Transition Information
for Young Adults with Special Needs and/or Disabilities

Serving the general public as a source of information about aging and adult disability resources

Aging and Disability Resource Center of Jefferson County

Connecting you to Resources, Information and Assistance

Transition Means Change
Questions you will need to consider:

- How do my legal rights and responsibilities change?
- How does guardianship change?
- How do youth services and adult services differ?
- What is publicly funded long term care and how is eligibility determined?
- Where and how will I live?
- How will I support myself and manage my finances?
- How will I manage my health care?
- Will I go on to school or job training for employment?
- Where can I find help and guidance to answer all these questions?

The ADRC can help you find answers to your questions.

Congratulations!
Your 18th birthday marks an important milestone of life—leaving childhood behind and entering life as an adult. Many changes in disability services occur when a student is between the age of 18 and 21.

Transitioning Into Adult Disability Services
This publication, developed by the ADRC of Jefferson County, is intended to help the student with disabilities and his/her family make the transition into adulthood as smoothly and effectively as possible. It provides a brief overview of the changes, the process, the timeline, and the resources involved for a young person with special needs and/or disabilities to transition from adolescence into adulthood.

It explains how and when the ADRC can help you understand your new rights and responsibilities, determine your immediate and future care needs, and evaluate your options for meeting those needs. It provides links to resources and organizations that will help you make more informed choices about living as an adult in Jefferson County.

Beginning 6 months before your 18th birthday
The ADRC can help you, your family, and your transition team, make the transition process seamless, productive, and less stressful. We can help you identify the questions to ask and find answers specifically tailored to your situation.

To learn more about the ADRC request an ADRC Brochure

There is no charge for ADRC Services.
How Do Youth Services and Adult Services Differ?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entitlement</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High School</strong></td>
<td><strong>Adult Service Systems</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education services are free</td>
<td>Adult services are based on eligibility and vary by agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services based on the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) initiated by the school district</td>
<td>Services are based on the Individualized Service Plan (ISP) and/or Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) which are developed with the adult consumer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Progress toward IEP goal is monitored and communicated to parents and students</td>
<td>Progress toward goals is monitored by consumer and requires self advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)</td>
<td>Required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)</td>
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**ADRC can Begin Assisting You with your Transition**

**Before 17 years 6 months of age**
Contact Compass Wisconsin: Threshold at (414) 234-5437. Their website is: www.compasswisconsin.org This is the doorway to apply for Children’s Long Term Services, Family Support Program.

- Katie Beckett, and other services. Obtain and keep copy of school records, including IEP’s, psychological evaluations and Occupational/Physical Speech Therapy evaluations. All these documents will assist in determining eligibility for programs.
- Start thinking and talking about transition from pediatric to adult health care service.

**At age 17 years + 6 months**
Contact the ADRC Resource Specialists as they can help you and your family review and understand all long-term care options—in light of your particular needs and situation. They can help you...

- Consider your options for transitioning from pediatric to adult health care services.
- Consider your interests and preferences in thinking about post high school work or educational possibilities.
- Learn about community, services, organizations, and housing options.
- Consider legal issues such as Guardianship, Power of Attorney, Power of Financial Attorney, and advance care planning.
- Help you learn about your new rights and responsibilities.
- Provide links to helpful information, resources, and organizations.

**By age 21**
This is the last year you are entitled to Special Education Services through the public schools, if you did not graduate.

- Transition to adult health care providers should be complete.
- Living situation and employment should be secured.

**Will I Go on to School or**

**Going on to School?**
Aging and Disability Resource Specialists can refer you to appropriate resources to learn about educational opportunities.

**Local Educational Resources**
UW-Whitewater Center for Students with Disabilities
www.uww.edu/csd/
800 W Main St, Whitewater, WI 53190
Main: (262) 472-4711 TDD/TTY: (262) 472-4711

The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) mission is to be partners in creating an accessible learning community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of the educational experience. Through partnership with students, faculty and staff, we promote student's independence and recognition of a student’s ability, not disability.

**Questions to begin exploring education options:**
- Why do you want to get more education?
- What assistance and accommodation do you think you will need?
- Are you able to talk about your disability and what help you will need?
- Where do you plan to live while in college?
- How will you manage your transportation needs?
- How will you pay for your education?

**Education Resources**
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)—assistance for students in achieving post school employment goals
- Disability Service Offices — provide on-campus support at universities or tech schools for students with disabilities
- Social Security— offers incentives to save benefits to pursue post-secondary educational options
Job Training for Employment?

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

The Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is a Federal/State program designed to assist individuals with disabilities obtain, maintain, or improve employment. DVR is for people with disabilities who need services to prepare for work, or find and keep a job. You may be able to receive vocational services from DVR if you have a physical or mental impairment that makes it difficult for you to maintain a job.

To learn how your disability interferes with employment, your DVR counselor may request and review your medical and/or educational records. DVR may pay for the purchase of needed records or any medical, psychological, or vocational evaluations. There is no charge for evaluation, counseling, job placement or follow-up assistance.

If you need long-term job supports, DVR may ask you to contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Jefferson County (ADRC) to determine if you are eligible for long-term supports funded by Publicly Funded Long Term Care Programs. You may be required to share the cost of some services, depending on your financial situation. Your counselor will discuss any financial responsibilities with you before services begin.

If you are going to continue in school after your 18th birthday you should talk with your teacher about working with DVR and getting some job experience while you are still in school. Job training and experience should be addressed in your IEP meetings (Individualized Educational Plan) even prior to age 18.

Think Possibilities!

Local Office and Phone:

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
874 Collins Road
Jefferson, WI 53549
(920) 675-4629 or TTY (920) 674-7517
Website: http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/

Social Security Administration Programs

Social Security programs provide financial protection to workers and their families, and pay monthly Social Security retirement, disability, or survivor benefits to individuals. The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program pays monthly benefits to individuals who have little or no resources and who are aged, blind, or disabled. The Social Security Administration administers both programs. Most young disabled adults receive SSI unless a parent is deceased or retired.

If you received SSI prior to age 18, contact Social Security to see if you will need to complete a review. Eligibility must be reestablished at age 18. To prevent interruption of benefits, contact the Social Security office 3 months before your 18th birthday. The local office serving Jefferson County residents is located in Waukesha at 1-866-220-7885. You can call and make an appointment to apply for SSI. When you make your appointment you may want to discuss what documents you will need to bring.

If you begin working and are receiving SSI, your cash benefit will change based upon how much you earn each month. Generally, the more income you have the less you will receive from your SSI cash benefit. There are several work incentive programs available to assist you in keeping some SSI cash benefits which you can discuss with Social Security representatives. Some application forms may be filled out online at: www.ssa.gov

Disability Benefit Specialist Program

The Disability Benefit Specialist program is a service of the Aging and Disability Resource Centers. The Disability Benefit Specialist (DBS) walks closely with information and assistance specialists on options and other resource center services. The DBS provides services to people ages 18 to 59 with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental illness and substance use disorders. The DBS provides information about public and private benefit programs including assistance with application and appeal procedures, such as formal appeals related to denials of eligibility, termination of benefits or overpayment of public and private benefits.

For more information about the Disability Benefit Specialist

The Disability Benefit Specialist can help you with:

- Medicaid (Medical Assistance)
- FoodShare
- Medicare, including Part D
- Veterans’ Benefits
- Social Security Disability Income
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Housing and Utility Issues
- Prescription Drug Assistance Programs
- Private Health and Disability Insurance Issues

Social Security Administration Programs

The Disability Benefit Specialist can help you with:

- Social Security Disability Income
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Housing and Utility Issues
- Prescription Drug Assistance Programs
- Private Health and Disability Insurance Issues
Employment Incentives & Benefits Counseling

Work Incentives Benefit Specialists (WIBS)

Work Incentive Benefit Specialists (WIBS) assist people with disabilities by helping them wade through the complexities to make informed choices about the impact of work on their benefits. WIBS can provide a written and oral analysis of a person’s services and benefits and how work will change their cash payments, medical coverage, and continued eligibility. Two types of WIBS in Wisconsin include Fee for Service or Purchase of Service Benefits Counseling and Assistance Program counselors.

Fee for Service or Purchase of Service (POS) Benefits Counseling offers comprehensive benefits counseling services available for purchase by community and vocational agencies. People with disabilities who are interested in receiving benefits counseling and who receive funding through a community or vocational agency (for example, the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation) may be eligible for POS benefits counseling.

The WIPA project is a voluntary program for people with disabilities who receive either Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits and are interested in working. Individuals receive information about benefits and federal and state work incentives. The Social Security Administration (SSA) designed the WIPA project to provide knowledge and support to beneficiaries who want to work and are unsure of how employment will affect their Social Security Benefits. Understanding the options and possibilities can help a person make an informed choice about going to work.

Career Identification Services

Vocational evaluation is an individualized process. Some participants require minimal assistance in the vocational evaluation process while others need much more attention and time to accurately assess their skills and determine vocational options.

Opportunities for individuals who receive both SSI and SSDI benefits who receive funding through a community or vocational agency include:

- Fee for Service or Purchase of Service Benefits Counseling
- Assistance Program counselors

The evaluation results are compiled into a comprehensive final report describing the individual's background. Goals of the evaluation are to address performance enhancement, independence, and quality of life to increase overall success. The infusion of assistive technology often allows the participant to explore options that were previously not considered. All possible technology needs of the participant are considered including activities of daily living, mobility, adaptive transportation, computer access, worksite accommodations, and environmental controls.

What is a Vocational Evaluation?

A vocational evaluation is a process during which participants try out work tasks and take tests to learn about their vocational strengths, weaknesses, and interests. Participants receive career counseling on realistic job goals and determine steps to achieve these goals.

Participants leave the evaluation with a better understanding of what they are capable of, usually as a result of trying activities related to jobs that interest them. Comprehensive recommendations include employment options developed in collaboration with the participant and services necessary to achieve vocational goals. Examples of services sometimes recommended include skill building or post-secondary education, job shadowing, assistive technology, work experience, independent living skills assessment, or benefits consultation. Vocational evaluation is an individualized process. Some people need minimal assistance in the vocational evaluation process while others need much more attention and time to accurately assess their skills and determine vocational options.

Vocational Skills Training Services

The goal of vocational skills training is to offer paid on-the-job training and work experiences to program participants as well as to develop, improve and maintain work skills, behaviors and attitudes which can lead to positive employment outcomes (i.e. community employment).

St. Coletta

St. Coletta believes in assisting individuals with disabilities in attaining their highest quality of life in the areas of vocation, personal independence and community integration. Access Community Employment Services – The Access Community Employment Program assists qualified participants in achieving their highest level of success in choosing, obtaining, maintaining, and advancing in a competitive career by breaking down the barriers that can keep people with disabilities to enjoy a successful career. Incentives for the client as well as the employer include tax credits, 50% savings on wages paid to the participant for the first 90 days of their employment, four weeks of cost free labor from participant while the employer receives a “sneak peak” of the client’s capabilities before committing to a hiring decision and many other cost-saving initiatives. For Information call: 920-674-8215.

Adult Education – With an overall belief that learning is a lifelong process, individuals enrolled in classes are provided with information and learning opportunities designed to increase their life skills. Adult education offers: qualified teachers, individualized classes and curriculums designed to meet the needs of students with an emphasis on practical living, social, and recreational skills.

Work Training Services

Work Training Services include:
- Individualized program that is designed to re-establish work skills and stamina.
- Service Options
- Integrated Work Environment
- Long Term Employment
- Cross-Training
- Individualized Training Plan

Contact Information

Director of Vocational Services

1-800-314-4567

Opportunities

Opportunities is a voluntary program for people with disabilities who receive either SSI or SSDI benefits and are interested in working. Individuals receive information about benefits and federal and state work incentives. The Social Security Administration (SSA) designed the WIPA project to provide knowledge and support to beneficiaries who want to work and are unsure of how employment will affect their Social Security Benefits. Understanding the options and possibilities can help a person make an informed choice about going to work.

Contact the ADRC for a copy of this brochure and/or additional resources.
What is Assistive Technology?

Devices and services that allow people to function as independently as possible at home, at school, at work and in the community are known as Assistive Technology.

Assistive Technology includes:
- Wheelchairs and motorized scooters
- Hearing aids
- Magnifiers and other visual aids
- Computers with modifications
- Control/switches for lights, doors and appliances
- Vehicles with lifts or hand controls
- Home modifications (for example, kitchen or bath redesign, ramps and/or widened doorways)

WisTech

The WisTech program provides information on selecting, funding, installing and using assistive technology. The provider of these services for Jefferson County residents is Society’s Assets.

Staff at the Device Demonstration Centers provide:
- Individual assistance regarding selecting and trying-out a variety of assistive technology devices.
- Direct consumers to manufacturers and funding sources.

Device Loans are short-term loans of assistive technology devices for the purpose of:
- Assisting in the decision-making process of finding the most appropriate equipment
- Serve as loaner equipment
- Provide short-term accommodations

Device Loans are available at the regional independent living centers. Loans are available to people with disabilities, their families, employers, service providers and other interested persons.

The Wheelchair Recycling Program maintains an online inventory of equipment and operates storefronts in Madison and Milwaukee. The Wheelchair Recycling Program will work with independent living centers, Aging and Disability Resource Centers and county human services and aging offices to make equipment available to consumers.

The WisLoan program offers loans for assistive technology. The loans help people buy equipment such as hearing aids, modified vehicles, wheelchairs and ramps. Independent living centers throughout the state provide technical assistance, applications and assistive technology services.

The program is open to Wisconsin residents of all ages who have a disability. There are no income requirements, and individuals are not required to exhaust personal or public funding. Under the program, banks provide loans to qualified borrowers. Loan amounts depend on the item purchased and the ability to repay the loan.

Wisconsin has a new online resource for Assistive Technology (AT) information. The AT Resource Center can be found at www.wiatrc.org

What Are My Transportation Options?

Driver Evaluation & Training for People with Disabilities

ADS Adaptive Driving Specialists, Inc.
Address: 4737 N. Elkhart Ave, Glendale, WI 53211 Phone: (414) 721-8636

Driver evaluation and training for people with disabilities, which provides comprehensive driver rehabilitation, offering on-site service (at your residence) throughout southeast and central Wisconsin. These services are also available at the ADS office. Provide clinical screening, behind-the-wheel evaluation, and on-road training. Provide recommendations regarding vehicle modifications, driver training, and licensing. The evaluation determines how a person’s functional impairment impacts their ability to operate a motor vehicle and to safely negotiate normal traffic environments. For beginners, it can assist in determining their potential to become independent drivers. The evaluation includes clinical pre-driver screening and behind-the-wheel assessment.

University of Wisconsin-Stout
Pre-Driving Evaluation & Training

A driving simulator provides an opportunity for individuals to safely practice skills necessary for driving. Many types of situations are available to allow individuals to apply their knowledge in a realistic, but simulated, environment. This allows SVRI staff to evaluate a potential driver’s strengths and weaknesses and provide recommendations. The driving simulator training can be individualized and ranges from basic to advanced.

What skills are assessed for driving?
- Motor Skills including strength capacity testing and reaction time to brake.
- Cognitive Abilities including speed management and driving accuracy.
- Visual Capacities including perception of shapes and colors, remembering shapes and colors, and overall memorization.
- General Driving Abilities such as following instructions, performing multiple tasks simultaneously, decision making, problem solving, and concentration.

Results from the simulator will not solely determine a person’s ability to obtain a driver’s license. On-the-road evaluations are necessary to ensure a person’s ability to operate a vehicle safely and effectively.
Preparing and planning for transition is about future education, work plans, living arrangements, and finances. It is also about how to manage a health condition or disability as independently as possible.

The Health Pocket Guide can be picked up from the ADRC or ordered online. You can use it to keep track of your health care information and have a written record of your medicines, allergies, what others should do in case of an emergency and more.

Some other suggestions to assist you with transitioning:

- Begin updating your evaluations and assessments. Obtain and keep a copy of school records, including IEP’s, psychological evaluations, and OT/PT/Speech evaluations. All these documents will assist in determining eligibility for programs.
- Start thinking and talking about transition from pediatric to adult health care service providers.

Transitioning from pediatric to health care providers for adults can feel like a completely new territory. It may take some time for your new health care providers to get to know you. They will look to you to help them. Hospitals and doctors’ offices may look and feel different.

Trying to find a new adult healthcare provider may take some exploring. Find a new health care provider that specializes in adults. When you were younger, your parents probably did most of the talking during your doctor visits. As a teen, this responsibility will fall more to you. Are you comfortable talking with your doctor? What kinds of questions should you ask?

What does it mean to be your own advocate? It means you ask for what you need while being respectful of others. Understand your needs and wants and be able to express them to others. Know your strengths and weaknesses. Be confident, believe in yourself, and be your own person. But remember to ask for help when needed!

Thinking about what you want from a doctor, making sure your insurance will pay for appointments, and being persistent and flexible will help find the right one for you. Learn the basics about health insurance. Let’s face it...insurance can be confusing to just about anyone! Knowing how your current insurance works can be useful for when you need to find new insurance in the future.

This booklet “Transition Health Care Checklist: Preparing for Life as an Adult” is a resource to help you and your family make a successful transition to adult living.

### Local Community Transportation Resources

**SHARED-RIDE TAXI SERVICE**

- **Fort Atkinson:** Regular Adult Fare $3.00; Seniors or Disabled $2.00; Students $2.50. (Fare covers a one-way trip within city limits. Wheelchair Van available at no extra cost.) Call 563-6303. Hours are: Monday-Thursday 6:30 AM to 7 PM, Friday 6:30 AM to 2 PM, Saturday 7 AM to 2 PM and Sunday 7 AM to 4 PM.

- **Jefferson:** Regular Adult Fare $3.00; Seniors or Disabled $2.00; Students $3.00. (Fare covers a one-way trip within city limits. Wheelchair Van available at no extra cost.) Call 563-9188. Hours are: Monday-Thursday 6:30 AM to 7 PM, Friday 6:30 AM to 2 PM, Saturday 7 AM to 2 AM and Sunday 7 AM to 4 PM.

- **Lake Mills:** Regular Adult Fare $2.75; Seniors or Disabled $1.75; Students $1.75. (Fare covers a one-way trip within city limits. Wheelchair Van available at no extra cost.) Call 648-4420. Hours are: Monday-Friday 7 AM - 7 PM, Saturday 8 AM - 2 PM, and Sunday 7 AM to 12:30 PM.

- **Whiteside:** Regular Adult Fare $3.00; Seniors or Disabled $2.00; Students $2.00. (Fare covers a one-way trip within city limits. Wheelchair Van available at no extra cost.) Call 563-6303. Hours are: Monday-Wednesday 7 AM to 9 PM, Thursday-Saturday 7 AM to 2:30 AM, Sunday 7 AM to 4 PM.

- **Watertown:** Regular Adult Fare $3.00; Seniors or Disabled $2.00; Students $2.50. (Fare covers a one-way trip within city limits. Wheelchair Van available at no extra cost.) Call 261-7433. Hours are: Monday-Thursday 5:30 AM - 11:45 AM, Friday 5:30 AM - 3 AM, Saturday 7 AM - 3 AM and Sunday 7 AM - 5:45 AM.

*All of these taxi companies have vans which can take wheelchairs. No extra charge for wheelchair service. For best service please call in advance and specify any special needs.

**VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAM**

Provided by Jefferson County Human Services and available to transport elderly (age 60 and over) and individuals with disabilities, who have no other transportation to out-of-town medical appointments and to Human Services Department clients who have agency appointments. Those that have Medical Assistance must obtain medical transportation from Medical Transportation Management (MTM) at 1-866-907-1493. A $10 co-pay is requested for a round trip, out-of-county medical appointments and a $2 co-pay for a round trip, in-county ride. Morning medical appointments are encouraged when out of county. Call 674-8104, at least 4 days in advance to schedule.

### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION (TITLE 19)

Individuals who have Medicaid or Badgercare may be eligible for mileage reimbursement when they transport themselves to medical appointments. This must be requested & approved prior to your medical transportation with Medical Transportation Management (MTM) at 1-888-513-0703.

**ELDERLY/DISABLED VAN**

Provided by Jefferson County Human Services, to ten local communities. The van takes elderly and disabled (ambulatory) individuals shopping. For trip information call 674-8104. A donation of $1 per one-way trip is requested.

**FISH COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS**

Jefferson: Medical appointments only. City of Jefferson residents only. Two days advance notice, no age limit. Donations requested. Call 674-3557.

**PRIVATE MEDICAL PROVIDERS**


**YOUR FRIENDS IN ACTION**

Provides rides to elderly and disabled. Office hours are Mon.—Fri. 8:00—4:30. Call 674-4548. Requesting a volunteer may take up to a week, so call early.
What are some of the rights and responsibilities a student has after age 18 that they didn’t have before?

The booklet “Your Legal Rights and Responsibilities on being 18” is available at the ADRC. It was designed to focus on changes and legal rights and responsibilities that occur when an individual becomes 18 years of age.

The process of appointing a guardian includes:
1. Filing a petition with the court:
2. The completion of a competency evaluation by a psychologist or physician; 3) A court hearing. These steps are generally completed by a private attorney.

A Guardian Ad Litem is an attorney who is appointed to represent the proposed ward during the court process. She is also appointed Guardian of Estate or Representative Payee for Social Security benefits.

A Guardian of Person must have regular visits, in person, to observe the ward’s condition, surroundings, and treatment. The guardian is expected to make decisions based on what is in the best interest of the ward. A Guardian of Person does not have decision-making powers over the ward’s property (including finances) unless he or she is also appointed Guardian of Estate or Representative Payee for Social Security benefits.

When a student turns 18, parents no longer automatically have legal responsibility over their child’s medical or financial affairs—regardless of the nature or severity of their disability.

The booklet “Your Legal Rights and Responsibilities on being 18” is available at the ADRC. It was designed to focus on changes and legal rights and responsibilities that occur when an individual becomes 18 years of age. What are some of the rights and responsibilities a student has after age 18 that they didn’t have before?

As an adult, you (and your family or guardian, if one is appointed) will be responsible for determining how you live your life. You will make many decisions which will affect the quality and stability of your life as an adult. You may choose to live with your family into adulthood, or you may want to experience independent living. Maybe you will go back and forth between your family and independent living. There are many things to consider in making this very important choice.

The ADRC can help you sort them all out.

Support Services in the Home

- Individual continues to live at home (own home or family member’s home) and receives support services.

Supervised/Supported Apartments

- On-site staff supervision and support services available from a few hours to 24 hours a day—may include personal care assistance, making meals, assistance in budgeting, help with connecting to community leisure activities, or other areas needing attention.

Housing & Assisted Living Options

**Support Services in the Home**
- Individual continues to live at home (own home or family member’s home) and receives support services.

**Supervised/Supported Apartments**
- On-site staff supervision and support services available from a few hours to 24 hours a day—may include personal care assistance, making meals, assistance in budgeting, help with connecting to community leisure activities, or other areas needing attention.

**Adult Family Care Homes**
- A place where adults who are not related to the operator reside and receive care, treatment, or services that are above the level of room and board, and may include up to 7 hours per week of nursing care per resident.

**Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF)**
- A place where five or more unrelated people live together in a community setting. Services provided include room and board, supervision, support services, and may include up to 3 hours of nursing care per week.

**Assisted Living Options in Jefferson County**

Do you have questions about Assisted Living?
- What assisted living options are available in Jefferson County?
- How do I choose the option best suited to meet my needs?
- What does it cost and how do I know what I can afford to pay?
- Where can I get information about assisted living and help to understand my options?

**Where Will You Live?**

Parents should consider guardianship and related alternatives at least 6 months before your child’s 18th birthday. The legal process for appointing a guardian may take several months.

A guardian is considered when a person does not have the mental capacity to make decisions that meet their needs for physical health and safety. In these situations an alternate decision maker is needed. The need for guardianship is determined through a legal proceeding by a judge. A judge makes a legal determination that the person placed under guardianship is incompetent and unable to make his or her own decisions. Physical disability and/or poor judgment without a legal finding of mental incompetence are not sufficient reasons to establish guardianship.

A Guardian of Person must have regular visits, in person, to observe the ward’s condition, surroundings, and treatment. The guardian must review treatment records, attend staffing, and work with (consult with) providers of health care and social services in making all necessary treatment decisions. A guardian is expected to make decisions based on what is in the best interest of the ward. A Guardian of Person does not have decision-making powers over the ward’s property (including finances) unless he or she is also appointed Guardian of Estate or Representative Payee for Social Security benefits.

A Guardian Ad Litem is an attorney who is appointed to represent the proposed ward during the court process. The process of appointing a guardian includes: 1) Filing a petition with the court; 2) The completion of a competency evaluation by a psychologist or physician; 3) A court hearing. These steps are generally completed by a private attorney.

There are two basic kinds of guardianship:

- **Guardian of Person**—arranges for personal needs such as food, shelter, social services, or medical needs. A court may appoint the same person for both kinds of guardianship or the responsibilities may be divided.

**Alternatives to guardianship to be considered:**

1. **Power of Attorney for Health Care**—a document that is drafted to allow an individual to make health care decisions for another person.
2. **Conservatorship**—if the person is competent to understand his/her actions, he/she can request that the court appoint a conservator who has the same rights and responsibilities as a guardian of estate—requires no “incompetency” ruling and can be ended by the individual at any time.
3. **Representative Payee**—an individual or organization appointed by the Social Security Administration to receive Social Security and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for someone who cannot manage their own finances.
4. **Dual Signature Accounts**—the individual can make out their own checks, but the checks must also be signed by a designated co-signer.
Regardless of where you live as an adult, you will need to develop skills to be as independent as possible in your daily life. Knowing what you will need and where you can find it will be essential to a successful transition into adulthood. The ADRC can connect you to information, resources and organizations to make your transition less stressful and more effective. Contact the ADRC for the most updated list of service providers in your area.

Supportive services may include:

**Homemaker / Supportive Home Care**
Homemaker and HCA agencies employ homemakers or chore workers, HCA's, and companions who support individuals through meal preparation, bathing, dressing, and housekeeping. Personnel are assigned according to the needs and wishes of each client. Most homemaker and HCA agencies recruit, train, and supervise their personnel and thus are responsible for the care rendered.

**Adult Day Care**
An Adult Day Care facility provides services for part of a day in a group setting to adults who need assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), supervision and/or protection. Services may include personal care and supervision, provision of meals, medical care, medication administration, transportation, and activities designed to meet physical, social, and leisure time needs. In Wisconsin, adult day care centers are not licensed, but may be certified. If a center is certified, then DHS conducts surveys to determine compliance with certification standards.

**Respite Care**
Respite services are intended to relieve care providers who are responsible for the ongoing care of an another person. It is essential for care providers to have regular time off periods to attend to business, enjoy time away, rest, and recharge. Overburdened care providers are at risk of becoming isolated from social contacts, or even physically ill. The person receiving respite care is provided an opportunity to socialize with others while still receiving the care they require. Respite services may sometimes involve overnight care for an extended period of time.

**Durable Medical Equipment**
Durable medical equipment (DME) is equipment that is used primarily for medical purposes at home, is necessary for the treatment of an illness or disease, and is designed to withstand prolonged use.

What is Publicly Funded Long Term Care?

Publicly Funded Long Term Care Programs provide a wide range of long-term support services to eligible members. Potential members are adults over the age of 18 with physical or developmental disabilities and elderly persons with long-term conditions requiring care. You must be functionally and financially eligible in order to enroll in Publicly Funded Long Term Care Programs.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center staff will assess the potential member’s eligibility for these programs. When you reach age 17 years and 6 months you should contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center (920-674-8734) for information, assistance and advice about available services, and possible eligibility.

At this time, when an adult who meet both functional and financial eligibility requirements, their name will be added to a waiting list.

There are two assessments:

- **A Functional Screen** which gathers information about whether the individual needs help, and how much help they need to perform activities of everyday life—for example, walking, bathing, eating, and managing medications. (It is very important for you to obtain and keep a copy of school records including IEP’s, psychological evaluations, and OT/PT/Speech evaluations. All of these documents will assist in determining eligibility for programs.)

- **A Financial Screen** which is based on your income and assets. A consumer would need to meet Medicaid eligibility requirements.

Once your name comes up on the wait list and you wish to enroll in a Publicly Funded Long Term Care Program, you will meet with an Aging and Disability Resource Specialist who will assist you with options counseling for you to be able to make an informed decision on to which program would be able to meet your needs.

Publicly Funded Long Term Care Programs help provide the services that you need to live an active, healthy and independent life. This is done by offering a variety of community based supports, which are identified to help you achieve your goals in the most cost effective manner possible. Depending on your financial situation, you may have a cost share for services. You will be told how much this will be before enrollment.

Public funding supports may include, but are not limited to:

- Adaptive Aids
- Assisted Living Financial Management
- Respite Care
- Medical Equipment
- Prevocational Training
- Skilled Nursing Services
- Supported Employment
- Supportive Home Care
- Personal Response System
- Home Delivered Meals

**Jefferson County Resources on the Web**

This website is designed to help you find the information you need to access community resources and services for older people, adults with disabilities and their families and caregivers, regardless of income.

**Find a Service**

Use “find a service” to locate an organization that can help you. Simply enter the search term(s) in the box below and click the search button. For example you could enter housing, transportation, or any other topic that you need assistance with. If you’re not sure about what to look for, or have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Jefferson County at 866-740-2372. Staff at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Jefferson County are available to help you think through your concerns, explore and weigh options from information specifically tailored for your situation.
Paying for Long Term Care

Many different sources can help pay for long term care: These may include private insurance, retirement benefits, personal savings and government assistance programs like Medicaid, Medicare, and Veteran’s benefits Administration. It is important to understand what services and types of care each one covers. Choosing a Long-term care program that meets your particular needs and situation can be difficult and confusing.

The ADRC can help you understand and compare all your long-term care options.

Managed Care
Covers your home and community-based long-term care services — and provides you with your own care team to ensure your needs are met. You also have the opportunity to arrange, direct and purchase some or all of your services through the Self-Directed Supports Option.

Managed Care Partnership
Covers all long-term care services in the basic Family Care benefits package — plus:
- ALL health and medical services and
- ALL prescription drugs
Your care team will coordinate all your health, medical and long-term care services.

ForwardHealth Wisconsin serving you

Medicaid (Title 19) “Forward” Card
Use your Medicaid (Title 19) “Forward” Card for doctor’s visits and other health services. Individuals who qualify for SSI automatically qualify for Medical Assistance (MA).

Detailed information about Medicaid in Wisconsin is available online at: http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid

Considering Your Options for Publicly Funded Long Term Care

Other Local Community Resources

Abilities, Inc., 28 Sherman Ave, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538  Phone: (920)543-7914
Description: Abilities, Inc. offers diverse living options, with opportunities found in few assisted living programs. Whether an individual is best suited for a Community Based Residential Facility, an Adult Family Home, or an Apartment Program, Abilities, Inc. will provide that option. Abilities, Inc. will also offer a structured Adult Day Care for daily programming needs.

Autism Society of WI - Madison Chapter, 2935 S Fish Hatchery Rd #101, Madison, WI 53711  Phone: (608) 213-8519
Description: The goal of the Autism Society is to promote lifelong opportunities for people within the autism spectrum to be fully supported, participatin members of their communities by providing information and referral, advocacy, public awareness, education, and support for families and the professionals who assist them. The Autism Society of Greater Madison serves Dane County and nine surrounding counties including Jefferson County. Our mission is to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorders.

Bethesda Lutheran Communities, Inc, 600 Hoffmann Drive, Watertown, WI 53094  Phone: 920-206-3140
We provide a variety of support services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- Camps: We offer both day and residential camps. Wisconsin and Texas.
- Case Management: Case managers help people with disabilities and their families locate and access community services, such as medical, dental, education and in-home supports. This is offered in some regions independent of Bethesda’s support services.
- Faith Supports: Supporting the faith of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities is the cornerstone of our ministry. Faith supports are offered through Bible classes, materials, and congregational support and in the homes of the people we serve.
- Residential Services: Residential services are offered in a variety of different service types throughout the corporation.
- Respite Care supports are available in some of our regions.
- Supported Employment and Day Services: Develops individual supports that fit the employment or daytime activity goal of each person.
- Supported Living

Broctel South Inc. Systems, N4640 Proppel Road, Fort Atkinson, WI  Phone: (920) 548-0113
Broctel South, Inc. provides supported living and specialized services for adults with disabilities and long term care needs. We are committed to providing the highest quality and most cost effective residential, and community support services to individuals who on their own, have difficulty meeting the challenges of daily living. As a residential care provider with forty years of experience, we can provide expert services in the following areas:
- Mental Illness = Developmental Disabilities = Traumatic Brain Injury = Dual Diagnosis = Physical Disabilities and Behavioral Challenges

Capabilities Adult Day Care, N2489 Wenham Rd. P O Box 84, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538  Phone: (920) 548-9505
Description: Adult Day Center for men or women who are Developmentally Disabled, Emotionally Disturbed/Mental Illness, Physically Disabled. This program provides leisure, educational, and recreational services. Transportation is offered by Capabilities also.

Care Wisconsin – Jefferson County, 37 South Water Street East, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538  Phone: (920) 474-8000
Description: Family Care and Family Care Partnership, offered by Care Wisconsin, are public programs that provide long-term care services through the WI DHFS. Care Wisconsin has a contract with WI Medicaid and is a state certified care management organization. As a member of Family Care or Family Care Partnership, you can access Care Wisconsin’s local provider network for needed services, such as in-home personal care, medical equipment, assisted living, transportation and help with employment.

Community Action Coalition for So. Central WI, 114 E Main St, Watertown, WI 53094  Phone: (920) 262-9647
Description: Services to low-income individuals in Jefferson County. These services include eviction prevention, entry cost assistance, emergency cash vouchers, rent subsidy, homeless transitional housing and Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. Other services offered are the “Where To Find Guide”, free coats and hats, emergency food and household items and use of our phone and internet. Automobile Loan Program - 0% interest.

Creative Community Living Services, Inc., P O Box 246, Watertown, WI 53094  Phone: (800) 216-2257
Description: Supportive Home Care, Independent Living Programs, Adult Family Home, Community Based Residential Facilities, Accessible facilities, Specialized programs, Case Management, Traumatic Brain Injury Assessment, Foster Care, Personal Care, Respite support, In-home supports, Teaching independence, Leisure and recreational support services, Supportive home care services, Monitoring health, Assisting with medications, Information and referral, Day services, Nurse consultation and MA Personal Care services.

Cutting Edge Program at Edgewood College (Madison, WI). 1000 Edgewood College Drive, Madison, WI 53711  Phone: (608) 663-3340. E-mail: cuttingedgew@edgewood.edu
Description: The Cutting Edge Program at Edgewood College is a new, universal access approach to inclusion in college for adult learners with signifcant disabilities. Program participants have either traditionally not been able to meet the standard admissions criteria for college, or require additional supports in order to be successful in a college environment. Edgewood College is the first four-year college in Wisconsin to offer such a program to adult learners who have significant disabilities.
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of Jefferson County, (DVR), 874 Collins Rd, Jefferson, WI 53549 
Phone: (920) 675-4629 
Description: This is an agency providing services to eligible persons with disabilities to obtain employment. Web: http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/ 

Energy Services, Inc. (Fort Atkinson), 402 Madison Ave, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 
Phone: (920) 568-0604 ext. 201 

Food Pantries 
Fort Atkinson Food Pantry, 715 Jones Ave, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 
Phone: (920) 728-3394 
Description: Hours: Mondays through Thursdays from 3pm - 5pm. 

Jefferson Food Pantry, 164 W Garland St, Jefferson, WI 53549 
Phone: (920) 674-6822 
Description: Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 9am - 4pm. 

Johnson Creek Food Pantry St John's Lutheran Church, 129 N Watertown St, Johnson Creek, WI 53538 
Phone: (920) 699-2471 
Description: Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10am-12pm 

Lake Mills Food Pantry St Vincent de Paul, 270 E Lake St, Lake Mills, WI 53546 
Phone: (920) 648-2800 
Description: Hours: Tues 9-11am, 1st & 3rd Thursday from 9-11am, 2nd & 4th Thursday from 3:30pm-7:30pm. wheelchair accessible. Clients can use pantry once a week. 

Rome/Sullivan Food Pantry Rome Community Center, N3864 West St, Sullivan, WI 53178 
Phone: (920) 593-8919 
Description: Hours: 1st Thursday 10am-11pm; 3rd Thursday 2pm-5pm each month. 

WaukeshaFood Marshall Food Pantry Address: 117 E Madison St, Waukesha, WI 53186 
Phone: (262) 478-3041 
Description: Hours: Wed & Thurs 10am-12pm; Fri 12pm-2pm; Sat 10am-12pm. 

Watertown Food Pantry Immanuel Lutheran Church, 204 N 10 St, Watertown, WI 53094 
Phone: (920) 261-7226 
Description: Hours: Mon & Fri 10am-12pm, Tues & Thurs 1pm-2pm; Wed 2pm-4pm, Thurs 3pm-6:30pm.
Opportunities, Inc., 200 E Cramer St, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538  Phone: (920) 562-2437  Toll free in state: (800) 314-4567
Description: Provides case management, Adult Day Services, Pre Vocational Services, career exploration, Job Development, School Transition, Supported Employment, Personal Care, Supported Home Care, Daily Living Skills, Respite, Home Modification, Assistive Technology Benefit Counseling, Vocational Assessment, Fiscal Management, Guardianship, Youth Apprenticeship, and Job coaching.

Paragon Community Services, W6340 Hackbak Road, Ste. 100, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538  Phone: (920) 568-1322
Description: Paragon has been serving individuals with special needs for over 20 years. Paragon is a symbol of excellence in day program services throughout the State of Wisconsin with expertise in supporting individuals with exceptionally challenging needs. Those served enjoy a safe, familiar environment where they are cared for with dignity and respect. Currently provides opportunities for skill development, socialization, assistance with personal care and community involvement.

Reflections Adult Day Care Inc., 311 Madison Ave, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538  Phone: (920) 560-9233
Description: 29 Capacity Adult Day Center for men or women who are Alzheimer's, Developmentally Disabled, Physically Disabled, or have irreversible Dementia/Alzheimer's disease.

Social Security Administration - Waukesha Address: 707 N Grand Ave, Waukesha, WI 53186  Phone: (866) 220-7885
Description: Assistance Benefits, Survivor Benefits, Disability Benefits, Medicare, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Numbers/Cards. Also provide information on benefits through speakers, films and pamphlets. Waukesha Office # (866) 220-7885. Toll free out: (800) 775-1213 National. TDD/TTY: (800) 325-0778 National Toll Free

Society's Assets, Inc. Elkhorn, 615 E Geneva St, Elkhorn, WI 53121  Phone: (262) 723-8181
Description: Services include: Independent Living Skills Instruction, Companionship, Homemaker Assistance, In Home Supportive Services, Personal Care, and Respite Care. SAI works with people with Developmental Disabilities, Physical and sensory disabilities, to be as independent as possible. Works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers for persons with disabilities. TDD/TTY: (866) 840-9763, TDD/TTY: (866) 840-9761 Racine, TDD/TTY: (866) 840-9762 Kanora. Fax: (262) 723-8184; Other: (262) 657-3999.

Southern Region Children & Youth Waisman Ctr, Rm 102 1500 Highland Ave, Madison, WI 53705  Phone: (800) 532-3321
Description: Hours: WI First Step Hotline is available 24 hrs. a day / 365 days a year. Eligibility: Children & youth birth to 18 years of age. Area Served: 14 counties in Southern and Southwest Wisconsin. Intake procedure. Phone, in-person or e-mail. The Waisman Resource Center is a collection of several center-based programs that provide information and assistance to individuals who have questions about services and programs related to developmental disabilities and other special health care needs.

Special Olympics Fort Atkinson, 1848 Skaar Rd, Cottage Grove, WI 53527  Phone: (608) 335-8089
Description: Provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with cognitive disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

St. Coletta of Wisconsin, N4637 County Rd Y, Jefferson, WI 53549  Phone: (920) 674-4330
Description: Provides vocational, residential and recreational/leisure services to persons with developmental disabilities. Also provides adult day care and assists living to adults with disabilities or infirmities of age.

UW-Whitewater Center for Students with Disabilities, 800 W Main St, Whitewater, WI 53190  Phone: (262) 472-4711
Description: For Students with Disabilities - provides programs and services to persons with disabilities to assure equal opportunity access to the educational environment. Provides reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. TDD/TTY: (262) 472-4711, Fax: (262) 472-4865

Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction, 125 S. Webster St, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53705  Phone: 1-800-441-4563 / (608) 266-3390
Description: The Department of Public Instruction is the state agency that advances public education and libraries in Wisconsin. The department is headed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a nonpartisan, constitutional officer elected every four years. The agency was created in 1848, the year Wisconsin attained statehood, when the state constitution provided for the establishment of local school districts and a free education for all children in the state.

WI Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, 201 E Washington Ave, Madison, WI 53702  Phone: (608) 264-3313
Description: The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is the state agency charged with building and strengthening Wisconsin’s workforce. DWD offers a wide variety of employment programs and services, accessible at the state’s 78 Job Centers, including: securing jobs for the disabled, assisting former welfare recipients to transition to work, linking youth with jobs of tomorrow, protecting and enforcing workers’ rights, processing unemployment claims and ensuring worker’s compensation claims are paid in accordance with law.

Wisconsin Family Ties, 14 North Carroll St Suite 440, Madison, WI 53703  Phone: (715) 790-1317
Description: Quarterly newsletter, family advocacy services and parent support groups, education and training for parents of children with emotional and behavioral disorders and any individuals serving these children. Provides parent scholarships for trainings/workshops; advocacy at individual and system levels; provides listing of area support groups and contact people. Main: (608) 267-6888, Toll free: (800) 422-7145, Other: (920) 787-5120 Don Stig (contact person). Fax: (608) 267-6801

Wisconsin Upside Down Phone: (262) 443-8690
Description: Wisconsin Upside Down helps individuals with Down Syndrome and their families by providing information, advocacy, and support.

Long Term Care State Agencies and Ombudsman

State License/Complaints: Division of Quality Assurance
P.O. Box 2969, Madison WI 53701-2969
(608) 266-8481 1TD# (608) 266-7376

Responsible for monitoring different types of health and community care providers, including Nursing Homes, Hospitals, and Home Health Agencies. Also does on-site surveys, complaint investigations, and enforcement. The Southeastern Region office represents Jefferson County.

Long Care Ombudsman:
Board on Aging and Long-Term Care
1402 Pankratz Street, Suite 111, Madison WI 53704
Toll Free: 1 (800) 815-0015

Investigates improper treatment of elderly and disabled persons receiving long-term care; monitors federal, state and local laws concerning long-term care; promotes public awareness works to improve long-term care through education and cooperation.

State Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources:
Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources
I W. Wilson St., Room 450, Madison WI 53703
(608) 266-2536

Responsible for implementing Title III of the Older Americans Act, oversees a county aging network, and promotes public policies to help older people.

DRW Ombudsman Services
Disability Rights Wisconsin
131 W. Wilson Street, Suite 700, Madison WI 53703
(608) 267-0214 (Madison)
(800) 928-8778 Toll Free Madison

Designated protection and advocacy agency for people (18-59 years of age) with developmental disabilities and mental illness. Disability Rights helps people across Wisconsin gain access to services and opportunity through its advocacy and legal expertise.
Call us to talk to an
Aging and Disability Resource Specialist

Telephone: 920–674-8734
Fax: 920–674-7603
TTD: 920–674-5011
TTY: 1–800–947-3529
Toll-Free: 1–866–740-2372
Email: adrc@jeffersoncountywi.gov
Online: www.jeffersoncountywi.gov
www.facebook.com/JeffersonCounty
Web http://jeffersoncountyadrc.assistguide.net

Vision and Mission of the ADRC
The Aging & Disability Center’s vision is to provide information and assistance to our diverse community where the elderly and people with disabilities are respected, healthy and productive.

Our mission is to help people achieve their goals by providing them with comprehensive information so they can make informed decisions and advocacy support to ensure that they remain in charge of their lives.

April 2014