

Monthly tips and resources for young adults, their families, and supporters who are exploring options for life after high school in Indiana.

Let's Get to Work in Our Communities!

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The internet and social media are goldmines of information, but sifting through it all can be overwhelming. The Center on Community Living and Careers (CCLC) has created a toolkit to streamline your search for employment information. With this resource, you will be prepared to find and keep a job in your community.

After interviewing people with disabilities who wanted to move from segregated work to inclusive community employment, we created a new toolkit, "Essential

Resources for Transitioning to Competitive Integrated Employment."

The toolkit will help you:

Start with that end in mind and think about what you really want. Keep the conversations going about your future. Use person-centered planning tools to identify your strengths, interests, preferences, needs, goals, and dreams. Be sure your team members are also aware of your knowledge, skills, learning preferences, values, personality traits, life experiences, and support systems. Keep an ongoing record of this information.

- make a personal plan to explore work options.
- search for a job that suits your needs and preferences.
- apply and interview successfully.
- plan for ongoing workplace support.
- address any concerns you have about working in the community.

We have also included webcast trainings explaining how to emphasize your strengths at work and maintain your Social Security and Medicaid benefits.

In the toolkit, you'll find more information on:

- your employment-related rights.
- the advantages of competitive integrated employment.
- different ways to obtain employment, like using customized employment strategies.
- person-centered planning tools and processes.
- how your benefits are impacted by employment.
- how to develop community connections, including transportation.
- how to emphasize your strengths with employers.

We've also included a few interactive resources in this toolkit. For example, watch a webcast to craft a visually compelling resume highlighting your skills and knowledge. Use PATH, a person-centered planning tool, to map your future career path. You'll also discover additional tools for self-employment, vocational rehabilitation referrals, and employment services for individuals with mental health conditions.

Establish a trusted support network.

Support is crucial for success at work, so we've included links for organizations that can help you make friends, find mentors, and create your best life. There is also information about [Finder](#), a tool you can use to search for all sorts of services across Indiana.

We hope this toolkit serves as a useful resource for you and your family. You can always contact us at cclc@iu.edu if you have questions or need additional support.

What's Next? is a project of the Center on Community Living and Careers.

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