



Options

**A Transition
Resource Fair
for
Professionals,
Individuals with
Special Needs,
and
Their Families**

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Introduction

Welcome to our Options Resource Fair! We're glad you joined us. In this booklet, we have provided you with a wealth of information. There are many considerations for youth and adults who have disabilities. We have summarized each service and listed organizations in and around the Chicagoland area that offer critical services to all persons with disabilities. Each organization is listed under its primary service category. Remember, most organizations provide multiple services, and you should thoroughly read through the information so that you can become aware of all your Options!

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Table of Contents

- I. Acknowledgements
- II. Advocacy
- III. Assistive Technology
- IV. Educational & Transition Programs
- V. Government Services, Financial & Guardianship
- VI. Health & Medical
- VII. Independent Living & Home-Based Services
- VIII. Recreational
- IX. Residential
- X. Transportation
- XI. Vocational

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Options Committee

Michelle Bank - District 117 847.395.9249 michelle.bank.chsd117.org	Stephanie Henrichs - Libertyville High School 847.327.7166 stephanie.henrichs@d128.org
Theresa Buckman - SEDOL 847.986.7068 tbuckman@sedol.us	Michalina Ostrander - College of Lake County 847.543.2782 mdubay@clcollinois.edu
Julie McDermott - Glenbrook 225 224.250.0900 jmcdermott@glenbrook225.org	Lyndsay Palach (Committee Chairperson) - Barrington High School 847.842.3498 lpalach@barrington220.org
Jenny Farley - Lake County Center for Independent Living 847.949.4440 jenny@lccil.org	Emily Porter - Glenbrook 225 224.250.0881 eport@glenbrook225.org
Colleen Fitzpatrick - Round Lake Senior High School District 116 847.270.9300 ext. 5325 cfitzpatrick@rlas-116.org	Megan Sugrue - Adlai Stevenson High School 847.415.4867 msugrue@d125.org
Stephanie Gordon - District 113 224.632.3319 sgordon@dist113.org	Terese Sullivan - Adlai Stevenson High School 847.415.4868 tsullivan@d125.org
Lynda Gunther - SEDOL 847.606.9002 lgunther@sedol.us	Launa Tangorra - Zion-Benton Township High School District 126 847.970.2808 tangorrl@zbths.org
	Liz Wietrzak - Vernon Hills High School 847.932.2078 liz.wietrzak@d128.org

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Advocacy

We define advocacy as getting your needs and wants met. This means that it is very important that you speak up for yourself. At times, everything falls into place and you receive the services you asked for. At other times, you may have difficulty finding the services you need. You, your family, and friends need to speak up and advocate. You have the right to services that meet your particular needs. There are many different kinds of advocacy. Take a look at this section to be aware of all the support you can receive. These agencies may advocate for you, or they may help you learn to advocate for yourself. Please contact that LCCIL (Lake County Center for Independent Living) for further information regarding attorneys for guardianship, special needs trusts, and other benefits.

From Advocacy to Action

Special Education Advocacy Services

Contact: Pam Labellarte

Email: plabellarte@gmail.com

Phone: 847.401.5053

Have Dreams

Autism Resource Agency

Contact: Lora Slutsky

Email: lslutsky@havedreams.org

Phone: 847.905.0702

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

Mano a Mano Family Resource Center

Non-Profit Human/Public Services

Contact: Katia Colin, Ana Perez

Email: amartinez@mamfrc.org, kcolin@mamfrc.org, aperez@mamfrc.org

Phone: 847.502.0679

National Organization for Down Syndrome

NADS

Contact: Chris Newlon

Email: Lsmarto@nads.org

Phone: 630.779.4245

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Assistive Technology

There are exciting developments in technology for persons with disabilities. Computer technology and adaptive equipment have made a world of difference in our lives. Whether you have a physical, emotional, developmental, or learning disability, there are incredible devices to help you. There are organizations that provide information about what is available, and may also assist you to find the financial support to make necessary purchases. Check out these resources, you will be amazed to learn about the latest advances in technology.

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Educational & Transition Programs

What happens after graduation? Where do you go? What will you do? Some students choose to continue their education. Some enroll in transition programs offered by their schools; while other students go to college. Believe it or not, there are institutions that do both. They are designed for youth with disabilities who need a little extra help adjusting to life as an adult. All colleges have a department that works directly with students with disabilities. They help you obtain needed accommodations for class. They may also facilitate the transitional programs previously mentioned.

College is not for everyone and it is not your only opportunity for education. Some organizations offer independent transitional programs. There are a number of technical and vocational skills programs as well. We have provided you a list of colleges, technical and independent transition programs in the Chicagoland area that you may be interested in pursuing.

Bethesda College at Concordia University Wisconsin

Bethesda College is a unique, exciting, two-year postsecondary certificate program designed to meet the higher education

Contact: Samantha Bear and/or Chris Wright

Email: Bethesda.College@cuw.edu

Phone: 262.243.2183

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

CIP (College Internship Program)

Post-secondary transition program that provides individualized college academic, career, and independent living support for young adults with High-Functioning ASD, ADHD, and other learning differences.

Contact: Ashley Sullivan

Email: asullivan@cipbloomington.org

Phone: 765.618.6803

CLC Options for Students with Disabilities

Accommodations at the College Level

Contact: Michalina Ostrander

Email: mdubay@clcillinois.edu

Phone: 847.543.2782

College of Lake County - Personal Success Program

Community College/ Professional Development Department

Contact: Sandy Schwab

Email: sschwab@clcillinois.edu

Phone: 847.543.2994

Elmhurst Learning & Success Academy (ELSA) at Elmhurst College

ELSA is a four-year college experience program for young adults with differing abilities.

Contact: Tim Ahlberg

Email: ahlbergt@elmhurst.edu

Phone: 630.617.3309

Harper College

Career Skills Institute

Contact: Linda Hoeck

Email: lhoeck@harpercollege.edu

Phone: 847.925.6000 x2076

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

NSSED

Special Education Cooperative

Contact: Terri Michaels

Email: tmichaels@nssed.org

Phone: 847.831.5100 x2331

Options for College Success

Options for College Success is a non-profit organization that supports learning challenged post-secondary students to develop the skills, confidence and courage necessary to transition into living independently and working productively. To do this we provide individualized support in the following areas: Academics, Career, Independent Living Skills, Social Skills/Social Activities and Finance Management.

Contact: Shoshana Axler

Email: snaxler@optionsforcollegesuccess.org

Phone: 847.425.4797 x201

Orchard Academy

A therapeutic transition program serving 17-22 year olds

Contact: Kenneth Kozin

Email: ken_kozin@orchardvillage.org

Phone: 847.967.1800 x130

P.A.C.E. at National Louis University

Path to Academics, Community and Employment (P.A.C.E) is a three-year, post-secondary certificate program designed to meet the transitional needs for young adults with multiple intellectual, learning and developmental disabilities.

Contact: Mallory Pratt

Email: mpratt6@nl.edu

Phone: 312.261.3281

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

Shepherds College

Shepherds College (SC) is a fully accredited, three-year, post-secondary program for students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) that trains and equips students through the development of vocational, social and life skills. SC offers accredited certificate programs in the following specialty majors; Technology, Culinary Arts and Horticulture. Students live on campus as they transition through three phases of residential housing including dorms, houses and apartments. The aim of both the occupational and residential training programs is to equip students for a lifetime of gainful employment, increased independence and community inclusion.

Contact: Eric Lindsay

Email: elindsay@shepherdscollege.edu

Phone: 262.878.6359

SEDOL

Special Ed Coop

Contact: Pamela Evans

Email: pevans@sedol.us

Phone: 847.986.7052

UI REACH Program at the University of Iowa

The University of Iowa REACH Program is a two-year, transition, certificate program for college students with disabilities, including but not limited to; autism, learning disabilities, down syndrome, and intellectual disabilities. UI REACH provides a Big Ten college experience to empower young adults to become independent, engaged members of the community. Courses, campus life, and career preparation assist students in reaching their full potential. UI REACH strives to maintain contact with alumni to encourage them to become independent adults by utilizing the independent living and career-related skills they learned in the program.

Contact: Michael Petkewec

Email: michael-petkewec@uiowa.edu

Phone: 319.384.2127

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Government Services, Financial, & Legal/Guardianship

When you get older, there are some important things to think about that you may not have considered. Our government offers a lot of assistance to persons with disabilities, but the programs can be confusing. There are different financial and medical programs that you may qualify for and we recommend you speak with someone to learn more about them. Also, when you turn 18 years-old, you are considered an adult in the eyes of the law. Sometimes we aren't ready to make adult decisions by ourselves, and may need extra help. Your parents can petition the court to become your legal guardian until you can make that decision. Not everyone needs a guardian, and there are options for those who may only need help with some issues, but not all. We encourage you to explore your options with the legal, financial, and governmental organizations listed below, so you may be prepared to make the best decisions for yourself and your family.

Community Alternatives Unlimited

Individual Service Coordination agency

Contact: Stephen Joseph

Email: sjoseph@cau.org

Phone: 773.867.4162

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

Benefit Boost

Benefit Advocacy SSI, Medicaid assist

Contact: Teri Bodeman

Email: tbodeman@benefitboost.net

Phone: 847.561.1722

Bureau of Blind Services- Division of Rehabilitation Services

Specialized services for persons who are blind or visually impaired

Contact: Regina Cook-Glanton

Email: regina.cook-glanton@illinois.gov

Phone: 815.967.3774

DayOne PACT

DayOne PACT is a non-profit social service organization founded in 1981. Our Life Management Services® division provides guardianship, trusteeship, and private case management services to individuals with disabilities throughout Northeastern Illinois as well as in other states. The service areas include: Guardianship of Person and/or Estate, Power of Attorney for Healthcare and/or Property, Executor of Estate, Trusteeship and individualized case management. We serve individuals of all ages with an array of disabilities including developmental disabilities, mental illness, brain injuries, and issues of aging. Our Life Management Services® division is a fee-for service program.

Contact: Missy Mrkvicka

Email: mmrkvicka@dayonepact.org

Phone: 331.481.4231

Family Benefit Solution

Helps families with Government Benefits and future planning

Contact: Sherri Schneider

Email: benefithelp@aol.com

Phone: 847.338.5771

Life's Plan Inc.

Provide Trust services to individuals with disabilities and their families

Contact: Scott Nixon

Email: snixon@lifesplaninc.org

Phone: 630.628.7189

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Health & Medical

Making healthy choices is a big part of growing up. Sometimes our disabilities make this difficult. You should be aware of what your health needs may be. For example, if you require the use of medical equipment, you may want to contact companies that provide such devices. There are also medical assistance programs available to persons with disabilities who do not have medical insurance. See below to find out who can help you.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois

A managed care organization, has retail, and Medicare products.

Contact: Jaime Salazar

Email: jaime_salazar@bcbsil.com

Phone: 630.945.6185

Independence Center, Inc.

Social service agency, providing mental health services to adults age 18 and older

Contact: Nasrullah Khan

Email: nkhan@icwaukegan.org

Phone: 847.360.1020 x1032

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

Lake County Health Department

Lake County Substance Abuse and Mental Health services.

Contact: Tisha Eisenmenger

Email: teisenmenger@lakecountyil.gov

Phone: 847.377.8214

Nicasa Behavioral Health Services

We are a social service agency that provides addiction and mental health prevention, intervention and treatment services throughout Lake County.

Contact: Charla Waxman

Email: cwaxman@nicasa.org

Phone: 847.471.7950

UIC Division of Specialized Care for Children

DSCC is a statewide program that partners with Illinois families and communities to help children with special healthcare needs connect to services and resources.

Contact: Kristina Marquez and Yolanda Peterson

Email: srjones1@uic.edu; kamarque@uic.edu; ypeters@uic.edu

Phone: 815.987.7571

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Independent Living & Home-Based Services

Independence is freedom! We must all learn to be as independent as possible. Independence can mean many things. As you grow older, you need to learn how to do things for yourself. You must also know when to ask for help. There are organizations available to provide you with the necessary skills to be independent. There are also companies that provide in-home care for persons who have more complex living situations. They help those who wish to reside in their own home, and need additional assistance. Please review your options. The earlier you start the more independent you will become.

Center for Enriched Living (CEL)

The Center for Enriched Living exists to enhance and enrich the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities – from youth through adulthood. CEL’s programs provide opportunities for our members to learn, grow and connect to the community in our newly renovated Universally Designed building in Riverwoods. CEL has been designated as a 4-star charity by Charity Navigator for 4 consecutive years. More information available at www.CenterForEnrichedLiving.org.

Contact: Michael Welsh

Email: Michael.W@CenterForEnrichedLiving.org

Phone: 847.315.9920

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

Center for Independent Futures

Support individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities to live independently in the community.

Contact: Margaret Tanenberg

Email: mtanenberg@independentfutures.com

Phone: 847.328.2044

Clearbrook

Nonprofit organization provides services to children, adults and families impacted by developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Contact: Kristen Feld

Email: kfeld@clearbrook.org

Phone: 847.385.5365

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Recreational

We are listing a number of organizations that provide recreational services. Work is very important, but leisure time is important too. Good personal and social skills are necessary to live successfully in your community. There are several groups in your community that you can join for fun and to make new friends. You can join sports teams, act in plays and musicals, or even start a club of your own. The organizations listed offer activities for youth and adults with disabilities. Check them out; you'll have a great time.

Arts of Life

We advance the creative arts community by providing artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities a collective space to expand their practice and strengthen their leadership

Contact: Hilary Marshall

Email: hmarshall@artsoflife.org

Phone: 847.486.0808

JCYS Camp Henry Horner and Camp Red Leaf

Summer camp

Contact: Lauren Maleck, Graham Little and Jim Bueche

Email: lmalecki@jcys.org

Phone: 847.740.5010

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

Mundelein Area AYSO Very Important Player (VIP) Special Recreation Soccer

Our VIP Soccer program is a not-for-profit award-winning program which provides a community-based recreational soccer experience for players ages 4-adult with special needs. Players are coaches and supported by certified Coaches and Referees and trained Youth and Young Adult Buddies. We offer outdoor seasons in the Fall and Spring, and Indoor options in the Winter. Mundelein Area VIP Soccer Program is proud to be celebrating our 15th Anniversary this year!

Contact: Valerie Walker

Email: vipsoccer@earthlink.net; taga.bolbok@gmail.com

Phone: 847.721.9246

No Wall Too Tall

I advocate on behalf of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and offer a rock climbing retreat weekend at Devil's Lake, WI to help develop independent living skills and confidence while learning how to overcome obstacles. For more information please visit

www.NoWallTooTall.com

Contact: Steve Cerve

Email: stevecerve@comcast.net

Phone: 224.406.5882

Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association (NSSRA)

NSSRA provides and facilitates year-round recreation programs and services for people with disabilities who live in the partner communities. NSSRA is an extension of the Park Districts of Deerfield, Glencoe, Glenview, Highland Park, Kenilworth, Lake Bluff, Northbrook, Northfield, Wilmette and Winnetka; the Cities of Highwood and Lake Forest; and the Village of Riverwoods. Enriched Lifestyles for Adults (ELA) is a year-round day program for individuals with disabilities who are 22 years of age and older. ELA was created to enhance the quality of life and offer well-rounded daytime program options for adults with disabilities.

Contact: Becca Zajler

Email: bjajler@nssra.org

Phone: 847.509.9400

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

SRACLC

Recreation for individuals with special needs.

Contact: Cassie Wodrich

Email: cwodrich@sraclc.org

Phone: 847.816.4866

Special Recreation Services of Northern Illinois

Year round community recreation programming for individuals with a disability or special need.

Contact: Kari Robinson/Katie Kozuch/Jessica Findley

Email: jschneider@waukeganparks.org

Phone: 847.360.4762

Young Life Capernaum

Social/recreational organization (faith-based)- club, camp, buddies

Contact: Tasha Taylor

Email: taylortasha4@gmail.com

Phone: 847.735.9595

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Residential

Deciding where you are going to live after you graduate is a tough decision. Some students are ready to move out on their own or with friends. Others may need more help. You may be asking yourself, "Where will I live? Will I be able to take care of myself? Will I have people to help me?" Residential services are provided by a variety of agencies. Their purpose is to provide homes for people who need extra help. MOST PROVIDERS OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES HAVE LONG WAITING LISTS. YOU MUST APPLY LONG BEFORE YOU ACTUALLY NEED TO MOVE OUT ON YOUR OWN. Check out these organizations that can help you.

Little City Foundation

Residential and day programs for Children and adults with disabilities

Contact: Lori Clark

Email: lclark@littlecity.org

Phone: 847.221.7804

NorthPointe Resources

NorthPointe's mission is to serve and to empower people with disabilities and/or mental illness to achieve their dreams. Our quality programs and services include; Adult Day Services, Home Based Support Services, Employment Services, Residential Services, and SOARR behavioral health services.

Contact: Anne Fahey

Email: afahey@nri1953.org

Phone: 847.731.5753

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

Resources for Community Living

Housing/ support services

Contact: Karen Asta

Email: Rclkaren@aol.com

Phone: 847.701.1554

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Transportation

Transportation is a critical part of your independence. It is important to learn all of your options and how to use them. In school transportation is arranged for you, but this will not always be the case. Some examples of public transportation are trains, buses, cabs, and special services such as Dial-A-Ride and ADA Paratransit. In this booklet we have included some important contacts who can help you better understand these services.

PACE Suburban Bus

Public transportation

Contact: Tim Dilsaver

Email: timothy.dilsaver@pacebus.com

Phone: 847.224.4282

Regional Transportation Authority

Public Transportation provider

Contact: Jillian McClain

Email: McClainJ@rtachicago.org

Phone: 312.913.3114

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Vocational

Where you work can have a great impact on your independence. There are many different types of vocational services available to persons with disabilities. What program works for you can only be decided by you. Check out all of your options to find the best fit. Vocational options range from Job Skills Training to supported employment and so much more.

The Eval Center

We provide Vocational/Transitional Evaluations

Contact: Lisa Byrne, Tami Sherman

Email: lisa.byrne@theevalcenter.org; tami.sherman@theevalcenter.org

Phone: 630.202.7907

Goodwill Great Lakes

The U.S. Navy, Goodwill and SourceAmerica (formerly NISH) are partnered at Great Lakes through the AbilityOne Program (formerly JWOD). This program provides good employment opportunities for people with disabilities to overcome barriers to employment through training so that they become independent and self-sustaining individuals who contribute to their communities. Goodwill provides trained professionals who work directly and closely with individuals with severe disabilities.

Contact: Anka Starke

Email: anka.starke@goodwillsew.com; sarah.heisler@goodwillsew.com

Phone: Anka Starke-847.774.3002/Sarah Heisler-847.473.7129 Dan Burgos 847.456.1808

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org

Lamb's Farm

Contact: Kris Buckley

Email: kbuckley@lambsfarm.org

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org



Additional Notes

The information presented is accurate as of April 2018

www.consideroptions.org