

Turning 18 Checklist

What to consider as your son/daughter approaches the age of majority (18)

This document was developed by Oakland County District Transition Coordinators as talking points and considerations for young adults with disabilities & their families. There are some components or activities that may begin while the individual is still in high school, however the majority of the information applies to individuals with developmental disabilities such as autism or cognitive impairments who generally continue special education supports through ages 18-26 in Adult Transition Programs & Services (ATPS). The requirement details such as eligibility, income amounts, and agency specific information is offered as general information, details may change frequently so always check the current status with the appropriate agency.

****Son/ daughter needs to attend all meetings and appointments****

1. Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) to obtain intake screening to see if your student is eligible for services. Supports may include Macomb Oakland Regional Center (MORC) or Community Living Services (CLS) Oakland. (Individuals with developmental disabilities) Request an in-person interview, always bring your student. **Need to be receiving Medicaid in order to get these services.**

1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Bldg. 32 E, in Pontiac, MI

[Hours of Operation](#)

Mon. & Thurs. (8 a.m. - 8 p.m.)

Tues., Wed., & Fri. (8 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

(248) 464-6363 non-emergency line

2. Make an appointment with The Arc of Oakland:

<http://thearcoakland.org> \$55 annual membership fee allows you access (other agencies do this work as well)

SSI (Supplemental Security Income)

Medicaid

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Medicare

Special Needs Trust

Guardianship or Power of Attorney

Patient Advocate Designation (a.k.a. "Living Will") (may refer you)

Last Will and Testament (may refer you)

Special education advocacy

Navigating the mental health system (Information & Referral)

3. Go to Secretary of State and get a state ID (must be 16 years old)

Under 18-must present one form of identification with their full name and date of birth (ex. Original birth certificate)

Over 18-must present 3 forms of ID with full name and birth date. Your child must be present and will be photographed. A parent of guardian's signature is required. There is a \$10 fee, which is waived if you present documented proof of your child's disability and inability to drive.

4. Banking (need state ID to set up)

Your son/daughter will need a bank account for the direct deposit of SSI, etc.

Consider if there will be guardianship, power of attorney, or a designated payee for an individual who will need assistance in managing their finances

Never go over \$2000 (liquid assets) if son/daughter are receiving social security benefits or other benefits that have a cap on assets.

5. Call Social Security Administration Office to make an appointment to apply for SSI for your son/daughter: (1-800-772-1213) <https://www.ssa.gov/>

SSI is a program that pays monthly benefits to individuals with a disability, who cannot work at competitive employment and meet eligibility requirements. Many services available after a person with a disability leaves public education are eligibility based and funded through Social Security and Medicaid eligibility.

Requirements may change so check for current but in general, have available:

Application form
Vocational evaluation (MRS if applicable)
Pay stubs from any employment
Stocks, bonds, insurance policies (w cash value)
Bank statements (checking/savings)
Social Security card
Pertinent medical information
School records (MET/IEP) & psychological report
State ID
Birth Certificate
Any doctor evaluations/psychological
Deposit slip from son/daughter's bank account (DO NOT have over \$2000 in account)

- They will ask your son/daughter their living arrangements you should charge rent around \$350 is typical rent charge.
- If denied you have 60 days to make an appeal. First step it will go to Administrative law judge and will be 12 plus months. Back pay if approved.
- Even if there was a past denial based on family income level, your child may become eligible once they turn 18.

- If your child is approved for SSI, Medicaid is automatic. You can apply separately for Medicaid at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Your child must have Medicaid before applying for adult services through the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (MORC or CLS)

6. Transportation

Check public transportation options in your area. There are discounts for individuals with disabilities. Many areas have special transportation available for seniors & individuals with disabilities.

North Oakland Transportation Authority (NOTA) serves the north part of Oakland County <http://www.notaride.org/> or 248.693.7100

7. Housing

Community Housing Network 248-928-0111

Community Housing Network opened its doors in 2001 with funding from Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority. At that time, the organization was charged with providing property management for housing for people with disabilities, creation of a Housing Resource Center, and development of additional affordable housing opportunities for people with disabilities.

Community Homes, Inc. 248-336-0007

Another provider that helps set up and support homes for persons with disabilities, but you will need to have MORC or CLS-Oakland funding to access these services.

There are other housing options including On My Own of MI, Angels Place, supported living, independent living, etc. It's important to work with your MORC or CLS supports coordinator and/or research the options to determine the best fit.

8. Adult Transition Program & Services (ATPS)

If your son/daughter will not graduate with a regular high school diploma, they remain eligible for special education services to age 25/26. The student & family should work with their IEP team to determine needed programs & services. Most Oakland County districts offer an Adult Transition Program, the few that do not may contract with another district or agency for those services.

9. Selective Service is required for all males turning 18; a disability does not exclude a young man from this requirement. Not registering may affect the provision of other governmental services. You can register by going online www.sss.gov or at a local post office.

10. Turning 18 "age of majority" in the state of Michigan, is when a young person is considered an adult and granted legal autonomy. These rights will be the responsibility of the student

upon reaching the age of majority unless the student has been assigned a power of attorney or guardian.

11. Options for Guardianship & Conservatorships

Guardianship is a legally recognized relationship between a competent adult (the guardian) and a minor child or an adult with a disability (the ward). The guardian is given the duty and right to act on behalf of the ward in making certain decisions affecting the life of the ward. There are levels of guardianship to consider and the process is accomplished in probate court. Power of attorney gives legal authority to a person to make decisions on behalf of another person. There are different levels of power of attorney as well. Information is available at the Oakland County Probate- Guardianship & Conservatorships website.

<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/probate/case-types/guardianships-conservatorships/Pages/default.aspx>

12. Estate planning

There are financial decisions that may impact the provision of services for your son/daughter such as assets that are in the name of your son/daughter. Get information before your son/daughter DIRECTLY inherit money, property or assets. Assets over \$2,000 may affect their SSI and Medicaid. There are options that allow an individual with disabilities to lead an independent meaningful life that includes employment while protecting benefits and planning for the future. One of the options is a MiABLE account (see #13).

It is important to work with an attorney or financial planner who are qualified and/or have certifications in Special Needs planning.

The Arc of Oakland no longer offers this service.

13. 529 (A) Achieving a Better Life Experience - ABLE Plan

The mission of the MiABLE directors is to encourage and assist the saving of private funds to help persons with disabilities cover costs that support their health, independence and quality of life. This savings account program went live on November 1, 2016! The MiABLE account allows a person with a disability to save more than \$2,000 without losing SSI or Medicaid benefits.

www.Miabile.org to learn more and open an account

14. Employment/ Vocational Rehabilitation

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) may be introduced in the last 2 years of high school or when a student is preparing to exit the Adult Transition program & is interested in competitive/independent employment. Support in obtaining or maintaining employment for students that qualify with a barrier to employment. This agency provides short-term job coaching only. https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_25392---,00.html

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) – is the agency that supports independent living and employment for individuals who are blind or have other visual impairments that meet their requirements. https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-89334_28313---,00.html

If supported employment is the goal and/or the individual will require long-term employment related supports, those services are provided via an OCHN agency such as MORC or Community Living Services (CLS), please see section 1 of this document)

15. Once SSI is Approved

The approval for SSI also includes Medicaid health insurance. Paperwork will be sent in the mail for you and your son/daughter to pick a plan. Review and select based on location of doctors & lifestyle. There is limited dental and vision coverage. You can have dual health care plans. Eventually paperwork and a Bridge card, loaded with an identified amount of money, for use on groceries will come in the mail as well. The individual may be eligible for other benefits offered through Health & Human Services agencies <https://www.hhs.gov/>

Working while receiving SSI

INCENTIVE TO WORK 1619b---yes, you can work yourself off of SSI but keep Medicaid benefits \$34,923 (for 2016)

Working for pay can affect SSI monthly income. If there are concerns about that seek information through agencies that offer benefits counseling. They will provide information to individuals & families regarding working, earning money and benefits. If you have an agency like MORC or CLS-Oakland, they have specialists in this area as well. For benefits counseling: UCP 1-800-827-4843 www.ucpdetroit.org The Arc: 248-816-1900 www.thearcoakland.org