

what's Next?



A guide for *young adults* as they transition from *youth* to *adult* services.

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Kenosha County ADRC

The Kenosha County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) provides a variety of programs. When you call or visit the ADRC, you will speak with someone from the Information, Assistance, and Access Department. They will help answer your questions and provide resources that may benefit you. They may also make a referral for you to speak with someone else in the office for more information.

Services offered:

- Long-Term Care Consultation
 - Options counseling
 - Youth transition planning
- Benefit Specialist
 - Disability benefit assistance
 - Insurance problems
- Adult Protective Services
 - Abuse and neglect investigations
 - Guardianship assistance
- Mobility Manager
 - Public transportation training
 - Medicaid transportation problems
- Health and Wellness Programs
 - Self-management classes
 - Caregiver support classes
- Kenosha Area Loan Closet
 - Durable medical equipment
 - Incontinence supplies

Kenosha County Aging and Disability Resource Center

8600 Sheridan Rd
Kenosha, WI 53143
262-605-6646

adrc@kenoshacounty.org
adrc.kenoshacounty.org





What is Transition Planning?

Transition is the time when high school ends and adult life begins. It is a time of decision making and learning about new opportunities. Adult services may vary from the services that you are currently receiving and there are many things for you to consider. What you need and want will be different then everyone else, including your friends.

If you already have an idea of what you would like to do, great! Now is your time to explore those ideas and learn how to accomplish your goals. Getting help from parents, siblings, friends, teachers and other trusted adults may make the process go more smoothly then doing everything on your own.

If you aren't sure what you want to do, transition planning may help you with the decision-making process. The purpose of transition planning is to prepare youth for adulthood. Beginning your plan as early as possible may help the process move smoothly.

Transition planning should address all areas of your life including:

- ✓ Post-secondary education
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Disability benefits
- ✓ Healthcare changes
- ✓ Legal changes
- ✓ Recreation and Socialization

High School Services	Adult Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Free and guaranteed ✓ Address the whole child ✓ Brings issues and concerns to the attention of both the parents and the student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Eligibility must be established or qualified for – services are not guaranteed ✓ Separate agencies address different aspects of life ✓ You are responsible for initiating communications and follow ups

When you begin applying for adult services there will be documentation that you will be asked to provide to help determine if you meet the eligibility requirements. Some documents that you may want to start collecting and organizing include:

- ✓ School records such as IEPs, 504 plans, testing results, and evaluations
- ✓ Disability information
- ✓ Medical records - diagnosis, psychological evaluations, and IQ scores

IEP meetings are also an important part of the transition process. Some things that may be discussed at these meetings include:

- ✓ Your current skills and goals
- ✓ What steps you could be taking to accomplish your goals
- ✓ What steps you have started taking to accomplish your goals

IEP meetings are a good time to begin working on your self-determination skills by:

- ✓ Introducing the people at the meeting to each other
- ✓ Being active in the discussion
- ✓ Asking questions you have about life after high school

Contact the Kenosha County ADRC when you are 17 ½ years old to talk with someone about your options for when you turn 18 and how they can help with transition planning.



Post-Secondary Education

One option after high school is continuing your education. Whether you attend a traditional four year college, a technical college, or look into certification programs there are some questions to think about before deciding what is right for you.

- ✓ What are your career goals?
- ✓ What do you want to go to school for?
- ✓ How close to home do you want to be?
- ✓ Do you want to be your own advocate?
- ✓ What kind of support will you need to succeed?



You have many options when it comes to choosing a path for continuing your education. Some schools will provide a more interactive and hands on experience. Others will focus more on academics and classroom time. Some schools may be close to home and you can continue to live at home. Other schools may be located farther away and may require you live in a dorm. This can provide a more traditional experience of campus life.

Technical College	Four Year College/University
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Smaller class sizes ✓ Focus on hands on education ✓ Interactive learning ✓ Less time to complete ✓ Offers certificate programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Larger class sizes ✓ More academic experience ✓ Minimum 4 years to complete a Bachelor's degree ✓ Some may offer associates degree that can be completed in 2 years

All colleges have a Disability Services office. You should request their assistance as soon as possible. They will help you determine what level of support you may need. They will make sure the campus is accessible for you. For more information regarding local programs and campus location contact information visit:

Carthage College: <https://www.carthage.edu/learning-accessibility/>

Gateway Technical College: <https://www.gtc.edu/campus-life/learning-success/disability-support-services>

University of Wisconsin System: <https://www.wisconsin.edu/disability-resources/>

Employment

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is a good starting point for people who want to work. DVR provides many services including:

- ✓ Career counseling
- ✓ Assistance in jobs development and searches
- ✓ Rehabilitation technology
- ✓ Vocational training
- ✓ Transition to work services

First, DVR will complete a vocational evaluation. This is a series of tasks and tests that will help them to learn about your strengths, weaknesses, and interests. DVR will provide career counseling to help you establish job goals and discuss the steps you need to take in order to accomplish those goals. It may be helpful to have ideas of things you enjoy doing and what you think you want to do for work.

What are your responsibilities when working with DVR?

- ✓ Follow through on commitments developed in your Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- ✓ Communicate with your DVR worker when you find employment
- ✓ Keep your DVR worker up to date with any changes to your information (phone number, new medical conditions, disability status, etc)

DVR can be especially helpful in situations where adaptive equipment is needed in order to complete your job. For more information about DVR and how they can help you, contact your local office:



**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
8600 Sheridan Rd.
Kenosha, WI 53143
262-956-6930**

<http://www.dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/>

Social Security Benefits

The Social Security Administration pays financial benefits through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). These payments are generally based on how long someone has worked and their existing monetary resources. Many individuals that are transition age are only able to qualify for SSI when they first apply.

Supplemental Social Security Income (SSI)	Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ For those who have a disability and limited income and resources✓ Assistance payments start immediately✓ Medical benefits immediately	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Based upon an individual's prior work or family member's work contribution✓ Assistance payments start 6 months after disability approval✓ Medical benefits after 24 months

When applying for benefits, it can be helpful to have some documentation ready including:

- ✓ Social Security number
- ✓ Birth certificate
- ✓ Medication list
- ✓ Medical records
- ✓ Your doctors contact information

Disability determinations are made by doctors and disability specialists. They go over your medical records and speak to your personal doctors about how your medical conditions may impact your ability to complete work related activities. You will receive a letter in the mail explaining the outcome of your application.

If you are approved for benefits, the letter will tell you how much your payments will be and when they will start. If you are not approved, the letter will provide the reasons you didn't qualify and give you the information needed to appeal the decision.

Redetermination:

If you received benefits before you turned 18 years old, you will go through a redetermination process after your birthday. Social Security will reevaluate your disability to make sure that it meets the adult requirements. They will no longer include your parents' income when determining your payment amounts.

Working while receiving benefits:

You can work while receives SSI or SSDI payments. Social Security has programs for those who want to remain in the workforce while receiving their benefits:

1. Ticket to Work: For persons with disabilities who wish to work and want to take part in planning their employment. It increases the available choices when obtaining employment, vocational rehabilitation, or other support services.
2. Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS): Allows a person with a disability to save money for specific work goals in a separate bank account. The money saved under PASS does not count towards resource limit for SSI benefits. The money does have to be used within a specific timeframe.
3. Impairment-Related Work Expense: This allows the cost of impairment related items and services to be deducted from the gross earnings. Examples include attendant care services, transportation costs, work-related service animals, and vehicle modifications.

For more information about Social Security benefits or work programs and how they could help you, contact the local office:

Social Security Administration
3915 30th Ave
Kenosha, WI 53144
Local Office: 866-334-4997
National: 800 -772-1213
www.ssa.gov

The Kenosha County ADRC has Benefit Specialists who can answer questions about your Social Security benefits, assist you with the application or redetermination process, and advocate for you during the appeals process if you have been denied benefits.



Long-Term Care Options

Long-term care is any service or support a person requires as a result of a disability. Long-term care services can be provided to people within their own homes, at a small or large residential facility, and within the work place.

Types of long term care services:

- ✓ Adaptive aids
- ✓ Durable medical equipment
- ✓ Financial management services
- ✓ Respite care
- ✓ Supportive home care
- ✓ Adult day care
- ✓ Specialized medical equipment and supplies
- ✓ Daily living skills training
- ✓ Home delivered meals
- ✓ Prevocational services
- ✓ Skilled nursing services
- ✓ Supported employment
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Personal emergency response system services

Long term care funding programs:

Funding the cost of care may be available to you through a long-term care program. The programs can provide a care team and many supports you may need. Each program requires you to pass a functional and financial assessment to be eligible.

Functional Eligibility	Financial Eligibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Based on needs related to your daily activities including personal cares, household tasks, decision making abilities, and employment supports✓ Must have physical disability, intellectual/developmental disability, or be a frail elder to qualify	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Based on income and assets✓ Must be eligible for Wisconsin Medicaid to qualify

What are the programs?

There are three programs in Kenosha County: IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct), Family Care, and Family Care Partnership. In general, these programs provide similar services. However, each program offers different support from consultants, case managers, or nurses.

1. **IRIS:** IRIS is a program based on self-direction so it allows you to choose, design, and control your own service plan and supports needed. You will maintain control over the types of services received within a monthly budget. You will work with a consultant to develop a support plan. A fiscal agent will make payments to your caregivers and service providers from your budget.
2. **Family Care:** Family Care allows services to be tailored to your needs and preferences through case management services. A care manager and nurse will help you make a support plan that meets your needs. Family Care is a managed care program so you will have to work within a pre-determined network of providers to receive services.
3. **Family Care Partnership:** Sometimes known just a Partnership, the Family Care Partnership program offers a full range of long-term primary, acute, and preventive care within an interdisciplinary team. People with complex health needs receive comprehensive and continuous care that addresses their changing needs. Partnership is a managed care program so you will have to work within a pre-determined network of providers to receive services. Your doctors and other medical providers will also have to part of your chosen Partnership network.



Contact the Kenosha County Aging and Disability Resource Center to learn more about the programs and the eligibility process.



Healthcare



There are many decisions to be made about your future. You will be getting ready to take over your own health and healthcare decisions. When you turn 18, your parents no longer have access to health records without your permission. This means you will need to schedule your own doctors appointments, be in charge of your health, and know about health insurance.

If you have been seeing a pediatrician, you will have to find a new doctor. It is important to talk with your pediatrician about transitioning to a new primary care doctor or any specialists you may need. They may be able to help you find the doctor who best fits with your needs.

During transition, there are tools you can use to help you manage your health care. It may be a good idea to keep a checklist of your health skills so you know what you have finished and what you have not. Set goals for your health and keep track of your progress. You may even want to create a health care summary that you can take with you to appointments. Health care summaries contain personal information related to your contact information, diagnoses, allergies, prescriptions and emergency contacts.

For more information on health care transition or tools to use contact:

**The Southeast Regional Center for
Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs**
8915 W Connell Ct.
Milwaukee, WI 53226
(800) 234-5437

<https://www.southeastregionalcenter.org/>

Including goals related to your health care transition in your IEP is important.

Some good goals for your healthcare transition may be:

- ✓ To understand your disability and treatments needed
- ✓ Be able to explain your disability and treatments to others
- ✓ Be able to monitor your health on an ongoing basis
- ✓ Identify advocates and trusted people who can help you make decisions
- ✓ Learn how to schedule appointments
- ✓ Learn how to refill prescriptions

Legal Changes

There are many legal changes that take place once you turn 18. In our society, you become an adult at age 18. Being an adult means you have many new privileges and rights that you didn't have as a child.

- ✓ Entering into a legal contract
 - Legal contracts are agreements between people in which each person receives some benefit. It is generally good to get these in writing.
 - Examples of contracts include: apartment leases, insurance policies, credit card agreements, and car loans.
- ✓ Being able to marry
 - Marriage is a contract between two people. State law describes the relationship and consequences.
 - With parental consent, you can get married as young as 16 but no parental consent is needed once you are 18.
- ✓ Voting
 - You must register as a voter. You can do this at the city clerk's office or most schools have a staff person that is able to assist
 - You can vote in local elections if you have lived at your residence for 28 days.
 - You can vote for the president and vice president regardless of how long you have lived at your current residence.
- ✓ Completing jury duty
 - All adults are required to serve on a jury if called, unless excused by the court.
 - Jury selection is random but can be prepared from voter registration lists and driver's license records.
- ✓ Military service
 - You can voluntarily enlist for military service. With parental consent, you could do this starting at 17. Upon turning 18, you make the choice yourself so your parents no longer have to provide permission.
 - All males must register for the Selective Service (aka "The Draft") within 30 days of their 18th birthday. You can register at www.sss.gov
- ✓ Criminal charges
 - You will be placed in an adult court if you are arrested or commit a crime. Prior to 18, the state of Wisconsin could have requested adult or juvenile court proceedings based on the crime committed.
 - If you cannot afford your own lawyer, you can request to speak to a public defender.

Guardianship and Alternatives

When someone turns 18 years old they are given the legal right to make their own decisions regardless of their disability. Your parents will no longer be considered your guardian which means they are no longer responsible for your decisions and will not be able to sign legal or healthcare paperwork for you. Being responsible for your own decisions does not mean you can't have help when making decisions.

Supported decision making is the process in which you engage in conversation with others, such as parents and friends, to gain information and opinions to assist you in making a decision. You may find it helpful to build a network of support including people you can go to when you have questions.

Even with supported decision making, some individuals may need additional help to make safe decisions. An alternate decision maker may be designated to make decisions on your behalf. Even if you are not your own decision maker, you should still participate in the decision-making process.



Supported Decision Making Agreements

Support decision making agreements outline what support you want when making decisions. They identify what individuals, called Supporters, will provide support to you. Supporters do not make the decision. You will make your own decisions. Supporters agree to explain information and communicate decisions.

Representative Payee

If you cannot manage or direct your benefits, the Social Security Administration (SSA) can appoint someone, called a payee, to receive your income payments and assist you if you cannot manage, or direct, your benefits and bill paying tasks. You may pick your payee. If you do not have a family member or friend, there are agency programs you can use for a fee.

Powers of Attorney

Power of Attorney documents allow you to choose who you want to assist you with decision making if you cannot make decisions yourself. They are legal documents but you do not have to use a lawyer to complete them. The State of Wisconsin has documents available that you can complete on your own.

There are two types:

1. Power of Attorney for Healthcare: this person will assist with medical decisions and will make sure that doctors and other providers are giving you the care that you want. You will sign the document in front of two non-relative witnesses. The individual you choose will not act as your decision maker until two doctors have completed a Statement of Incapacity which will “activate” the form.
2. Power of Attorney for Finances: this person will assist you with financial related decisions and can help with paying bills. The person you choose will be able to provide help immediately following you signing with a notary public present.

Guardianship

If someone lacks the cognitive ability to make their own decisions, guardianship should be pursued. Guardianship is a legal process where someone is given the responsibility to help you exercise your rights, make your decisions, and be an advocate for you.

There are two types of guardians:

1. Guardian of the Person: This person makes decisions regarding medical care, food, and shelter.
2. Guardian of the Estate: This person makes financial decisions

Because it is a legal process, a judge is responsible for appointing a guardian. The judge can choose to appoint two different people to be the guardian of the estate and the person or one person can be selected to perform both roles. The judge will appoint a person that will act in your best interest. This may or may not be a parent or other family member.

The judge is also responsible for making the determination that guardianship is necessary based on the competency of the person. In order to have a guardian, the person must be deemed incompetent. This determination is based on your physical or mental disability and your ability to fully understand instructions. The judge will use input from a healthcare provider in making the competency ruling.



Contact the Kenosha County Aging and Disability Resource Center to learn more about support decision making options.

Tools for People who Need Help with Decision Making



Less Restrictive

Release Forms

- Provides permission for a specific person to access certain types of your records
- Some release forms are time limited while others are permanent.

Supported Decision Making Agreements

- Allows you to designate a support person to help gather information, compare options, and communicate your decisions to others
- Outlines what types of decisions you want help with and the role of your supporter
- Can be changed or stopped an any time

Representative Payee

- Appointed by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to assist you if you cannot manage or direct your benefits
- Can be a family member, friend, or agency representative
- An application must be completed with SSA to change to a new person or agency

Power of Attorney

- Legal arrangement providing permission to make decisions on your behalf
- There are separate documents for healthcare and financial decisions. You can complete both or only one.
- Can be changed by completing a new document during a moment of clarity

Guardianship

- Some or all of your rights are transferred to another person by a judge during a formal court process
- Can only be changed by a formal court process

More Restrictive

Housing

If you go to college you may choose to live in a dorm. If you begin to work you may choose to live with your parents for a while and explore different options down the road. You may also choose to live on your own. There are different types of housing with various levels of support. This allows you to find the type of living situation that best fits you.

Independent Apartments	<p>Apartments with no support staff.</p> <p>You pay rent and utilities from your income source.</p>
Supervised/Supported Apartments	<p>Apartments with supervision that may vary between daytime, evening and overnight. A person living here should be able to be alone for periods of time.</p> <p>You will be responsible to pay rent. Long-term care programs may pay for some of the services.</p>
Adult Family Homes (AFH)	<p>Small group home for 1-4 people.</p> <p>Supervision and supports are provided daily but may not be 24 hour coverage.</p> <p>Paid by your income and publicly funded long-term care program.</p>
Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF)	<p>Group home for 5 or more people.</p> <p>Supervision and supports are provided 24 hours daily.</p> <p>Paid by your income and publicly funded long-term care program.</p>

Eviction

An eviction is a legal process that may force a person to be removed from a residence. It occurs in small claims court. A person that has not paid rent or damaged property may be given notice stating the violation. It will give a timeframe to pay the rent or make repairs. If you chose not to take action on the notice, then the landlord must go to small claims court.



If you go to court and lose, the judge will make written orders for a sheriff to remove you from the residence. The judge will also determine an amount of money you owe to the landlord for the unpaid rent and/or damages.

Independent Living Centers

There are eight independent living centers in the state of Wisconsin. These centers help people with disabilities find housing and live independently in the community. The independent living centers can help you to prepare for a change in social roles and may provide you with some of these services:

- ✓ Financial benefits counseling
- ✓ Assistance in locating accessible and affordable housing
- ✓ Career development, training, and placement
- ✓ Community education, consultation, and training
- ✓ Recreation

The local Independent Living Center is located at Society's Assets. For more information you can contact them:

Society's Assets – Independent Living Center
5455 Sheridan Road Suite 101
Kenosha, WI 53140
262-657-3999

www.societysassets.org
info@societysassets.org

Transportation Options

Pursuing independence for some may include learning how to drive. There are options that allow people with disabilities to drive a car. There are adaptive driving schools that will complete a pre-driving assessment, driving evaluation, behind-the-wheel training, as well as on-road training. The driving evaluation will help to assess how someone's functional impairment will impact his or her ability to drive. Some things that you can expect in a pre-driving assessment and a behind the wheel evaluation include:

Pre-Driving Assessment	Behind-the-Wheel Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Medical/driving history✓ Vision status✓ Cognitive visual processing✓ Sensory motor function✓ Range of motion✓ Reaction time✓ Mobility skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Vehicle entry/seating✓ Operation of secondary controls✓ Adaptive equipment, if needed✓ Vehicle operation✓ Knowledge of traffic rules✓ Judgement/decision making✓ Visual awareness/attention✓ Ability to negotiate typical traffic conditions safely

These companies are also able to make vehicle modification recommendations if they are needed. They will train you on the vehicle modifications to ensure your confidence while driving. Vehicle modifications can help someone drive safely and with greater ease.

Public Transportation

If driving is not an option for you, you may be able to use public transportation. The bus will stop at various locations throughout town typically utilizing main roads and points of interest as stopping points. The city bus requires you to pay a fare every time you ride or you can buy a monthly pass.



If you have a disability that prevents you from utilizing the city bus, you may be able to use the paratransit service, Care-a-Van, which will provide door-to-door service. To use Care-a-Van, you must have a statement from your doctor stating the reason you are unable to use the city bus. You must also complete an application and have it approved.

Care-a-Van requires you to pay a fare each time you ride. You can bring guests or personal care attendants on the Care-a-Van with you. Guests must pay the fee, but care attendants may ride at no charge.

The Mobility Manager at the Kenosha County ADRC can answer questions about transportation, the routes, and provide training on how to ride the bus for the first time.



Private Transportation

There are private transportation options that can provide you with rides to and from work, doctor appointments, or other destinations. Some of these are wheelchair accessible, others are not. They offer these services at a fee. Private transportation companies, taxi cabs, and services such as Uber and Lyft are all forms of private transportation.



Contact the Kenosha County Aging and Disability Resource Center to learn more about transportation options.

Recreation and Socialization

Recreation options allow you to meet new people, make new friends, and learn new skills. Finding recreational activities that are both fun and meet your abilities can be difficult. There are many options that you can explore to find an activity that is right for you. These include both indoor and outdoor activities.



Adaptive Sports	May include team sports such as basketball, baseball, and hockey or individual sports such as waterskiing, snowboarding, and horseback riding
Movie Theaters	Can offer special screenings to address unique sensory needs.
Libraries	Provide media in alternate formats. Many offer other events such as book clubs or movie showings.
Day Programs	Provide social and therapeutic activities, assistance with personal cares, and supervision to assure safety outside the home.



Contact the Kenosha County Aging and Disability Resource Center and request a copy of the Recreation and Wellness Guide and/or a list of Adult Day Service programs in the area.

Important Phone Numbers

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC).....	262-605-6646
Care-A-Van (paratransit).....	262-658-9093
Crisis.....	262-657-7188
Disability Benefit Specialist Program.....	262-605-6646
Disability Rights Wisconsin.....	800-928-8778
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)	262-956-6930
Kenosha Area Transit.....	262-653-4287
Kenosha Human Development Services.....	262-764-8555
Kenosha Public Library.....	262-564-6100
Mobility Manager.....	262-605-6646
Social Security Administration.....	Local:866-334-4997 or National:800-772-1213
Society's Assets – Independent Living Center.....	262-657-3999
Southeast Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN).....	800-234-5437
Western Kenosha County Transit.....	888-203-3498
Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center.....	855-409-9410
Wisconsin Kenosha Racine Partners (WKRP) Medicaid Line.....	888-794-5820

Disclaimer:

This information is believed to be accurate as of the date of the last update. The Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) may not be held responsible for using this information in a way it was not meant to be used. The ADRC does not recommend or screen the business or services. And is not responsible for any business policies. Please use your judgement when calling for services, getting estimates, checking references and licenses. For professional license information, you can contact the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing by phone: 608-266-2112, or access their website: online.drl.wi.gov/LicenseLookup/LicenseLookup.aspx

You can also contact the Better Business Bureau by phone: 1-800-273-1002 or access their website: <http://www.bbb.org/wisconsin/>