

Glossary of Disability Terms and Acronyms

ABLE Act (Achieving a Better Life Experience Act) - The beginnings of the ABLE Act started with a conversation by a group of parents around a kitchen table in suburban northern Virginia. After advocacy and overwhelmingly support from both sides of the aisle in the House and Senate, the ABLE Act was signed into law on December 19, 2014 by President Obama. The ABLE Act is designed to ease the financial difficulties faced by individuals with disabilities and their families by providing tax sheltered savings accounts to pay a qualified disability expense, including education, housing, employment training, medical and dental care, and transportation. By providing individuals with disabilities the same types of flexible saving tools all other Americans have, the ABLE Act enables individuals with disabilities to be economically self-sufficient and live independently.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) - The Americans with Disabilities Act gives civil rights protections to persons with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

AIDD (Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) - AIDD is dedicated to ensuring that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are able to fully participate in and contribute to all aspects of community life in the United States. In each state, the agencies form a Developmental Disabilities Network, or DD Network, that is uniquely positioned to meet the diverse needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in their state. Each state's DD Network is comprised of the state Councils on Developmental Disabilities, the state Protection and Advocacy agencies, and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities for Education, Research, and Service centers.

AAIDD (American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) - AAIDD promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. AAIDD's goals are to enhance the capacity of professionals who work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, promote the development of a society that fully includes individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and sustain an effective, responsive, well managed, and responsibly-governed organization.

ARC of KY (Arc of Kentucky) – The Arc of Kentucky advocates for the rights and full participation of all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc of Kentucky strives to improve systems of supports and services, connect families, inspire communities and influence community policy. The Arc of Kentucky was developed to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through advocacy, education, and by raising awareness of the general population of the needs and abilities of persons with disabilities so that they will be accepted as individuals by the community.

ASBG (Autism Society of the Bluegrass) - The Autism Society of the Bluegrass is a resource and support group for families and professionals in the Central Kentucky area who are involved with autism. A chapter of the Autism Society of America and a non-profit organization, the Autism Society of the Bluegrass provides education as well as scholarships for members to obtain continuing autism-related education. They sponsor an Autism Society of the Bluegrass walk in Lexington during the fall of each year.

ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) - Autism spectrum disorder is the name for a group of developmental disorders. ASD includes a wide range, or a spectrum, of symptoms, skills, and levels of disability. People with ASD may have ongoing social problems that include difficulty communicating and interacting with others, repetitive behaviors as well as limited interests or activities, symptoms that typically are recognized in the first two years of life, and symptoms that hurt the individual's ability to function socially, at school or work, or other areas of life. According to the Centers for Disease Control, around 1 in 68 children has been identified with some form of ASD.

ASHA (American Speech-Language Hearing Association) - ASHA is the professional, scientific, and credentialing association for more than 123,000 members and affiliates who are speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists in the United States and internationally. Founded in 1925, the mission of the ASHA is to promote the interests of and provide the highest quality services for professionals in audiology, speech-language pathology, and speech and hearing science, and to advocate for people with communication disabilities.

APSE (Association of Persons Supporting Employment First) - The Association of People Supporting Employment First, founded in 1988, is the only national organization with an exclusive focus on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities. APSE is a 3,000+ and growing national non-profit membership organization. The organization supports the only annual national conference focused solely on the advancement of integrated employment.

AUCD (Association of University Centers on Disabilities) - A national network of federally-funded university-based centers working to improve the quality of life of children and adults with disabilities. Network members consist of 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, 43 Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities programs funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and 15 Developmental Disability Research Centers, most of which are funded by the National Institute for Child Health and Development. National conferences are held in Washington, D.C. each year.

CAC (Consumer Advisory Council) - The Human Development Institute's Consumer Advisory Council is composed of a majority of individuals with disabilities and family members, and also includes the heads of key state agencies with whom the staff of the Institute works. The Consumer Advisory Council strengthens the work of the HDI by giving advisement and direction to the HDI, advocating for systems change, assisting with evaluation of HDI effectiveness, reviewing and assisting in the development of HDI proposals, and sharing information about the HDI with others. The Consumer Advisory Council officers are individuals with disabilities and their family members. The Council is strongly committed to developing the leadership capacity of individuals and families.

CDC (Centers for Disease Control) - Working with states and other partners, CDC provides a system of health surveillance to monitor and prevent disease outbreaks (including bioterrorism), implement disease prevention strategies, and maintain national health statistics. CDC provides for immunization services, workplace safety, and environmental disease prevention. CDC also guards against international disease transmission, with personnel stationed in more than 25 foreign countries.

CILs (Centers for Independent Living) – Centers for Independent Living are consumer-controlled and community-based organizations providing services and advocacy by and for persons with all types of disabilities. CIL's are unique as they provide peer based services, where the staff and board of directors are made of a majority of people with disabilities. CIL's believe that people with disabilities know what is best for people with disabilities. The goal is to assist individuals with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

CCR (College and Career Readiness) - The goal of College and Career Readiness is for more students to reach higher levels of proficiency and for more students to be college and career ready. As the future of the workplace is changing, all students will need higher-level skills to meet their career goals. College readiness is the preparation a first-time student needs in order to succeed in a credit-bearing course at a postsecondary institution. Career readiness is the preparation a high school graduate needs in order to proceed to the next step in a chosen career, whether that is postsecondary coursework, industry certification, or entry into the workforce.

CCSHCN (Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs) - Clinics offered through the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs provide a family centered multidisciplinary approach to care. During each visit, children and families have access to nutritional services, social services, care coordination through a registered nurse, and specialty physicians. Physical and occupational therapies are included for clinics serving children with orthopedic conditions and cerebral palsy. Speech therapy is available for children with hearing loss or other conditions that affect speech and language development.

CCDD (Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities) - The Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities creates systemic change in Kentucky that empowers individuals to achieve full citizenship and inclusion in the community through education, capacity building and advocacy.

CMS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services) - CMS administers the Medicare and Medicaid programs, which provide health care to about one in every four Americans. Medicare provides health insurance for elderly and disabled Americans. Medicaid, a joint federal-state program, provides health coverage for low-income persons, including children, and nursing home coverage for low-income elderly.

COCA (Council on Community Advocacy) - COCA is one of AUCD's Councils of the Board of Directors. COCA advises and assists AUCD in enhancing the quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities and their families by providing the consumer's perspective on issues of concern, including cultural diversity issues.

CP (Cerebral Palsy) - CP is an umbrella-like term used to describe a group of chronic disorders impairing control of movement that appear in the first few years of life and generally do not worsen over time. Symptoms of cerebral palsy lie along a spectrum of varying severity. An individual with cerebral palsy may have difficulty with fine motor tasks, such as writing or cutting with scissors; experience trouble with maintaining balance and walking; or be affected by involuntary movements, such as uncontrollable writhing motion of the hands. The symptoms differ from one person to the next, and may even change over time in the individual.

DAP (Developmentally Appropriate Practice) - Developmentally Appropriate Practice means you use knowledge about child development to create a program that is suitable for the age and stage of development of your group of children. At the same time, your program considers the needs of the individual child. Programs that incorporate DAP will consider or include age appropriateness, individual appropriateness, child-guided and teacher-guided experiences, cultural and social responsiveness, and play when creating a curriculum and planning activities.

DD Act (The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act) - Originally authorized by President Kennedy in 1963, The DD Act (2000) reauthorizes the DD Councils, P&As, UCEDDs, and programs of national significance. In addition, the legislation authorizes separate grants for family support and a program of direct support for workers who assist individuals with developmental disabilities. The purpose of the DD Act is to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that not only promote independence, productivity, integration and inclusion, and self-determination through culturally competent programs.

DI (Developmental Interventionist) - Developmental Interventionists have training in all major areas of development, such as motor, cognitive, communication, adaptive and social skills, but often focus on the expansion of play, cognitive and language, and pre-academic skills. Developmental intervention services are services rendered by a certified teacher with specialized training in children ages birth to five.

DDID (Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities) – The Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities empowers each person to realize his or her place in the community as a citizen of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. To accomplish this mission, DDID partners with and support persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities, families, advocates, stakeholders and government agencies. Person-centered thinking drives the actions of the DDID by emphasizing the importance of each person.

DEC (Division for Early Childhood) - The Division for Early Childhood promotes policies and advances evidence-based practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children (from birth through age eight) who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities. DEC is an international membership organization for those who work with or on behalf of young children (from birth through age eight) with disabilities and other special needs and their families.

DSACK (Down Syndrome Association of Central Kentucky) – The Down Syndrome Association of Central Kentucky is a non-profit volunteer organization comprised of families and professionals who are interested in bettering the lives of people with Down syndrome, and helping them to realize their life aspirations. The goal of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Kentucky is to provide support, resources, and opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome and their families.

ECE (Early Care and Education) - Early Care and Education professionals foster the development of children and create a strong foundation for lifelong learning by providing developmentally appropriate education and quality care, support for families and resources for the community. In Kentucky, Child Care Aware provides supports that help increase knowledge of and demand for high quality early care and education services.

ECMHP (Early Childhood Mental Health Program) - Kentucky's Early Childhood Mental Health Program was created in fiscal year 2003 as a component of a large, statewide early childhood development initiative, KIDS NOW, the majority of which is now administered by the Governor's Office of Early Childhood. One of the primary goals of ECMHP is to provide program and child-level consultation on social, emotional and behavioral issues to programs that serve children from birth through age 5.

EI (Early Intervention) – Early intervention services are targeted toward infants and toddlers with developmental delays or specific health conditions that may lead to a delay such as birth defects or hearing loss. The services are regulated by the Office of Special Education Programs, and are also known as Part C programs. In Kentucky, Early Intervention services are provided by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, First Steps program.

EBP (Evidence-Based Practice) - The goal of evidence-based practice is the integration of: 1) scholarly or clinical expertise, 2) external research evidence, and (c) caregiver perspectives to provide high-quality services reflecting the interests, values, needs, and choices of the individuals served. The interventions that researchers have shown to be effective are called evidence-based practices.

FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) - FAPE is a right of all children who have disabilities in the United States. It is defined as special educational and related services at public expense (i.e. without charge); meeting the standards of approximate grade levels of the State education agency within the context of an individualized education program written with parental participation; and due process, including access to judicial review to determine that the State has complied with the Act and that the written individualized educational program is "reasonably calculated to enable the child to receive educational benefits," that is, to achieve passing marks and grade advancement.

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) - FERPA is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level.

First Steps - First Steps is an early intervention program administered by the Department of Public Health within the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. First Steps serves children from birth to age three who have a significant developmental delay or a physical or mental condition likely to cause a delay in development. First Steps offers comprehensive services to children and their families through a variety of community agencies and service disciplines. These intervention services are provided in the child's natural environment, including the home, daycare, or community.

HMO (Health Maintenance Organization) - An HMO is a type of Managed Care Organization that provides a form of health insurance coverage in the United States that is fulfilled through hospitals, doctors, and other providers with which the HMO has a contract. Health care provided in an HMO generally follows a set of care guidelines provided through the HMO's network of providers. Under this model, providers contract with an HMO to receive more patients and in return usually agree to provide services at a discount.

HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) - HRSA provides access to essential health care services for people who are low-income, uninsured or who live in rural areas or urban neighborhoods where health care is scarce. The agency helps prepare the nation's health care system and providers to respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies, maintains the National Health Service Corps and helps build the health care workforce through training and education programs.

HDI (Human Development Institute) - The Human Development Institute is Kentucky's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service. HDI works on improving lifelong opportunities and services for individuals with disabilities, their families, and the community. The Institute provides a strong foundation for more than 40 research, training, and service projects, addressing a wide range of topics and issues in areas such as early childhood, education, and alternate assessment, transition across the lifespan, employment, community living, and personnel preparation.

IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) – The Individuals with Disabilities Act is the federal law that provides services for children whose disability negatively affects their educational performance and ability to benefit from the general education. For school-aged children and youth (age 3 to 21), supplemental education and related services are provided through the public school system. A written Individualized Education Program is required with specific content about services to be provided.

IEP (Individualized Education Plan) - An IEP describes the plan set by a team of parents and educators for a child with disabilities aged 3 to 21 years, as well as any special supports that are needed to help achieve those goals. In most cases, the services and goals outlined in an IEP can be provided in a standard school environment or in a special resource room in the regular school. The resource room can serve a group of children with similar needs who are brought together for help.

IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) - An IFSP is a detailed treatment plan for Early Intervention services for children from birth to 3 years. It includes the child's current level of functioning, support needs, and treatment outcomes. This is a family-based approach to services and includes a focus on supporting the entire family.

ID (Intellectual Disability) - Intellectual disability is a disability characterized by significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior, which covers many everyday social and practical skills. This disability originates before the age of 18. Intellectual functioning refers to general mental capacity, such as learning, reasoning, and problem solving. The impact of having an intellectual disability varies considerably, just as the range of abilities varies considerably among all people.

KARRN (Kentucky Appalachian Rural Rehabilitation Network) – The Kentucky Appalachian Rural Rehabilitation Network is a community centered collaborative team who investigate neurological conditions (e.g. spinal cord injury, stroke, brain injury) and identify, develop and disseminate information and strategies, and maximize resources to improve outcomes and quality of life. KARRN was formed in 2008.

KY AgrAbility (Kentucky AgAbility) – Kentucky AgrAbility is a project of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that serves rural Kentuckians with disabilities. AgrAbility provides education and expertise around assistive technology in agriculture. The project helps farmers, farm workers, agricultural businesses and families with disabilities statewide. Kentucky AgrAbility will provide on-site ideas for modifying tools, equipment, or practices. Recommendations can also be made to help make farm buildings and homes more accessible. AgrAbility also helps farmers with disabilities network to share their ideas and provide peer support.

KY SPIN (Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network) – The Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting programs that will enable persons with disabilities and their families to enhance their quality of life. KY SPIN provides training, information and support to people with disabilities, their parents and families, and information on all types of disabilities and topics for all age groups. All services of the KY SPIN are free to all participants.

KY SAF (KY Self Advocates for Freedom) - Kentucky Self-Advocates for Freedom is a statewide organization directed by Kentuckians with disabilities committed to working in partnership to promote equal rights, inclusion, self-advocacy, support and education in all realms of life.

LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) – Leadership in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities programs provide long-term, graduate level interdisciplinary training as well as interdisciplinary services and care. The purpose of the LEND training program is to improve the health of infants, children, and adolescents with disabilities. They accomplish this by preparing trainees from diverse professional disciplines to assume leadership roles in their respective fields and by insuring high levels of interdisciplinary clinical competence. LEND programs operate within a university system, usually as part of a University Center for Excellence for Developmental Disabilities, and collaborate with local university hospitals and/or health care centers.

LRE (Least Restrictive Environment) - A LRE is the educational setting where a child with disabilities can receive a FAPE designed to meet his or her education needs while being educated with peers without disabilities in the regular educational environment to the maximum extent appropriate. Learning in least restrictive environments benefits students with and without disabilities in so much as all children are more likely to improve their academic performance, and increase their communication and socialization skills.

Michelle P. (Michelle P. Waiver) – The Michelle P. Waiver is a home- and community-based waiver program of the Kentucky Medicaid program. The Michelle P. Waiver program is designed as an alternative to institutional care for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The services available through the waiver support individuals to remain in their homes and local communities.

NCI (National Core Indicators) - Kentucky's National Core Indicators is a project designed to positively impact the lives of Kentuckians' with developmental disabilities through research efforts. A goal of the National Core Indicators project is determining the quality of services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The project trains interviewers, many of whom have disabilities or have a family member with a disability, to go into the communities of randomly selected adults who currently receive at least one service through the Kentucky Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities.

NIRS (National Information Reporting System) – The National Information Reporting System is the national database and reporting system for the Association of University Centers on Disabilities network. NIRS enables members to manage data on their training programs, projects, activities, and products, and helps them comply with federal reporting requirements. The data gathered in NIRS also enables the Association of University Centers on Disabilities network to develop composite snapshots of each of the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and Leadership in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities programs.

NIDRR (The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research) - Created in 1978, NIDRR provides leadership and support for a comprehensive program of research related to the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities. All programmatic efforts are aimed at improving the lives of individuals with disabilities from birth through adulthood.

OT (Occupational Therapy) - Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants help people across the lifespan participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities. Common occupational therapy interventions include helping children with disabilities to participate fully in school and social situations, helping people recovering from injury to regain skills, and providing supports for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes.

OVR (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation) - The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation assists Kentuckians with disabilities to achieve suitable employment and independence. The office employs approximately 140 rehabilitation counselors in over 50 offices covering all 120 counties in Kentucky. Vocational Rehabilitation services include: assessment for determining eligibility and needs, counseling and guidance, vocational and training services, supported employment, interpreter and note taking, telecommunications, sensory and other technical aides, and job placement and job retention services.

PT (Physical Therapy) - Physical therapists are licensed health care professionals who can help patients reduce pain and improve or restore mobility - in many cases without expensive surgery and often reducing the need for long-term use of prescription medications and their side effects. Physical therapists can teach patients how to prevent or manage their condition so that they will achieve long-term health benefits. PTs examine each individual and develop a plan, using treatment techniques to promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability.

P & A (Kentucky Protection and Advocacy) - An independent state agency whose mission is to protect and promote the rights of Kentucky residents with disabilities through legally based individual and systemic advocacy and education. KY Protection and Advocacy, along with HDI and the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities, is part of our state's Developmental Disabilities Network.

PCA (Personal Care Attendant) - A PCA helps an individual with a disability with many of the basic daily routines such as getting in or out of bed, bathing, dressing, driving, shopping, or cleaning. The work done by the PCA allows an individual with disabilities to be more independent and live an active, productive life. The use of a PCA may allow for a family member to return to work. It could also be the deciding factor if an individual can live independently or needs to be in an institutional setting such as a nursing home.

RTI (Response to Intervention) - Response to Intervention is a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students with learning and behavior needs. The RTI process begins with high-quality instruction and universal screening of all children in the general education classroom. Struggling learners are provided with interventions at increasing levels of intensity to accelerate their rate of learning. These services may be provided by a variety of personnel, including general education teachers, special educators, and specialists. RTI is designed for use when making decisions in both general education and special education, creating a well-integrated system of instruction and intervention guided by child outcome data.

SSDI (Social Security Disability Income) - Social Security pays disability benefits to individuals and members of their family if they have worked long enough and have a medical condition or disability that has prevented them from working for at least 12 months. Social Security Disability eligibility is determined on having a disability and SSDI payments are based on your prior work.

SLP (Speech Language Pathologist) - Speech-language pathologists work to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults. Speech disorders occur when a person is unable to produce speech sounds correctly or fluently, or has problems with their voice or resonance. Language disorders occur when a person has trouble understanding others (receptive language), or sharing thoughts, ideas, and feelings (expressive language).

SBAK (Spina Bifida Association of Kentucky) – The Spina Bifida Association of Kentucky is a resource center that provides free services and programs to children and adults with Spina Bifida and their families. Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect that occurs when the structure enclosing the spinal cord fails to form properly. This usually occurs within the first four weeks after conception, before most women even realize they are pregnant. Often referred to as “open spine,” the exposed portion of the spinal cord may be incompletely developed. The nerves originating from this region may be stretched and damaged, causing varying degrees of paralysis. Nearly all those affected have bowel and bladder conditions.

SSI (Supplemental Security Income) – Supplemental Security Income is a federal income supplement program funded by tax revenues and not Social Security taxes. It is designed to help individuals with disabilities that have little or no income. Supplemental Security Income provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing and shelter. To receive Supplemental Security Income, an individual must be 65 or older or disabled. Children as well as adults can receive benefits. SSI is based on financial need.

SCL (Supports for Community Living) – Supports for Community Living provides services to individuals with intellectual disabilities to support them to live in his or her own home, or with family, in an agency supported home in the community rather than in an institution. A person who qualifies for the SCL waiver may choose to manage their own supports through an agency provider, manage qualified services themselves, or through a blended approach. This process includes developing a vision for a life that addresses what is important to the person (i.e., where to live, work, and play) as well what is important for their health and safety. Supports and services are designed to assist the person to live, work, and participate in their community in a way meaningful to them.

Supported Employment - Kentucky has over 80 entities that provide supported employment. Some are freestanding agencies that only provide supported employment while others provide other services in addition to supported employment. The first step may be contacting the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) where your OVR eligibility will be determined and referrals made to supported employment providers. It is important to interview supported employment providers to learn about their ways of approaching employment services.

TASH – Kentucky TASH supports the inclusion and full participation of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of their communities as determined by personalized visions of quality of life. TASH members are a vibrant network of advocates and professionals dedicated to building truly inclusive communities. Kentucky TASH is 1 of 14 statewide chapters across the United States.

Trainee – A trainee is defined in three ways in the NIRS dictionary. Long Term Trainees are those with 300 or more contact hours with the training program, benefiting from the training grant (both supported and non-supported trainees). Intermediate Term Trainees are those with 40 or more but less than 300 contact hours with the training program. Short Term Trainees are currently defined as trainees who receive a total of or less than 40 hours of training.

TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) - TBI results from damage to brain tissue caused by an external force. Leading causes of TBI are motor vehicle accidents, acts of violence, falls, sports and recreational injuries, electric shocks, and blows to the head. TBI can occur without any outward physical evidence of injury or trauma. Memory mood and fatigue are common complaints of brain injury patients. Personality changes are common, and rapid mood swings alternate with waxing and waning energy levels. Taken individually, such impairments might not amount to much. However, such impairments usually appear in groups or clusters. In many cases the impairments are widespread and disrupt many brain systems.

Transition – Term refers to the “exit” out of a child’s secondary school to the adult world. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires that children with disabilities have access to a free appropriate public education that prepares them for further education, employment, and independent living. Planning is one strategy for ensuring a successful transition.

UCEDD (University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities) - Since 1963, University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities have been working to accomplish a shared vision that foresees a nation in which all Americans, including Americans with disabilities, participate fully in their communities. Independence, productivity, and community inclusion are key components of this vision. Currently, there are 67 UCEDDs - at least one in every US state and territory - that are in a unique position to facilitate the flow of disability-related information between community and university. Centers work with people with disabilities, members of their families, state and local government agencies, and community providers in projects that provide training, technical assistance, service, research, and information sharing, with a focus on building the capacity of communities to sustain all their citizens.