**10 Questions You May Have When Your Child with ASD Is Transitioning from High School**

1. **How can my child receive guidance regarding preparation for, obtaining, and being successful in employment?**
   * EMPLOYMENT – Your child may potentially become employed. If so, there are several agencies which can assist you and/or your child in identifying employment. The Indiana Office of Vocational Rehabilitation provides services to consumers with disabilities to reach their desirable employment outcomes. To contact Vocational Rehabilitation, call (317) 232-1319 or find your district office [here](http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/2636.htm). You can also access the Indiana Institute for Disability and Community website [here](https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/index.html).
2. **How can my child receive help and support for additional education?**
   * EDUCATION – Your child may attend college or technical school. If you need help in identifying an appropriate program, your child may receive guidance from the Indiana Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; call (317) 232-1319 or find more information [here](https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/cclc/transition-to-adulthood/postsecondary-education.html). You and your child can speak to their school counselor as well. Also, for maximal support and guidance, please ensure that once your child arrives on their college campus, they get connected with the disability resource center.
3. **What can my child do during the day and be involved in if they are not a candidate for employment or further education?**
   * DAY PROGRAMS – If your child does not wish to be employed or attend a university, a day program may be another option. To obtain information about local day programs, contact the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) for more information. BDDS’s phone number is (800) 545-7763 and the website linked [here](http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/2639.htm).
   * VOLUNTEERING – Your child may also be interested in volunteering in the community. Serve Indiana is committed to disability inclusion, and you can locate your nearest volunteer center by visiting [this link](http://www.in.gov/serveindiana/) or calling (317) 234-8845.
   * SPECIAL OLYMPICS – Your child may be interested in participating in the Special Olympics within the community. You can locate further information on this [here.](https://soindiana.org/)
   * SOCIAL GROUPS- Your child may be interested in joining a social group. Further information is provided [here.](https://aane.org/services-programs/group-services/social-groups-activities/)
4. **How will my child pay for supports necessary to live and be a part of the community?**
   * Enroll your child in Medicaid waivers (currently there are waiting lists). These provide a variety of services in your home or in the community to help your child. Click [here](http://www.in.gov/fssa/ompp/2549.htm) for descriptions.
   * There are two types of Autism Medicaid waivers in Indiana: *Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver (CIHW)* and *the Family Supports Waiver (FSW).* Further information can be found [here](https://www.in.gov/medicaid/members/home-and-community-based-services/family-supports-waiver/) and [here.](https://www.in.gov/medicaid/members/home-and-community-based-services/community-integration-and-habilitation-waiver/)
   * You may also contact your local community mental health center and the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) for more information. You can locate community mental health center points by visiting [here](https://www.in.gov/fssa/dmha/files/CMHC_Outpatient_Mental_Health_Service_Locations.pdf) or calling (317) 684-3684. The phone number for BDDS is (800) 545-7763 and the website is linked [here](https://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/developmental-disability-services/).
5. **How will my child with a severe disability, who is unable to earn an income, obtain money?**
   * Your child may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI provides help and support for people with disabilities and limited income by providing money for basic needs. Amounts vary by individual, however, the maximum monthly amount for 2023 was $914 for an individual and $1,371 for a couple. Visit the website at [here](https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/amount#:~:text=The%20maximum%20monthly%20SSI%20payment,living%20situation%2C%20and%20other%20factors.)  for more information. To begin an application call 1-800-772-1213 between 7am-7pm, Monday-Friday (you can also identify your local Social Security Administration office from this phone number).
   * Social Security also offers a Representative Payment Program. It provides financial management for the SSI payments of beneficiaries who may have difficulty managing their own SSI payments. You may contact your local Social Security Administration office. Find your local office [here](https://www.ssa.gov/locator/) or call 1-800-772-1213.
   * Your child may be able to receive additional income if you or your spouse have a disability and receive Social Security Disability Insurance. SSDI is the federal social insurance program that provides monthly cash benefits to workers with disabilities and their families. To qualify, you must have a recent work history that meets Social Security’s requirements. To learn more about whether you might be eligible to apply, visit this [link](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/disability/) or call 1-800-772-1213 to ask questions or schedule an appointment at your local Social Security Administration office.
   * The Indiana Office of Vocational Rehabilitation can provide benefits counseling to help your family navigate the process of applying for and using SSI. Call (317) 232-1319 or find your district office [here](https://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/rehabilitation-employment/vocational-rehabilitation-employment/).
6. **How can I ensure that my child has health insurance coverage?**
   * EMPLOYER BASED – If your child will have employment after transitioning from high school, they may be able to obtain insurance from their employer.
   * OBAMACARE – If your child will not obtain employment after high school, they can apply for health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). Visit https://www.healthcare.gov/ or call 1-844-682-3674 for details about how to apply for health insurance coverage. MEDICAID – Your child may qualify for Medicaid to assist in paying for their healthcare costs. Visit [here](https://www.in.gov/medicaid/members/apply-for-medicaid/) or call 1-800-403-0864.
   * COVERAGE THROUGH PARENTS – If you and/or your spouse/partner are employed and your child is not, your employer may continue to cover your child as a dependent under your insurance coverage. Check with your employer to inquire.
   * You can talk with someone at your local Arc for more information. Visit [here](http://www.arcind.org/%20) or call The Arc of Indiana at (317) 977-2375 to find the Arc closest to you. Additionally, if you have concerns about your child’s rights with regards to their insurance services, you may contact your local Arc or the Indiana Department of Insurance to file a complaint at 1-800-622-4461 or [click here](https://secure.in.gov/idoi/consumer-services/complaints/).
7. **How can my child live independently?**
   * HOUSING – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers subsidized housing for individuals with disabilities. For more information about homeownership/rental help and counseling, click [here](http://www.indyhousing.org/) or [here](http://www.publichousing.com/state/indiana).
   * SSI also provides monthly income that can be used to pay for housing (see number 3.)
   * FOOD – [The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](https://secure.in.gov/fssa/dfr/2691.htm) (SNAP) helps people with limited financial resources purchase their groceries. Contact SNAP at 1-800-403-0864 to learn whether your child may be eligible for benefits.
8. **What should I do if my child continues to require assistance with making decisions as an adult, and how can I understand my child’s rights and advocate for their services?**
   * You will need to consider different options such as guardianship and power of attorney. Further information provided [here](https://www.guardianship.org/what-is-guardianship/) and [here.](https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/what_is_guardianship.pdf)
   * You can consult Indiana Protection and Advocacy services at (800) 622-4845 or online at <http://www.in.gov/ipas/> and/or The Arc of Indiana at (317) 977-2375 regarding guardianship/power of attorney issues and advocating for services.
9. **What if my child needs or wants somebody to talk to about transition issues or other issues they may be dealing with?**
   * Publicly funded community services are provided for individuals in Indiana who have developmental and intellectual disabilities through community mental health centers. To locate your local community mental health center, visit [here](https://member.indianacouncil.org/wapps/org/supplier/list) or call (317) 684-3684.
   * If you need support for yourself throughout this process, there are ASD-related parent support groups located throughout the state. You may locate your closest group on the handout provided by the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community or by visiting [here](https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/index.html).
10. **What should I do if I plan to leave my child any financial assets?**
    * Consult with an attorney who is knowledgeable in estate planning and special needs trusts. A special needs trust is a federally mandated way to protect and maintain your child’s benefits.
    * Your local Arc can assist you with this, as well. You may contact The Arc of Indiana at (317) 977-2375 or visit their [website](http://www.arcind.org/.).