bridge Classes: 7-week intensive math class to prepare for the GED. Free test preparation materials and test fee scholarships are provided. Includes college and career advising along with activities to familiarize students with College facilities and resources.

IBest Programs: Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training to prepare students for GED while pursuing a career/technical certificate.

Refugee Education Program: For individuals who have entered the United States on a legal refugee status, this English-language learning program is designed for the lowest literacy levels through college entrance. Courses focus on practical English skills that help you function independently on the job and in daily living.

Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship: Provides educational support for individuals seeking United State citizenship, offering classes in civic engagement, history and government.

University of Arizona

Tucson, AZ 85721 Campus Operator: 621-2211 www.arizona.edu

The University of Arizona (UA) offers Bachelor and graduate degrees in many diverse areas of study. Founded as the land grant institution of the State, and guided by the objectives and mandates of the land grant tradition, the UA maintains a program of public service, research, and teaching.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

Highland Commons Bldg. 621-3268 Voice/TTY E-mail: drc-info@email.arizona.edu
1224 E. Lowell St. <http://drc.arizona.edu>

Tucson, Arizona 85721

East wing on the 1st & 2nd floors-on the corner of Highland & 6th St.

Provides support services for students with disabilities, including assistance with special problems in admission, registration, orientation to campus, location of accessible and suitable housing, personal and career counseling, interpreting services for students with hearing impairments, reader/writer services for students with severe disabilities, equipment and wheelchair repair; health related services, and adapted athletic and recreational programs including the UA Wildchairs. Facilitates full access for disabled students, faculty, staff, and visitors through the provision of reasonable accommodations, adaptive athletic and fitness programs, assistive technology, innovative programming, education, and consultation.

SALT Center

1010 N. Highland 621-1242
Tucson, Arizona 85721 www.salt.arizona.edu

A fee for service resource that provides instructional support services for students with specific learning disabilities, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder and a range of other learning differences. Services include tutoring, learning specialists, note taking, readers, technology, advising, and mentor program.

Speech and Language Center

UA Speech Building Hearing and Speech Clinics: 621-7070 or 621-1826
email: osa@email.arizona.edu www.slhs.arizona.edu/speech-and-language-clinics

Most clinic activities are on a fee for service basis and contract with the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Provides a wide variety of services to individuals with communication difficulties resulting from speech, language and/or hearing deficits.

Chapel Haven West 877-824-9378

1701 N. Park Ave. Tucson, Arizona 85719
admissions@chapelhaven.org www.chapelhaven.org/west

Provides a two-year residential transition setting with lifelong supports for adults 18+ with mild developmental disabilities and those on the autism spectrum. Teaches life skills, self-determination, vocational readiness, and helps students succeed in postsecondary education as desired with an association with the University of Arizona. There is a fee for services.

Vocational & Technical Training

Vocational and technical schools/programs offer specific job training in a short period. The length of time and prerequisites is contingent on the job. Tuition and fees vary, but financial assistance may be available. The following is a brief list of schools and programs.

AmeriCorps/VISTA

Provides inclusion support to individuals with disabilities who desire to serve their community.
www.americorps.gov

Arizona Academy of Beauty

5631 E. Speedway Blvd. 885-4120
www.arizonaacademy.com

Empire Beauty Schools

3030 E. Speedway Blvd. 327-6544
www.empire.edu

Tucson College of Beauty

3955 N. Flowing Wells 887-8262
www.tucsoncollegeofbeauty.com

Brookline College Tucson

5441 E. 22nd St., Suite 125 748-9799
Degree and diploma career education that prepares students for entry level jobs in a wide variety of careers and online courses.
www.brooklinecollege.edu

Care Giver Training Institute

710 S. Kolb Bldg. 4. 777-4882
Provides caregiver and certified nursing assistant (CNA) training.
www.cgtaiaz.org

Carrington College

201 N. Bonita #101 368-3028
Medical, veterinary, & dental assistant, massage therapy, health careers and criminal justice.
www.carrington.edu

Eii Images Enterprises

3820 S. Palo Verde 777-6462
CDL Training, accounting, construction, permanent make-up, landscape mgt. Aesthetics and Pest Control.
www.eiitraining.com

HDS Truck Driving Institute

6251 S. Wilmot Rd. 721-5825
Truck driving instruction
www.tucsoncdl.com

Hollywood Barber College

1336 W. Prince Rd. 887-0532

Dunbar Barber College

325 W. 2nd St. 624-0131
www.dunbarbarberacademy.com

Southern Arizona Barber College

2257 E. Broadway 319-0122
www.southernarizonabarbercollege.com

Job Corps (Fred Acosta) see page 12

Pima County JTED

2855 W. Master Pieces Dr. 352-5833
Business, Arts, Design, Computers, Health Science, Hospitality, Public Service, Science and Technology.
www.pimajted.org

Pima Medical Institute

2121 N. Craycroft Rd. 326-1600
Dental, nursing, veterinary, ophthalmic, and pharmacy respiratory assistants
www.pmi.edu

Southwest University of Visual Arts

2525 N. Country Club Rd. 325-0123
Degree programs in fine arts design, advertising and visual communication.
www.suva.edu

CAREER SERVICES

Transition planning is part of the high school experience and will help students identify their career interests, preferences and strengths. In collaboration with school and community agencies, students will begin to develop a career path and set future employment goals. This path will include a planned course of study, transition activities and services. A variety of community agencies listed in this section can assist with the implementation of a career plan and support students as they prepare to transition from school to young adult life.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

The Workforce Innovation & Opportunities Act (WIOA) requires Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies nationwide to provide Pre-ETS. Pre-ETS are short workshops that cover five transition topics: job exploration, counseling on postsecondary education and training opportunities, work readiness (including social and independent living skills), work-based learning and self-advocacy skills. Youth are referred to VR using a Pre-ETS Request Form available on their website. Youth with any kind of documented disability between the ages of 14-22, who are in an educational or vocational program including college or GED programs are eligible. Youth do not have to apply for VR services or be clients of the VR program.

EMPLOYMENT FIRST

Employment First is a national initiative that promotes competitive employment in an integrated setting at minimum wage or higher for students with disabilities. Employment First encompasses the belief that community-based, integrated employment is an essential component of the student's weekly schedule. Employment First does not mean employment only and does not deny individual choice, but is intended to increase work opportunities and post-school outcomes for all students.

THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA)

Recent federal legislation (July 22, 2014) requires states to prioritize integrated employment services for students with disabilities including those students with significant disabilities. WIOA provides a framework to enhance access to employment, education, training, and support services to prepare students for entry into the labor market. Within TUSD, high schools work closely with Rehabilitation Service Administration/Vocational Rehabilitation (RSA/VR) to accomplish the guidelines of WIOA. Counselors are assigned to each high school to meet with students/parents and determine VR eligibility. Contact the special education teachers at your child's school for more information regarding the school's VR counselor and services.

WORKING WITH A DISABILITY IN ARIZONA

AZ Disability Benefits 101 (www.az.db101.org) is an online tool to help Social Security beneficiaries make informed decisions about going to work. AZ DB 101 provides tools and information on employment, health coverage and benefits. DB 101 addresses how work, health care and cash benefits interact with another, how to maximize earnings by using work and health care incentives, options to increase financial well-being and benefit/work calculators.

Job Placement

Special education teachers and staff will assist students to identify skills, strengths and preferences as they relate first to a job and later to a career. In addition, there are many private and public community agencies that offer employment services and support in the job seeking process. Depending on the agency, services include resume preparation, interviewing techniques, training, and career counseling. The following is a list of community agencies that may provide enhanced employment support for a student.

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA/VR)

TTY: 1-855-475-8194 www.azdes.gov/rsa

District Office

400 W. Congress St., Ste 420
628-6810

Transition Unit

1455 S. Alvernon Way
872-9070

Eastside Office

899 N. Wilmot Rd. C#7.
790-0107

22nd Street Office

5441 E. 22nd Ste #12
638-2708

Southside Office

195 W. Irvington Rd.
638-2390

Northwest Office

7225 N. Mona Lisa Rd. Ste 259
544-8618

Services for the Blind/Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID)

100 North Stone Ste 500B
629-0225

Division of Developmental Disabilities

6730 S. Tucson Blvd. Bldg. #2
745-5588 www.azdes.gov/ddd

D.E.S. Job Service

Eastside

5441 E. 22nd St., Ste 100
745-5802

Northside

316 W. Fort Lowell Rd.
638-2350

Southside

195 W. Irvington Rd.
638-2350

Fred G. Acosta Job Corps

901 S. Campbell Ave. 792-3015
www.fredgacosta.jobcorps.gov/home.aspx

Linkages

1001 N. Alvernon Way
624-6452 www.linkagesarizona.com

Pima County One-Stop Career Centers

http://webcms.pima.gov/community/employment_job_training_and_education/youth_programs/

Kino Service Center

2797 E. Ajo Way
243-6700

Serves workers who have been laid off

Rio Nuevo Center

340 N. Commerce Park Loop
798-0500

Serves unemployed adults and youth

SER/Jobs for Progress, Inc.

40 W. 28th St.
624-8629 www.ser-national.org

Tucson Indian Center

97 E. Congress St.
884-7131 www.ticenter.org

Tucson Urban League, Inc.

2305 S. Park Ave.
623-4388 www.tucsonurbanleague.org

Tucson Youth Development, Inc.

1901 N. Stone Ave.
623-5843 www.tucsonyouth.org

Job Support and Preparation

For some students, additional on-the-job training and ongoing support is needed for success. The type of support depends on the student's individual needs. If a student has a case manager through the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation or the Regional Behavioral Health Authority, please contact them directly to see if your child might qualify for employment supports or apply directly. Support strategies include:

Transition to Employment (TTE)

This service provides members of DDD individualized instruction, training and support to promote skill development for integrated and competitive employment.

Individual Supported Employment (ISE)

Individuals typically work in the community in a fully integrated, competitive employment setting and in most cases earn at least minimum wage. DDD can fund the services of a job coach to assist the individual when necessary and address needs/concerns of the employer.

Before DDD serves an individual in ISE, the individual must first be referred to Vocational Rehabilitation RSA/VR for vocational planning and placement.

Group Supported Employment (GSE)

The individual typically works in the community in a group setting with other individuals receiving DDD services, and in most cases receives continuous supervision by a worker from a DDD-funded private agency known as a Qualified Vendor. The rate of pay is usually based on the individual's production rate.

Center-Based Employment (CBE)

The individual typically works in a large, highly supervised workshop that usually allows for minimal community integration. The rate of pay is often "piece-rate", meaning pay is determined by the amount of work that the individual completes.

Employment Support Aide (ESA)

This service is used to provide one-to-one staffing for individuals who require personal care assistance or close supervision due to behavioral challenges in order to maintain employment in the above settings. Use of the employment support aide is based on individual need.

Employment-Related Transportation (TRE)

This service is used by DDD members to transport members from home and to their employment setting after all other forms of transportation have been considered.

Career Preparation and Readiness (CPR)

Provides DDD services to members participating in Center-Based Employment to assist in making a progressive move into competitive and/or integrated employment.

Job Support continued

Below is a partial list of agencies that provide employment support programs in Tucson. Services vary with each agency, but may include work adjustment, supported employment, job development, individual community placement and center-based work. The programs listed may have a variety of programs throughout Tucson. Only the agency's main office is listed below. Parents and students are highly encouraged to tour programs. If a student has a case manager through DDD, RSA or ACH, contact them to review eligibility requirements.

Achieve Builds Confidence

www.achieve.org 579-8824

Arizona Placement Concepts

www.arizonaplacementconcepts.com 882-4100

Arts for All, Inc.

www.artsforallinc.org 622-4100

Beacon Group

www.beacongroup.org 622-4874

Career Link

www.careerlinks.com 792-1906

Catholic Community Services-Deaf and

Residential Services

www.ccs-soaz.org 792-1906

Community Options, Inc.

www.comop.org 345-1029

Community Outreach Program for the Deaf (COPD)

www.copdaz.org 792-1906

Community Provider of Enrichment Services (CPES)

www.cpes.com 325-8410

Coyote Task Force

www.ourplaceclubhouse.org 884-5553

Desert Survivors

www.desertsurvivors.org 286-7059

Dorothy Kret and Associates (DKA)

www.dkajobs.com 790-7677

Easter Seals Blake Foundation

www.easterseals.com 622-3933

Educate Empower Succeed

www.eesaz.org 480-217-3351

Elite Community Services

www.ecaz.org 624-7336

Encourage Arizona

www.encouragearizona.info 795-0033

Goodwill Industries

www.goodwilltucson.org 623-5174

Handlers of Tucson

622-1878

La Frontera

www.lafronteraaz.org 838-5600

Odyssey Service Corp.

www.odesseyservicecorp.com 208-7445

Project PPEP

www.ppep.org 400-2647

Project Search - Sonoran UCEDD

www.sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu 626-0442

Rise Services, Inc.

www.riseservicesinc.org 284-4994

Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired (SAAVI)

www.saavi.us 795-1331

Southern Arizona Family Services

www.southernarizonafamilyservices.com 512-0200

The Centers for Habilitation (TCH)

www.tch-az.com 748-1224

Tucson Community Connections

www.tucsoncommunityconnections.com 326-5556

WEDCO

www.wedco.net 584-8648

Workability Program –UCP

www.ucpa.org 344-8217

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

MAKING IT ON YOUR OWN

An important part of being a young adult usually includes discussion about moving away from home, socializing with friends, setting a schedule, being responsible for getting to and from places and learning how to manage time. All of these can be categorized as independent living skills. Independent living skills learned at home and school greatly contributes to the student's ability to successfully transition from home and school into the community. The type of instruction and supports needed by each student varies. The community resources in this section assist students and their families with the adult living transition process.

AZ ABLE Accounts An ABLE account is an investment account available to eligible individuals with disabilities. Accounts are made possible by the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (“ABLE”) Act. ABLE accounts allow individuals with disabilities to save and invest money without losing eligibility public benefits programs, like Medicaid or SSI. Earnings in your ABLE Account are not subject to federal income tax, so long as you spend them on “Qualified Disability Expenses.” To learn more visit: www.az-able.com

DIRECT Center for Independence, Inc. and Linkages

1001 N. Alvernon Way 624-6452

DIRECT Center for Independence and Linkages recently consolidated administrative resources to help increase community impact. Their collective goal is to ensure that people with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of life in our community, including the pursuit and attainment of competitive employment.

DIRECT is a consumer-directed, community-based advocacy organization that promotes independent living and offers a variety of programs that encourages all people with disabilities to achieve their full potential and to participate in the community. Participants can take classes in self-determination, decision-making skills, independent living skills, employment training, transportation, socialization, and money management. Mental health counseling is available along with peer support and mentoring to assist individuals to learn how to utilize community services, work and live as independently as possible. www.directilc.org

Linkages

Advocates to employers on the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities. Then 'links' those employers to candidates through a job board, events, and shares information with agency partners who provide employment services to job seekers. Individuals create a portfolio that is partnered with businesses who are looking to hire individuals with disabilities.

www.LinkagesArizona.org

Day Treatment and Training Programs

Day programs provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to participate in therapeutic activities that enhance their independent living skills and community interactions. As determined by an individual's habilitative learning goal, activities may include using the bus, going to stores, cooking, recreation, arts, crafts, survival skills and employability skill development. Each program listed below will offer specific services. Meeting with a case manager from DDD or Behavioral Health will help to determine what program is right for an individual and the eligibility requirements. Parents and students are always welcome to call and visit any program. Case managers make referrals based on individual needs and maintain up to date vendor lists with program details. There are a variety of programs throughout Tucson and many agencies have more than one location.

Achieve	579-8824	Handmaker	881-2323
AIRES	903-2511	Jewish Community Center	299-3000
Arts for All	622-4100	La Casita	461-9852
Artworks (UA)	621-9427	La Frontera	884-9920
AZ Masquerade	891-7570	LIFE Lessons	327-0777
Beacon Group	622-4874	Mentor, Minds in Motion	298-7017
Blake/Sage	622-3933	New Challenge	570-6122
Blue Sky Fitness and Recreation	323-3146	Origins Society Global College	780-0107
Build Up and Encourage	no phone	Project PPEP	594-6499
Chapel Haven West	624-9378	RES CARE	398-5675
Community Options	360-1375	RISE	284-4996
COPD	792-1906	SAAVI	795-1331
CPES	209-7188	Southern AZ Family Services, Inc.	512-0200
Creative Care Centers	401-4065	Tucson Community Connections	256-0897
Danville Creative Expressions	795-1540	Tucson Meadows	393-3435
Desert Horizons	615-2255	Tumbleweed	795-2938
Handlers of Tucson	622-1878	Tungland Corporation	290-9329

Residential

Residential programs offer supervised living to young adults in group or apartment settings. These residential settings are sometimes referred to as an Independent Living Arrangement or IDLA. Services include training in money management, meal preparation, counseling, housekeeping, personal grooming and hygiene, home maintenance, and interpersonal relationships with roommates and neighbors. A variety of programs are available, and the types of services depend on the student's individual needs. Parents are encouraged to discuss their son or daughter's needs and choose the program that is right for them. If a student has a case manager through DDD or the Regional Behavioral Health Authority, please contact them directly to see if he or she might qualify for residential services or need to be placed on a wait list for those services. Early contact and planning will help avoid unnecessary delays. The following is a list of some of the residential programs available in the Tucson area:

AIRES 824 E. Fort Lowell Rd. www.aires.org	903-2511	Easter Seals Blake Foundation 7750 E. Broadway D200 www.blakefoundation.org	327-1529
RISE Services 6420 E. Tanque Verde	298-6468	Intermountain Centers for Human Development 994 Harrison Rd. www.ichd.net	771-1887
Arizona Mentor 5597 E. Grant Rd. www.thementornetwork.com	298-7017	Project PPEP 802 E. 46th St. www.ppep.org	622-3553
Catholic Social Services 268 W. Adams St www.ccs-soaz.org/Contact-Us	792-1906	Rescare Arizona (Noble Care) 3230 S. Dodge Blvd. www.noblecare.com	207-7703
Community Options 310 S. Williams www.comopt.org	306-1375	Southern Arizona Family Services, Inc. 310 S. Williams Blvd. Suite 130 www.southernarizonafamilyservices.com	512-0200
Community Provider of Enrichment Services (CPES) 4825 N. Sabino Canyon Rd. www.cpes.com	884-7954	The Centers for Habilitation (TCH) 4072 E. 22 nd #319 www.tch-az.com	748-1244
Danville Services 710 S. Campbell www.danserv.com	327-9889	The Meadows 11175 E. Edison www.themeadows.com	(928) 242-0123
Desert Horizons Communities 4901 E. 5 th St. www.dhcommunities.com	615-2255	Tucson Residence Foundation 115 S. Sherwood Village Dr. www.tucsonresidencefoundation.com	790-9144
		Tungland Corporation 1605 N. Wilmot Ste 104B www.tungland.com	745-8777

Transportation

For people who do not have a car, necessary daily tasks such as going to and from work, school, or shopping present a major barrier. Listed below are several options for public transportation. There are private companies in Tucson that will also provide services for a fee not listed here.

Sun Tran City Bus System

www.suntran.com

Effective June 30, 2013, Sun Tran launched the new SunGO fare payment system. SunGO is a seamless regional transit fare system. SunGO utilizes smart card technology to pay fares and transfer throughout the region on Sun Tran and the Sun Link modern streetcar. The SunGO smart card resembles a credit card in size and shape, but inside has a computer chip instead of a magnetic strip and will serve as the fare payment card and store cash value or passes.

Sun Tran Economy/Reduced Fares

www.suntran.com/access_fares.php

Sun Tran offers reduced fares through the Economy Pass Program to people with disabilities. For eligibility information, contact the ADA Eligibility office at (520) 791-5833 or Special Services Office at (520) 791-4100. Also, ask a student's TUSD teacher about obtaining the necessary documentation required to apply. There is a \$2 processing fee to complete the application and to receive a SunGO ID card valid for four years. An annual pass is available for riders that may qualify based on low income. Call 206-8881 for training to learn to ride the bus.

Sun Link Modern Streetcar

www.sunlinkstreetcar.com

The fixed-guideway electric rail system has eight ADA-compliant vehicles in operation, sharing a travel lane with other vehicles and is compatible with street parking. The streetcars accommodate bicycles and have easy roll-on access for wheelchairs and strollers. The vehicles stop at 18 points along a fixed route that includes the University of Arizona, University Blvd., 4th Ave., Downtown and Mercado areas. A route map is available at the Sun Link website.

Sun Van

www.sunvan.com

Available for persons who because of their disability need to have "door-to-door" transportation services and because of their disability are unable to ride Sun Tran. Sun Van requires a current ADA eligibility card available from the ADA Eligibility Office located at 149 N. Stone. Eligibility may also require contact with the applicant's references and an in person assessment of travel skills. Support Coordinators with DDD are also able to assist students and parents with the application process. Contact Community Service Office at 791-5409 TDD: 791-2639 for more information. Obtain an application: www.tucsonaz.gov/transit/ada-paratransit-eligibility-application-request

Sun Shuttle Dial-a-Ride (formerly Handicar)

www.suntran.com/sunshuttle

Dial-a-ride services are for individuals with disabilities who live within the eligibility area, which includes parts of Pima County, Central Tucson and portions of Marana and Oro Valley. For service and boundary details call 792-9222 or TDD: 628-1565. Rides need to be scheduled one to seven days in advance. Vehicles are bright green and say "Discount Cab" on the side. The appropriate vehicle for your required trip is provided. To apply contact the City of Tucson's ADA Eligibility Office at 149 N. Stone, phone: 791-5883 and for details and information regarding economy fares.

Guardianship

In Arizona, when students reach the age of 18, they become their own legal guardians and are able to make life decisions, unless guardianship is sought on their behalf. This is referred to as the Transfer of Rights at Age of Majority. At least one year before reaching the age of majority (18), the student and his/her parents are informed of the transfer of rights at the annual IEP meeting. If parents are interested in obtaining personalized information or assistance with an application for guardianship, they may seek a private attorney and/or contact one of the following agencies listed below for further information.

Family Law Clinic

724-4200

Pima County Superior Court Law Library – 2nd Floor
110 W. Congress

The clinic is open on Monday - Friday from 2 to 5 PM by appointment only. Allow 2-4 weeks to be placed on their schedule. There is no charge for clinic services.

Call for an appointment: 623-9465 ext. 4175

Lawyer's Referral Service/Pima County Bar Association

623-4625

177 N. Church Ave., Ste. 101

www.pimacountybar.org

For people unacquainted with local attorneys, this agency arranges consultation with a lawyer who has expertise in a specific area of concern. There is a \$35.00 fee for up to one-half hour of consultation/advisement. There are additional charges for subsequent services.

Pima County Public Fiduciary

724-5454

32. N. Stone Ave. 4th Floor

http://webcms.pima.gov/government/public_fiduciary

County agency that provides guardianship, conservatorship, and probate administrations for Pima County residents. People in need of guardianship or conservatorship must be found by the courts to be incapacitated or in need of protection.

Raising Special Kids - Families Helping Families

441-4007

Info@raisingspecialkids.org

www.raisingspecialkids.org

Supports and encourages Arizona families on the challenging journey of raising children with disabilities and special healthcare needs. Provides no cost workshops on guardianship options for when your child reaches the age of majority at age 18.

Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc.

623-9465

2343 E. Broadway Blvd. Ste.200 Continental Bldg.

www.sazlegalaid.org

Legal assistance and representation for low income people in civil matters. Eligibility interview is required prior to any services being provided.

Recreation & Leisure

The Tucson Community offers a variety of free or inexpensive recreation and leisure activities. In addition to the following list, students are encouraged to inquire at neighborhood churches about youth groups and social events.

City of Tucson Parks & Recreation

Main Office: 900 S. Randolph Way 791-4873
www.tucsonaz.gov/parks

Operates 19 recreation and special interest centers spread throughout the community and offers a wide variety of programs and services. Centers help develop close community atmospheres for neighboring citizens of all ages and interests. Call the administrative office for more information and locations or go to for a map and further details.

Therapeutic Recreation Center

1000 S. Randolph Way 791-4504
www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/therapeuticrecreationcenter. Programs for people age 6 and over who have a disability; activities include bowling, camps, dances, fun days, overnight vacation trips, social clubs, special interest classes, sports and fitness programs, and workshops. Self-help skills are required.

Pima County Parks & Recreation

Main Office: 3500 W. River Rd 724-5000
www.webems.pima.gov/government/natural_resources_parks_and_recreation

Has several centers throughout Pima County that offer a multitude of services and activities including after school programs, community services, summer, teen and youth programs, computer lab, and social services. Programs and amenities will vary by location.

Special Olympics of Pima County 207-0710

3340 N. Country Club #102
www.specialolympicsarizona.org/near-you/coronado

Holly Thompson, Area Director
hollythompson@soastucson.org

Year-round program of sports training, physical fitness, and athletic competition for children and adults with mental disabilities.

Challenger Little League 298-3639

www.Challengerlittleleaguetucson.com
email: tucsonchallengerlittleleague@gmail.com. Offers children and young adults full benefits of Little League baseball structured to athletic abilities.

Trak

3250 E. Allen Rd. 298-9808
www.traktucson.org
email: office@traktucson.org
Equine assisted therapy and a variety of programs that teach environmental and animal responsibility.

TROT (Therapeutic Riding of Tucson)

8920 E. Woodland Rd. 749-2360
www.trotarizona.org
email: info@trotarizona.org
Offers riding lessons for children and adults with disabilities. Adaptive riding equip. available.

Tucson-Pima Public Libraries

Main Library 101 N. Stone 594-5500
www.library.pima.gov
Special needs services. 26 branches throughout the Tucson area.

YMCA

City-wide services for youth
www.tucsonymca.org

Jacobs/City

1010 W. Lind St. 623-9211

Lighthouse/City

2900 N. Columbus Blvd. 795-9725

Lohse Family

60 W. Alameda St. 623-5200

Mulcahy/City

5085 S. Nogales Hwy 294-1449

Northwest Family

7770 N. Shannon Rd. 229-9001

Ott Family

401 S. Prudence Rd. 885-2317

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance may be available to offset the expenses associated with going to school, attending vocational training programs, or learning to live independently. The amount and extent of financial assistance depends on the individual's needs and will vary. Eligibility and funding is subject to change. Contact each source to determine current availability and application procedures.

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) (800) 824-2656
Offers low cost health care for qualified people. www.azahcccs.gov

ALTCS Program 205-8600
Long-term care services for people with developmental and physical disabilities, and older adults who meet specific financial and medical eligibility standards. www.azahcccs.gov

D.E.S. Family Assistance Administration 628-6810
Families who need nursing assistance, home health care, or housekeeping can obtain assistance from Family Assistance Administration www.des.az.gov

Division of Developmental Disabilities 745-5588
Coordinates and provides services for people of all ages with developmental disabilities, cerebral palsy, autism, and/or epilepsy. www.azdes.gov/ddd

FAFSA, Grants, Guaranteed Student Loans, Work Study
Most approved schools offer financial aid to students. The amount of aid varies depending on the program. Pell Grants and Guaranteed Student Loans help to pay for tuition, books, and school supplies. Grants do not have to be paid back, but loans must be paid back. Work Study places the student in a job on the school campus and pays them for their time on the job. Please check with each school about applications and deadlines and to obtain a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). www.fafsa.ed.gov

Rehabilitation Services Administration 628-6810
Provides or pays for short-term employment related services for adults with disabilities. www.azdes.gov/rsa

Social Security Administration Voice: (800) 772-1213/TTY: (800) 325-0778
Depending on the individual student and family situation, financial assistance maybe available from the Social Security Administration. www.ssa.gov

Subsidized Housing 791-4739
The City of Tucson Community Services Department administers federal, state and local money to assist people to find affordable housing. Financial assistance with rent, home repairs and remodeling are available. www.tucsonaz.gov

Veteran's Benefits (800) 827-1000 Local: 520-882-0333
If a parent is a veteran, their son or daughter may be eligible for financial assistance. www.vba.va.gov

Counseling

Counseling is available to students and their families who may need help with personal, interpersonal, marital, family, or other problems. The following is a list of some of the counseling and support groups available in the Tucson area.

**Arizona Complete Health
Regional Behavioral Health Authority for
Southern Arizona**
866-796-0542 www.azcompletehealth.com
Crisis Line: 866-495-6735

**Banner-University Medical Center, South
Campus**
Inpatient/outpatient treatment for mental illness
874-2000 www.uahealth.com

Catholic Social Services
Individual and family counseling
623-0344 www.ccs-soaz.org

CODAC Behavioral Health Services
Individual and family counseling
327-4505 www.codac.org

COPE
Socialization, recreation, and rehabilitation
792-3293 www.copebhs.com

DIRECT Centers for Independence
Consumer directed advocacy to promote
independent living
624-6452 or 800-342-1854 www.directilc.org

Emerge, Center Against Domestic Abuse
795-8001 www.emergecenter.com
888-428-0101 crisis line

Epilepsy Outreach Project, Inc.
Support services 326-6690

**Helping Ourselves Pursue Enrichment, Inc.
(HOPE)**
Support and Advocacy
284-9655 www.hopetucson.org

Jewish and Family Services
Individual and family counseling
795-0300 www.jfcstucson.org

La Frontera Center
Family counseling and substance abuse
884-9920 www.lafronteraarizona.org

Las Familias
Sexual abuse, family, and individual counseling
Voice: 327-7122/ TTY: 327-8235
www.arizonaschildren.org/behavioral-health/

Our Family Services
General Information
Individual and family counseling
323-1708 www.ourfamilyservices.org

Palo Verde Mental Health Services
Substance abuse, eating disorders
322-2888 or 844-884-2273
www.paloverdebh.com

Southern Arizona Aids Foundation
Support services, education and prevention
628-7223 or 800-771-9054 www.saaf.org

Tu Nidito
Individual and family counseling for those
dealing with serious illness and death.
322-9155 www.tunidito.org

Tucson Indian Center
Outpatient health care and social services
884-7131 www.ticenter.org

Advocacy, Support & Networking

Advocacy, support and networking address equal access and quality of life issues. Many of the resources listed also provide counseling and are available both locally and statewide.

Southern Arizona Al-Anon Information and Services Center

323-2229

www.so-az-alanon.org

Al-A-teen

323-2229

www.al-anon-az.org/teens-2

Alcoholics Anonymous

624-4183

www.aatucson.org

American Lung Association

323-1812

www.lungusa.org

ARC of Tucson, The

570-1295

www.arcoftucson.org

Arizona Center for Disability Law

327-9547

www.azdisabilitylaw.org.com

Arizona Dept. of Education, Excep.Ed.

628-6330 www.azed.gov/specialeducation/transition

Arizona Department of Health Service/Division of Behavioral Health

www.azdhs.gov/bhs/aboutbhs.htm

Arizona Governor's Council on Developmental Disability

www.directorsblog.health.azdhs.gov

Arizona Office for Americans with Disabilities

www.know-the-ada.com

Arthritis Foundation of Southern Arizona

917-7070

www.arthritis.org/arizona

Association for People with Severe Handicaps (TASH)

www.arizonatash.org

Best Buddies Arizona

www.bestbuddies.org/arizona

C.H.A.D.D. of Tucson/ Children & Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders

327-7002

www.chaddoftucson.org

Cocaine Anonymous

326-2211

www.caarizona.com

Community Resource Center (Tucson) /DDD

305-4005

Conciliation Court (Council for Children, Youth and Families of Greater Tucson)

724-5590

www.sc.pima.gov

DDD Adaptation Station/AssistiveTech

745-5588 ext. 414

DIRECT Center for Independence, Inc.

624-6452

www.directilc.org

Divorce Recovery

495-0704

www.divorcerecovery.net

Epilepsy Outreach Project

326-6690

Governor's Statewide Independent Living Council

www.azsilc.org

Institute for Human Development

www.nau.edu/ihd

MIKID

www.mikid.org

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

322-5253

www.madd.org/local-offices/az/southern-arizona.html

Muscular Dystrophy Association

www.mda.org

National Alliance on Mental Illness

www.namiaz.org/index.html

622-5582

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

www.azlibrary.gov/talkingbooks

Narcotics Anonymous Helpline

881-8381

Overeaters Anonymous

733-0880

www.oasouthernaz.org

Pacer Center

952-838-9000

www.pacer.org

Parenting Arizona

602-248-0428

www.parentingaz.org

People First of Arizona

928-759-7167

www.peoplefirstprescott.org

Pilot Parents of Southern AZ

877-365-7220

www.pilotparents.org

Pima County Autism Society

770-1541 www.as-az.org

Project ACTION Accessible Traveler's Database

www.projectaction.com

Raising Special Kids

602-242-4366

www.raisingpecialkids.org

Self-Advocacy Coalition of Arizona

602-258-1794

Southern Arizona Legal Aid Inc.

623-9465

www.sazlegalaid.org

SonoranUCEDD

626-0442

www.sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu

Southern Arizona Network for Down Syndrome

520-477-2929

www.sandsaz.org

Spina Bifida Association of Arizona

324-3340

www.sbaaz.org

Technology Access Center of Tucson

207-8988

www.tactaz.org

Ticket to Work

www.choosework.ssa.gov

Tucson Alliance for Autism

319-5857

www.tucsonallianceforautism.com

Tucson-Pima Public Library

"Info Line" 791-4010

www.library.pima.gov/contact-us

United Cerebral Palsy of Southern Arizona

www.ucpsa.org

World Wide Web

The World Wide Web (WWW) is a great way for students and parents to explore transition resources in their communities, throughout the state and around the world. It provides the opportunity to network, obtain information, and develop linkages with other individuals who share common goals and experiences. Listed below are frequently requested resources and their web site addresses for support in the area of transition.

LOCAL

Alcoholics Anonymous.....	www.aatucson.org
ARC of Arizona Guardianship Service Commission.....	www.arcarizona.org
Arts For All, Inc.....	www.artsforallinc.org
Autism Society of So. AZ.....	www.as-az.org
Beacon Group.....	www.thebeaongroup.org
Blake Foundation.....	www.blakefoundation.org
Center for Independence, Inc. (DIRECT).....	www.directilc.org
CHADD of Tucson.....	www.chaddoftucson.com
CODAC Behavioral Health Services.....	www.codac.org
Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA).....	www.cpsa-rbha.org
Community Provider of Enrichment Services (CPES).....	www.cpes.com
COPE Behavioral Health Services.....	www.copecommunityservices.org
Divorce Recovery.....	www.divorcerecovery.net
Easter Seals.....	www.easterseals.com
Our Family Services.....	www.ourfamilyservices.org
Pilot Parents.....	www.pilotparents.org
Pima Community College.....	www.pima.edu
Pima Community College Access and Disability Resource (ADR).....	www.pima.edu/adr
Pima County Community Services Dept.....	www.pima.gov/CED/CS/
Pima County School Superintendent's Office.....	www.schools.pima.gov/
Project PPEP.....	www.ppep.org
Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc.....	www.sazlegalaid.org
Sun Tran.....	www.suntran.com
Sun Van.....	www.sunvan.com
Top Dog.....	www.topdogsservedogs.org
Tu Nidito.....	www.tunidito.org
Tucson Alliance for Autism.....	www.tucsonalliancetoautism.com
Tucson Centers for Women & Children.....	www.tucsoncenters.com
Tucson Jewish Community Center.....	www.tucsonjcc.org
Tucson-Pima Public Libraries.....	www.library.pima.gov
Tucson Unified School District.....	www.tusd1.org
United Cerebral Palsy of So. AZ.....	www.ucpsa.org
University of Arizona.....	www.arizona.edu
University of Arizona Disability Resource Center (DRC).....	http://drc.arizona.edu
University of Arizona SALT Center.....	www.salt.arizona.edu
YWCA.....	www.ywcatuscon.org

STATE

Adult Loss of Hearing Association.....	www.alohaaz.org
Arizona Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired.....	www.acbvi.org
Arizona Center for Disability Law.....	www.acdl.com
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)	www.azahcccs.gov
Arizona Rehabilitation Services.....	www.des.az.gov
Arizona State Department of Education	www.azed.gov
Arizona State Division of Developmental Disabilities	www.des.az.gov
Arizona Center for Disability Law.....	www.azdisabilitylaw.org
Association for People with Severe Handicaps (TASH)	www.arizonatash.org
Department of Education Exceptional Student Services	www.azed.gov/specialeducation
Raising Special Kids	www.raisingpecialkids.org
Wrightslaw – Special Education Laws	www.wrightslaw.com

NATIONAL

Ability Hub	www.abilityhub.com/links/organization.htm
American Association of People with Disabilities.....	www.aapd-dc.org
American Council of the Blind	www.acb.org
American Lung Association	www.lungusa.org
Beach Center on Families & Disability	www.BeachCenter.lsi.ku.edu
Children's Defense Fund.....	www.childrensdefense.org
Council on Exceptional Children.....	www.cec.sped.com
Easter Seals	www.easterseals.org
Federal Student Aid Information Center.....	www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa
Federation for Children with Special Needs	www.fcsn.org/
L.D. On-line.....	www.ldonline.org
Muscular Dystrophy Assoc.....	www.mdausa.org
National Alliance on Mental Illness.....	www.nami.org
National Council on Disability	www.ncd.gov
Center for Parent Information and Resources (CPIR)	www.parentcenterhub.org
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.....	www.nrcd.org
National Organization for Children with Disabilities	www.nod.org
Social Security Administration	www.ssa.gov
TASH.....	www.tash.org
Technical Assistance for Parent Centers.....	www.taalliance.org
Top Dog	www.topdogservicedogs.org
Veteran's Benefits.....	www.vba.va.gov
Youth Crisis Hotline	www.stopitnow.org

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