



Students Who are Working after High School

If you are going straight to work after high school, or if you are working your way through college, you should know that there are laws to prevent disability discrimination in the workplace. There are also programs to help you get a job or find a place to live.

Finding a job

When looking for a job, it is a good idea to think about your interests. If you have time, you may want to volunteer in that field to see if the job is right for you. You can also find jobs by checking classified ads in newspapers, searching ads on the Internet, visiting local businesses, and speaking with other adults who do a job that interests you.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation helps people find and keep work. Your high school can arrange for a counselor to attend your transition meetings. Call (800)372-7172 or visit <http://ovr.ky.gov> .

The Office for Employment and Training also helps people find work. Visit <http://oet.ky.gov/index.asp> to find your local office or for further information. They will match you with jobs, but you must register with them first.

Job discrimination

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protects people with disabilities from discrimination during the hiring process and on the job. It covers most employers with at least 15 workers. It does not cover churches, religious schools, and private clubs. The ADA protects you if you have a disability, and you are qualified for the job that you are seeking or holding. When you apply for a job, employers can't ask you about your disability. They can ask you how you plan to perform each function of the job. But they can't ask you if you have any disabilities that would keep you from doing the job.

If you need accommodations for the interview or the job you may be able to receive them if you ask. An accommodation is when the employer provides help or makes changes in the job or workplace that will enable you to do your job. For answers to questions about reasonable job accommodations you may visit the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's at www.eeoc.gov or the Job Accommodations Network: <http://askjan.org> .

Living in the community

Some young adults want to continue living with their families after graduation. If this is not possible for you or you want to live on your own, you may want to contact a Center for Independent Living or your local housing authority for help.

Centers for Independent Living help people to live independently in the community. They provide skills training and other services. For more help call:

- Independence Place (Lexington area): 859-266-2807
- Disability Resource Initiative (Bowling Green area): 270-796-5992
- Southeast KY Center for Indep. Living (Harlan area): 606-513-0510
- Center for Accessible Living (Louisville area): 502-589-6620
- Center for Accessible Living (Murray area): 270-753-7676
- Center for Accessible Living (Northern KY area): 859-940-3843

Your local housing authority lists low to moderately low income housing in your area. To find your local housing authority, you may call the Kentucky Housing Corporation (800) 633-8896.

You can also find housing by checking classified ads in newspapers, searching ads on the Internet, and speaking with other adults who may own rental property. You may also want to look into finding a roommate to share household costs.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

If you started receiving SSI as a child, please remember that your eligibility will be reassessed around your 18th birthday. Adult eligibility standards are more stringent than those for children so it is possible that you could lose eligibility. If you disagree with Social Security's reassessment you may file an appeal, but time deadlines apply. For further information, please visit: www.ssa.gov.

Mental Health Services

Starting a new job and being out on your own for the first time can be stressful. If you are in a crisis situation and need someone to talk to about it, please call the National Hopeline Network at (800) 784-2433.

Call the Kentucky Protection and Advocacy office at 1-800-372-2988 for more help or visit our website <http://www.kypa.net> .