



## Quick Guide Definitions

**Advocacy/Legal** Representation in accessing benefits, services and programs to which a person may be entitled.

### Assistive Technology

Includes adaptive aids, controls, appliances or supplies, such as computers, switches, utensils.

### Benefits Counseling

Advice regarding eligibility of various forms of financial assistance (i.e. SSI, SSDI).

### Community Hab

A service delivered to Medicaid Waiver participants designed to enhance community living and social independence. Services may include daily living skills training, recreation programming etc.

### Education and Training

May provide education on various disabilities and other topics of interest as well as offer classes to learn new skills (i.e. computer programming).

### Employment Services

Different agencies offer different types and levels of support; ranging from financial (i.e. provide funding to attend college or learn a trade) to providing job coaches. Call specific agency for further information.

### Futures Planning/Guardianship

Assistance in determining how to arrange a special needs trust and/or guardianship paperwork for students with disabilities.

### Hearing and Vision

Provides programs and services for individuals with hearing and vision disabilities including evaluations, sign language interpreters, peer support and employment.

### Home and Environmental Modifications

Evaluations; changes to home, school or work place which increase independence and accessibility (i.e. adding a ramp to side door for wheelchair accessibility).

### Housing Options

**Certified Homes** are typically homes or programs operated by an agency that NYS OPWDD oversees:

**Family Care Program** certified providers are homeowners with specialized training who receive a monthly stipend to support individuals with disabilities to live with them.

**Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRA)** range from living with a group of people to living in an independent home certified for just one person. Usually provides 24 hour support but can be set up for lesser support needs.

**Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF)** are designed for individuals with higher levels of support needs with clinical services built into staffing component.

**Supervised Apartments** are usually for two to four people with 24 hour support on site, includes sleep-over staff.

**Supportive Apartments** are for those who can live fairly independently with minimal staff support (not to exceed 20 hours per week).

**Non-Certified Housing** is an Alternative living arrangements in private homes or apartments either rented or owned by the person with the disability or their family. Individuals may choose to live independently or with others, and have support services as needed.

### Mental Health Services

Includes psychiatric evaluations, medications, crisis management and mental health therapy (counseling) by licensed counselor. In addition, it can include various types of support groups (i.e. monthly meetings for individuals with ADHD, or daily meetings for recovering alcoholics).

### Recreation/Leisure

Agency may provide various recreation and leisure programs, such as seasonal activities (skiing, hiking), shopping, playing sports, etc.

### Respite

Services that provide families of people with disabilities temporary relief from caregiving responsibilities.

### Service Coordination (Medicaid Service Coordinators-MSCs)

Professionals who help people with disabilities develop a plan and access needed supports, services and desired activities.

### Therapy- PT/OT/SP

Agency may provide physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT) and/or speech and language (SP) services as well as other therapy-related interventions.

### Transportation

May provide direct and/or indirect transportation services. Assist with instruction and support to individuals on how to navigate the public transportation system (i.e. Centro Bus).

### Vocational Assessment

Evaluations regarding strengths and interests which help people set employment goals and determine which careers match an individual's skills and interests. Not to be confused with a Functional Vocational Evaluation which is a ten day assessment in a simulated or real work environment derived to assess skills that individual can achieve in that setting (also referred to as a situational assessment).

### Careership@

[www.mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer/careership/about\\_careership.cfm](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer/careership/about_careership.cfm)

Careership@ is a free online career exploration adventure for middle and high school students. Careership is a product of Mapping Your Future, (<http://mappingyourfuture.org>), a public-service web-site providing free career, college, financial aid, and money management information and services.

Students can review careers by cluster, review a featured career, match careers to their interests, or search for a particular career

### Indetermined

[www.indetermined.org](http://www.indetermined.org)

The I'm Determined project, is a state directed project funded by the Virginia Department of Education, focuses on providing direct instruction, models, and opportunities to practice skills associated with self-determined behavior. This project facilitates youth, especially those with disabilities to undertake a measure of control in their lives, helping to set and steer the course rather than remaining the silent passenger.

### NYS ACCES-VR Services

[www.acces.nysed.gov/vr](http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr)

ACCES-VR is a state operated, federally funded program which starts with the presumption that all persons with disabilities can benefit from vocational rehabilitation services and should have opportunities to work in jobs integrated within their communities. VR Counselors guide individuals through service programs they may need to reach their employment goals.

### NYS Department of Labor CareerZone

[www.carezone.ny.gov](http://www.carezone.ny.gov)

CareZone is the place to explore careers related to your strengths, skills and talents. It offers help with creating a resume and developing a budget to get your life on track. Find links to information about military careers, college preparation and financial aid.

### Transition RTC

[www.massmed.edu/transitionsrtc](http://www.massmed.edu/transitionsrtc)

The Transitions RTC is a national effort that aims to improve the supports for youth and young adults ages 14-30, with serious mental health conditions who are trying to successfully complete their schooling and training and move into rewarding work lives.

### Think COLLEGE!

[www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)

Think College is a national organization dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving inclusive higher education options for people with an [intellectual disability](http://www.thinkcollege.net). With a commitment to equity and excellence, Think College supports evidence-based and student centered research and practice by generating and sharing knowledge, guiding institutional change, informing public policy, and engaging with students, professionals and families.

### YOUTH POWER!

[www.youthpower.org](http://www.youthpower.org)

YOUTH POWER! is the New York State network of young people who have been labeled and are seeking change. Through peer-to-peer mentoring, they empower young people to be active citizens, aware of government operations, their rights and the ability to use their voices to influence policies, practices, regulation and law. They are young people helping other people, ensuring availability of self-help and peer support while changing systems so that young people get the support they need with the respect and dignity they deserve.

# Quick Guide

## Transition Services Onondaga County

ACCES - VR

ARISE – an Independent Living Center

Onondaga Pathways to Careers @ OCC

Mid-State RSE-TASC

Exceptional Family Resources (EFR)\*

### Disclaimer

As of December 2016, this information has been updated. Information is subject to change at any time. This guide is only meant to serve as a reference. \*Quick Guide was originally created by EFR.



Preparation of this item was made possible through the Onondaga Pathways to Careers Initiative at Onondaga Community College, funded through a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, Grant No. OD-26453-14-75-4-36.