

Employment System Agencies & Resources

Access to supported employment services is based on eligibility and availability of funding. No one system will be able to cover all employment related costs, and not all funding sources will be available for each individual. To have access to the greatest variety of funding, know these sources and how to apply

The Social Security Administration (SSA) offers cash benefits, medical resources, and work incentive programs for people with disabilities. Transition age students commonly apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and SSI eligibility automatically qualifies a person to receive Medicaid. You can apply for SSI anytime, though parents' income and resources are considered prior to the age of 18. Many people apply the month of their 18th birthday. Contact: 1-800-772-1213: <http://www.ssa.gov/>

Washington State Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) authorizes payment for state funding to help people keep a job needing long-term supported employment services. There is generally not enough state DDA funding to fund support for every DDA client and not everyone necessarily requires these services. Apply as early as possible. In King County, contact State DDD at 206-568-5700 or 1-800-314-3296: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/region2.shtml>

Special Needs Trusts are private funds set up by individuals and/or families that may be used to help offset the cost of employment supports as well as other supports and services throughout the beneficiary's life. This money can be sheltered from resource restrictions of SSI and other benefit programs. One option, for clients of Washington's DDD, is the Life Opportunities Trust managed by the Arc of Washington State. Contact: 1-888-754-8798 or http://www.arcwa.org/endowment_trust.htm

Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) provides vocational guidance and counseling, and can help individuals develop an individual employment plan for obtaining competitive employment. DVR contracts with employment agencies; in School-to-Work DVR partners with KCDDD. Call 1-800-622-1375 or <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/Default.aspx>

Seattle: (206) 273-7100

Kent: (253) 372-5900

Bellevue: (425) 590-3115

N. Seattle: (206) 440-2230

Seatac: (206) 444-3800

King County Developmental Disabilities Division (KCDDD) manages contracts with employment agencies, disperses state funds as authorized by the state, funds special programs (such as **School-to-Work**), provides funding for information and education related to employment, transition, and many other services. You are eligible for services once you become a client of Washington State DDD. Contact 206-263-9061 or <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/DDD.aspx>
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/DDD/services/employment.aspx>

Employment Service Providers: There are over 20 Employment Service Providers contracted with King County, many with years of expertise in supporting individuals with disabilities to reach their work goals. Most are also contracted with DVR. Employment Service Providers can also be referred to as Vendors, Employment Agencies, and CRPs (Community Rehabilitation Programs).

Checklist for Accessing King County School-to-Work

- ❑ **Make Sure You are Enrolled with DDA**
 - Call Now: 206-568-5700
- ❑ **Obtain Washington State ID**
 - Age 15 - 16
 - Pre-Apply: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/gettingidcard.html>
 - Go to: <https://fortress.wa.gov/dol/dolprod/dsdoffices/>
- ❑ **Apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**
 - At Age 18
- ❑ **Attend an Annual Transition Fair**
 - March Prior to Last Year of Transition Program
- ❑ **Complete and Submit Your School-to-Work Application**
 - By March 13th, 2015 (for students exiting school programs in 2016)
- ❑ **Apply to Metro/ACCESS**
 - Call: 206-263-3113 or 1-866-205-5001
 - Go To: <http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/accessible/paratransit.html>
- ❑ **Apply for DVR Services**
 - April through June, Prior to Last Year of Transition Program
- ❑ **Research, Interview & Select An Employment Service Provider**
 - April through June, Prior to Last Year of Transition Program
- ❑ **Start School-to-Work Services**
 - As Early as July 1 Prior to Last Year of Transition Program
No Later Than October 15
 - Develop your employment plan in cooperation your Employment Service Provider, DVR, School Personnel, & DDA Case Manager (if applicable).