

Other Resources

Advocacy and Guardianship Information:

The Arc of Whatcom County
2602 McLeod Road, Bellingham WA
(360) 715-0170

www.arcwhatcom.org

Transportation:

Whatcom Transportation Authority
(360) 676-7433
(360) 733-1144 (Specialized
Transportation Eligibility)

www.ridewta.com

- Get help in getting around
- Call to see if you qualify for a reduced bus pass

Food and Other Assistance:

Department of Social and Health Services
(DSHS): Community Services Office
4101 Meridian, Bellingham, WA
1-877-501-2233

1-800-209-5446 TTY

www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-services-offices/services

- Programs are based on income

Housing:

Housing Authority
208 Unity St., Bellingham, WA
(360) 676-6887

www.bellinghamhousing.org

- Call to see about openings on wait list

Important Dates

By Age 16

- Get a picture ID from the Department of Licensing (after 18, it's more difficult.)
- Apply to become a client of the Developmental Disabilities Administration

Age 17

- Consider guardianship, if needed.
- Discuss your school district's transition program at the IEP meeting.

Age 18 *Adulthood!*

- Can reapply for Social Security as an adult (parent income is no longer counted)
- Apply for personal care funding with DDA if help with bathing, grooming, dressing, laundry, etc. is needed.

Age 20

- Apply for DVR services no later than the beginning of your final year of school.

Age 21

- Graduate from high school transition program with connections and services in place to:

- Get a job (or keep your existing job)*
- Continue your education*
- Build a meaningful life and daily routine after school ends*
- Live as independently as possible*

For more information contact
The Whatcom County Health Department
Developmental Disabilities Program
(360) 778-6012



Transition Resources for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities



**Get connected and
have a plan before
you leave high school**

Daily
Living

Continuing
education

Work



Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

2219 Rimland Dr. Suite 315
 Bellingham, WA
 (360) 714-5000
 (360) 714-5002 TTY
www.dshs.wa.gov/dda

- Can apply at any age
- Must have records which show disability began before age 18
- DDA Case Managers can help refer to most services and supports
- Determines level / need for personal care services
- Assists with supports to live with others or by yourself
- Referrals for long-term job coaching and community support after school has ended.

Social Security Administration (SSA)

710 Alabama St.
 Bellingham, WA
 1 (800) 772-1213
 (800) 325-0778 TTY
www.ssa.gov

- Can apply at any age
- Must have records that show that disability will substantially impact your ability to work
- May provide supplemental income based on need and disability
- Provides medical insurance through Medicaid and Medicare
- Provides incentives for individuals to work without losing Medicaid eligibility

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

4101 Meridian
 Bellingham, WA
 (360) 714-4136
 (360) 714-4009 TTY
www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr

- Can apply when old enough to work
- Help getting and keeping a job
- Learn about skills, interests and abilities
- Information about devices used to help with work
- Short term job coaching and support on the job
- Skill training for work
- Help in understanding how work will affect social security benefits

School District Transition Program

Contact the Special Education Director in your district:

- Bellingham... (360) 676-6458
- Blaine..... 360) 332-0722
- Ferndale.....(360) 383-9221
- Lummi.....(360) 758-4319
- Lynden..... (360) 354-2893
- Meridian.....(360) 318-2153
- Mt. Baker..... (360) 383-2012
- Nooksack... (360) 988-4754
- Educational Service District (ESD) 189.....(360) 299-4000
- Preparing for college
- Preparing for work
- Learning skills for living independently



Tip:

If you help your adult son or daughter with bathing, grooming, dressing, laundry etc. consider applying for personal care when they turn 18. **1-800-567-5582** to request services.



Tip:

Eligibility requirements change at age 18. Consider reapplying if turned down at an earlier age.



Tip:

Apply no later than the beginning of your final year of school. Services are short-term.



Tip:

Funding for many adult services do not start until 21. Staying in school until 21 can help prevent a gap in services.