

Employment Options Before/After Graduation for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (Fact Sheet #1)

Planning for your future is important. Work is an important part of being an adult. Some young people can find jobs by looking in the paper or contacting local businesses. Some young people need help to find and hold a job. This information sheet describes the employment options available to individuals with intellectual disabilities. Consider these options as you plan for work. Students can access intellectual disabilities funding for work during non-school hours (afterschool, weekends, holidays, summer employment). Natural supports and other funding sources should be considered prior to intellectual disability funding.



Take Charge of Your Life

CHOOSE WORK

What are my Employment Options?

- ⇒ **Community Employment** - *full or part time work with competitive wages (minimum wage or above) and responsibilities.* These jobs are most often found by contacting community employers, checking want ads, internet searches and utilizing your community connections.

- ⇒ **Community Supported Employment** - *full or part time work at a job in your community.* This is a regular job at a local business, using the support of a job coach. The job coach can assist you in finding a job, developing the skills needed to do the job, and ongoing support while on the job.

- ⇒ **Community Customized Employment** - *full or part time work at a job in your community.* This is work, at minimum wage or above, that is developed through job carving, job development, self-employment or entrepreneurial initiatives. Job responsibilities are customized and individually negotiated to fit the needs of the individual. Ongoing support is provided, as needed by the individual.

Next Steps?

- **Contact community businesses to apply for available positions.**
- **Use the connections that you have in the community to identify places of employment.**
- **Contact your local Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for assistance.**
- **Contact your teacher for other employment options, including school work experiences.**
- **Contact your Intellectual Disabilities Supports Coordinator for other employment options.**
- **Contact a local Employment Network. Check out WorksForMe-PA.org or call the Works for Me Hotline at 1-877-268-9894. Ask about Ticket to Work!**

Employment Solutions for People with Disabilities