

# Opening Opportunities Through Employment

**Employment First** promotes high expectations that employment is the most preferred option for people with disabilities. These practices support the knowledge that employment means greater community inclusion for people with disabilities.

**MCBDD** – The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities through its Service and Support Administration (SSA) department connects people to needed resources and services.  
330-725-7751 • [www.mcbdd.org](http://www.mcbdd.org)

**OOD** – Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities provides employment services to individuals with disabilities.  
330-643-3080 • [www.ood.ohio.gov](http://www.ood.ohio.gov)

**Medina County JFS** – Job and Family Services provides Medicaid, food assistance and summer work programs, among other services.  
330-722-9300 • [www.jfs.ohio.gov](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov)

**JOG** – A resource center for youth employment which offers training referrals, counselling and more for job seekers.  
330-725-2919 • [www.medinacountyworks.com](http://www.medinacountyworks.com)

**Ohio Employment First** – Employment First is a policy to ensure every individual of working age has an opportunity to seek employment. Agencies are directed to provide a person-centered planning process for every individual of working age to identify their desired employment goal and their place on the path to community employment.  
[www.ohioemploymentfirst.org](http://www.ohioemploymentfirst.org)

*Eligibility requirements vary from agency to agency*

Contact your Service and Support Administrator (SSA) or school district for additional Employment First resources.

## TRANSITION PLANNING



We know the earlier we start working with students to develop future goals, the more successful we can be in finding all the opportunities that await them.

In fact, at age 14, state law requires that students begin

receiving transition services and that those services are included in the student's Individual Educational Plans (IEP).

Transition planning is based on the student and takes into account their individual needs and strengths as well as their preferences and interests.

### Possible partners to consider in transition planning include:

- Intervention Specialist
- Transition Coordinator
- Service and Support Administrator (SSA)
- Parent Mentor
- Physical Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech Language Pathologist
- School Psychologist
- Guidance Counselor
- OOD Counselor
- Mental Health & Medical Team

This information is provided through the collaborative efforts of the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Medina County Employment First Transition Team, Medina County school districts, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and several community agency partners.

mcbdd 11/22

## TRANSITION PLANNING TIMELINE



Transition planning is about creating a path to an adult life that includes meaningful connections to the community through work, life and social opportunities.

# Transition Planning Timeline for Students

This guide is meant to give families a general idea of what to expect during the transition planning process. Remember, each student will progress at their own pace, based on their own strengths and needs.

← Plan Timing of OOD Referral →

## Age 14

Transition planning begins at age 14, if a student is enrolled in school and has an IEP

### Transition Assessments

Data is the foundation for identifying post secondary goals. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Operating Standards require an integrated and competitive employment goal be included in the IEP.

## Age 15

Students may participate in school based work experiences

### High School Freshman

Meet with transition coordinator

Begin considering post secondary education options and employment

## Age 16

Medina County Board of DD redetermines eligibility

### Education

Begin discussion about graduation timeframe

**Medina County Career Center**

Vocational assessment may be utilized to determine vocational training path

### Work Assessments

**School**

School team continues to gather data related to SPINS (Strengths, preferences, interests, and needs) related to employment

**OOD Summer Programming**

## Age 17

Take part in, continue, or begin OOD services (i.e. Pre-ETS, summer work program, or employment)

### Education

Shift from academic focus to vocational/independent living

Ongoing transition planning and assessments.

### Vocational

Internships

Volunteer Experiences

Summer Work

Job Training

Job Development

### Benefits and SSA Services

Begin benefits applications and, if needed, guardianship processes

Within the last year in school, work with SSA to develop ISP.

## Ages 18-22

Begin discussions on school exit date and the possibility of social graduation

## Graduation

Student accepts diploma and exits school services

## Employment/ Adult Services

Supports based on Path to Employment which may include employment or day programs.

**There are 4 places on the Path to Employment:**

1) I have a job but would like a better one or to move up.

2) I want a job! I need help to find one.

3) I am not sure about work. I need help to learn more.

4) I don't think that I want to work, but I may not know enough about it.

## Ultimate Goal

**For each person to be a meaningful and engaged member of the community through work, life, and social connections**

## Support Services - Maintaining Community Employment, Creating Community Connections

As an adult, additional opportunities for continuing education, vocational training, employment, independent living and community activities can be explored, as needed, through a network of local private providers and public agencies.

**Contact your Service and Support Administrator (SSA) for more information.**