

## **Not DD-Eligible Resources for Colorado Transitioning Youth**

### **SSI (Supplemental Security Income) –**

A youth age 18 or older, can qualify for SSI, financially, even if he/she still lives with parents. The Social Security Administration will only look at the child's income and assets, not the parents. (Do not apply before the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or family income will be deemed.) If qualified for SSI, he/she will also get Medicaid. If the young adult with Medicaid cannot function in activities of daily living without supervision he/she may be eligible to have personal care, homemaking or certified nursing assistant support.

[http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/links\\_ssi.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/links_ssi.htm)

### **Medicaid Elderly, Blind and Disabled Waiver –**

The 18 year old or older person who meets the “institutional level of care” (cannot function without regular supervision and/or support with activities of daily living and/or who may be at risk to himself and/or others due to social and/or behavioral issues)

It provides day services, alternative care facilities, personal and homemaking services, emergency alerting system for home, respite care and a few other services, based on the needs of the individual. The person would get all Medicaid State Plan benefits as well.

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/HCPF/HCPF/1197364086675>

Go to Medicaid Programs, then to Long Term Care/HCBS, then to Waivers

### **Medicaid Mental Illness Waiver –**

Should the youth/adult have a co-occurring mental illness or mental health history they might be eligible for this waiver. Their level of functioning must be such that they would have to be institutionalized if the appropriate waiver supports were not in place. The waiver pays for the same things (generally) as the EBD Waiver (above). The person would get all Medicaid State Plan benefits as well.

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/HCPF/HCPF/1197364086675>

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### **Parents' Health Insurance -**

A young adult may stay on his parents' health plan as long as he/she is enrolled in an institution of higher ed. and/or he/she has a letter from his/her doctor verifying his/her disability status.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation –**

School teams should have a VR person present at the IEP any time after a youth turns 14 years old. VR can begin assisting the family and the youth to plan the transition out of K-12. There can be employment screening, job coaching, technical accommodations, assistance to get into vocational ed. or other higher ed training, transportation support, notetakers, interpreters, equipment purchases or any number of other things provided based on the individualized needs of the young adult. <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dvr/>

### **Colorado Works -Workforce Centers Disability Navigators –**

In the Workforce Centers run by the Department of Human Services (social services) there are disability navigators whose jobs are to assist people with disabilities to get employment and if they have public benefits (like SSI and Medicaid) get work and not risk losing their benefits. They do information and referral to clients with disabilities, on a variety of work-related services and supports.

<http://www.cowinpartners.org/Consumer-navigator.asp>

### **Families and Allies Working Together –**

This group aims to help families help their young adult (or teen) with a disability to gather a group of caring and responsible people around them who make a commitment to assisting the target person to actualize their desires. “The Circle” (as it is sometimes called) assists the individual with access to beneficial resources, relationships and meaningful work and/or recreational pursuits. A facilitator helps keep the group cohesively connected to the target person and connected to each other for mutual support and encouragement.

[www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/familiesallies](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/familiesallies)

### **Independent Living Centers -**

These are federally funded resources in a few counties in each state. In the Denver area the one people would contact is Disability Center for Independent Living. This is a resource that might be able to help the youth develop skills and find support from others who have disabilities.

They have some day program type activities and other educational venues. In Boulder the ILC is called CPWD (Center for People with Disabilities) <http://codi.buffalo.edu/archives/.cils.htm#CO>

### **College Living Experience –**

Youth that may have the aptitude to attend college can get support from this organization. The total package includes dormitory assignments (near Auraria Campus in Denver), tutoring, social skills groups, recreational outings, academic support, computer-based remediation modules to prepare a student for certain classes and much more. Most of the funding is family’s own, but VR does assist some students to participate. Students could attend any of a number of Metro area colleges (Emily Griffith, and some other non-traditional schools are included)

<http://www.cleinc.net/locations/denver.aspx>