

**COLORADO DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES (DDS) and
CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SERVICES (CHRS)
(The Community Centered Board System, CCB)**

Address:

Colorado Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS)
3824 W. Princeton Circle
Denver, CO 80236
(303) 866-7450
TDD (303) 866-7471

Purpose:

DSS is the state agency responsible for services for adults who have a developmental disability with an IQ < 70 and adaptive behavior needs. CHRS is the state agency responsible for services to children with developmental disabilities and their families. These state agencies contract with private not-for-profit agencies in local communities who are designated as community centered boards and who determine eligibility and provide services, either directly or through purchase of services. Each of the community centered boards throughout Colorado has a designated geographical service area. Community Centered Boards are the single entry point for the developmental disabilities system for all ages.

Eligibility:

For persons age 5 and older, based on the presence of a developmental disability. Under age 5, a child may have a developmental delay or be at risk for a developmental disability.

Appears before age 22.

Creates a substantial disability which results in decreased general intellectual and adaptive functioning.

Can be the result of mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or other neurological conditions.

Services: Offered through organizations designated as CCBs and service agencies throughout the state:

Children’s Services

- Early intervention services
- Family support services
- Case management
- Transportation
- Children’s extensive services

Adult Services

- Case management
- Vocational and community day services
- Individual and group residential services
- Supported Living Services
- Supported employment services
- Transportation

Application process and timeline: Eligibility must be determined. Waiting lists for services can be very long. Individuals can be added to the wait list at the age of 14 for services which start at 18 or later.

Local Agency Information:

Organization _____
Contact _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (DVR)

Address:

Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
2211 W. Evans
Denver, CO 80223
(303) 866-4150

Purpose:

To assist individuals who have a physical and/or mental disability in attaining a level of functioning that will enable them to enter, reenter or maintain employment and enhance skills for living independently.

Eligibility:

Presence of a physical or mental impairment which creates a substantial impediment to employment and that the individual needs vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain gainful employment. An individual is presumed to be able to benefit in terms of employment unless clear convincing evidence demonstrates that he or she cannot attain an employment outcome.

Application process and timeline:

Eligibility must be determined within 60 days after referral unless exceptional unforeseen circumstances require additional time. Services are time limited. Referral should be made during the student’s last year of school so that eligibility can be determined and a plan developed. Before the student leaves school, apply at your nearest Vocational Rehabilitation Office. Call to schedule an appointment with a counselor. Bring any and all medical and employment history information.

Order of selection:

When there are not sufficient funds to provide services to all eligible individuals, they will be provided services in a priority order based on the severity of their disabilities. All eligible individuals with the most severe disabilities will be served before individuals with severe disabilities, and all individuals with severe disabilities will be served before individuals whose disabilities are not severe.

- Assessments and evaluation will determine eligibility, nature and scope of services needed, and the order of selection priority classification, when applicable.
- Individuals who have begun to receive services after eligibility will continue to get services, regardless of the severity of their disabilities.
- All applicants shall receive services necessary to establish eligibility.

Services: Services are based on the functional limitations identified during the preliminary and comprehensive assessments to determine eligibility and vocational rehabilitation needs. Services can include:

- Evaluation and diagnostic services
- Vocational counseling and guidance services
- Rehabilitation technology
- Other supports necessary to obtain and maintain employment
- Job Placement
- On-the-job training
- Independent living services
- Referral services

Local Agency Information:

Organization _____
Contact _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES
INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES**

Address:

Colorado Department of Social Services
1575 Sherman Street, 2nd Floor
Denver, Colorado 80203
(303) 866-4706

Purpose:

State program providing independent living preparation through county service coordinators to youth who are preparing to emancipate from foster care services. This program is not specific to youth with disabilities. However, many of the youth in foster care are receiving special education services and efforts should be made to coordinate services with their case manager.

Eligibility:

Youth aged 16 and older in the custody of county Departments of Social Services. Youth must be in out-of-home placement at the time of referral, but may continue with the program once out of placement in independent living.

Services:

- Individualized comprehensive assessment
- Group and individual skill training
- Training in job seeking/job development
- Assistance with housing options
- Training for caseworkers and care providers
- Coordination with other agencies serving youth

Application process and Timeline:

Referral is made through the student's social services case coordinator. For students living in a group home or foster home, contact the student's case manager to coordinate transition services.

Local Agency Information:

Organization _____

Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM (CCCS) & SERVICES FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Address:

Colorado Community College System (CCCS)
1391 N. Speer Blvd., Suite 600
Denver, CO 80204-2554
(303) 620-4000

Purpose:

State agency that is responsible for secondary and post-secondary career education. Services and support provided at secondary and post-secondary levels assist persons with disabilities to select and succeed in these career training programs. Each community college and vocational school has a special populations or career disability services coordinator on staff.

Eligibility:

Person is or will be enrolled in approved career education program, secondary (high school), or post secondary (after graduation).

Is a member of a special population including:

- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals who are disadvantaged (economically or academically)
- Individuals in programs that are not traditional for their gender
- Limited English Proficient Students
- Incarcerated offenders

Services:

- Vocational assessment
- Career development and training
- Career counseling
- Curriculum and program modification
- Transitional counseling

Application process and timeline:

- Contact special populations or career disability services coordinator at the school of your choice and arrange for academic and vocational assessment prior to enrollment
- Select program matching interests and abilities based on assessment
- Develop plan for support and accommodations with special populations coordinator and instructor

**COLORADO DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH &
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS**

Address:

Colorado Division of Mental Health
3520 W. Oxford Avenue
Denver, CO 80236
(303) 866-7400 (303) 866-7471 TDD

Purpose:

State agency serving persons with mental health needs through Community Mental Health Centers [CMHCs], specialty clinics, Mental Health Assessment and Service Agencies [MHASAs] and two State Institutes in Pueblo and Ft. Logan.

Eligibility:

Presence of major psychiatric diagnosis, chronic mental illness or psychiatric emergency. Services are provided to persons who are either Medicaid eligible or who are without adequate health insurance.

Services:

- Inpatient hospital services
- Crisis and emergency services
- Therapy services
- Medication and prescription monitoring
- Case management including planning and referral
- Consultation and education
- Vocational services for adults
- Day treatment or residential support services for children and adolescents.

The service needs of youth who are seriously emotionally disturbed and their families can be extensive. The Division of Mental Health believes that services are best provided within the community. This belief is best demonstrated through the establishment of youth and family centered services requiring the integrated effort of community agencies as a means of providing quality care and treatment for these individuals. State funding is limited so eligibility for services is prioritized.

Application process and timeline:

Contact local community mental health center. Agencies serve persons of all ages, based on need.

Local Agency Information:

Organization _____

Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

COLORADO DIVISION OF YOUTH CORRECTIONS

Address:

Division of Youth Corrections
4255 S. Knox Ct.
Denver, CO 80236
(303) 866-7345 (303) 866-7338 TDD-TTY

Purpose:

State agency that administers a statewide continuum of services and programs to assess, treat and control youths, aged 10 to 21, placed in its care for delinquent behavior.

Eligibility:

Clients come to the agency through law enforcement and the courts, in accordance with the Colorado Children's Code. DYS programs serve detained and committed youths. These are youths who have been adjudicated delinquent by the juvenile courts for committing offenses which would be considered crimes if committed by adults. If "committed" by the courts, youths are served in DYS institutions or community-based programs. If "sentenced" by the courts (or awaiting court action), youth are served in secure detention centers or in less restrictive settings.

Services:

- Assessment
- Orientation
- Client Management
- Offense-specific Treatment
- Social Development
- Drug/Alcohol Prevention, Intervention, Treatment
- Psychological, Psychiatric Services
- Academic and Vocational Education
- Recreation
- Medical and Dental Care
- Community Reentry
- Parole Services
- Individual, Group and Family Counseling

Academic and vocational courses are offered the entire year. Individualized Education Program's (IEP) are written for each youth within 30 days of placement. All youth without a diploma or GED are required to participate in a school program during their entire residency.

Application and timelines:

Juvenile offenders are committed to the agency for periods of time determined by law.

Local Agency Information:

Organization _____

Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Address:

4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246
(303) 692-2000

Purpose:

State agency responsible for protecting and improving the health and environment of the people in Colorado. Services are provided through local health departments and county nursing service agencies.

Eligibility:

Varies with each program. Eligibility is not always based on economic need. Contact local provider for more exact information and requirements.

Services:

- Alcohol and Drug Abuse programs for prevention and intervention.
- Communicable Disease control by immunizations and disease surveillance and investigation programs
- Family Planning Programs
- Prenatal Programs
- Adolescent Health Programs
- Handicapped Children's Program/Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Maternal Child Health Refugee Services
- Child Health and Well Child Care
- Genetics program including screening
- Women, Infants and Children Nutritional services
- Child and Adult Care Food Programs
- Migrant Health Program
- Diabetes Control Program
- Cardiovascular Disease Control Program
- Cancer Control Program

Application and timelines:

Not all programs are available in the individual local areas. Contact the local provider for availability access and timelines.

Some community health services are provided in school-based clinics. Clinics may be available to families and community members as well as students.

Local Agency Information:

Organization _____

Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & EMPLOYMENT
& ONE-STOP WORKFORCE CENTERS**

Address:

1515 Arapahoe Street
Denver, CO 80202-2117
(303) 620-4700

Purpose:

Provide a range of services to assist clients to become gainfully employed. Services are provided through local Workforce Centers located in communities throughout the state.

Eligibility:

Workforce Centers offer services to both job seekers and employers. Core employment and training services are free of charge; however, some programs housed at the Workforce Centers may have economic guidelines for eligibility. Although there are no programs that specifically address the employment needs of persons with disabilities, every effort has been made to ensure that all offices and services are fully accessible.

Services:

Services provided will vary from location to location, but typically the services offered will include the following:

- Work registration
- Job referrals
- Job data banks
- Vocational assessment
- Job search workshops
- Career guidance and counseling
- Interviewing and networking skills
- Resume writing
- Youth employment programs
- Labor market information
- Employer tax credits
- Referral to other service providers for economic and disability related employment supports such as Vocational Rehabilitation, child-care, transportation, etc.

Application and timelines:

Apply at your nearest Workforce Center. Application for services can occur at any time that a person is seeking employment opportunities

Local Agency Information:

Organization _____

Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS (ILC)

Address:

2211 W. Evans
Denver, CO 80223
(303) 866-4150

Purpose:

Independent Living Centers, ILC's, offer a wide range of services designed to assist people with significant disabilities to live as independently as possible and to participate in their community.

Eligibility:

Any individual with a significant disability (physical, mental, cognitive or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more of the individual's major life activities) is eligible for Independent Living Services. Documentation of a significant disability is required for eligibility.

Services:

Services available may vary from center to center and there may be a small fee for some services. Core services consist of information and referral, independent living skills training, peer counseling, and advocacy. Other services offered may include:

- Counseling services
- Rehabilitation technology
- Mobility training
- Recreation opportunities
- Accessible transportation and other support services
- Services related to finding and securing appropriate housing
- Services related to community group living
- Referral to other service providers for economic and disability related supports

Application and timelines:

Application is made at the nearest ILC in your area. If you need help locating the center nearest to you, contact the State Office of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at the number listed above, or your local DVR office.

Local Agency Information:

Organization _____

Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM DISABILITY SERVICES

Address:

Each community college, four-year college and university will have an Office of Disability Services. Most schools now have web pages with basic information. *Colorado Options: A Handbook of Post-Secondary Education Services for Students with Disabilities* provides information about Colorado schools, including information about accessing services and how to select a college. It is available on the CDE website at www.cde.state.co.us.

Purpose:

Disability services providers at each community college, four-year college and university assist students with disabilities to select courses and obtain the supports necessary to succeed in the post-secondary education setting.

Eligibility:

In order to receive reasonable accommodations at the post-secondary level, a student must contact the Office of Disability Services and provide appropriate documentation that will verify the existence of a disability and support the request for services. The type of documentation required may vary by school and by disability. An IEP alone is not sufficient documentation. Adult education and post-secondary education programs, which receive federal funds, are under the obligations of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The special education services and protections that a student receives under IDEA in high school end when a student either graduates or ages out at the age of 21 and do not carry over into post-secondary education programs.

Services:

Services available and level of support will vary from school to school and, there may be an additional fee for services. Some schools offer specific programs for students with learning disabilities. Typical services offered may include:

- Comprehensive assessment
- Career and vocational counseling
- Individual and/or small group support
- Test accommodations
- Note taking assistance and/or readers
- Computer adaptations
- Materials in alternative formats
- Use of specialized equipment such as enlargers or amplification devices
- Assistance working with professors to obtain necessary accommodations
- Self-advocacy training and mentoring
- Basic skills courses including study skills
- Sign language interpretation for classroom and labs

Application and timelines:

For further information, contact your high school guidance counselor, special education teacher, or the post-secondary school you are interested in. Begin the search process as early as possible, at least 6 months in advance of classes.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Address:

(For SSI Benefits)
1845 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203
1-800-772-1213

Purpose of SSI (Supplemental Security Income):

Provides supplemental income to persons with significant disabilities who are not working or are unable to generate an adequate income through employment.

Each eligible person is entitled to receive monthly checks based on current federal payment schedules. If a person is determined eligible for SSI/SSDI, then he/she is usually eligible for other programs such as Food Stamps or Medicaid. However, you may have to apply for each program separately.

Eligibility:

For (SSI) Supplemental Security Income
Must meet income and/or resource criteria

Under 18:

A child is considered eligible for SSI when a child's functional limitations as a result of a physical or mental disability:

- are such that the child cannot engage in age appropriate behavior or the same activities that other children of similar age normally engage in; and
- are such that if an adult had the same limitations, that adult would be considered disabled.
- eligibility is based on the parent's income and resources.

18 or older.

A physical or mental disability that is expected to keep you from substantial gainful activity for at least 12 months. When a person is 18, his/her own income and resources are taken into consideration, not that of the parents.

Blind:

Vision no better than 20/200 or limited visual field of 20 degrees or less in the better eye with glasses

Services:

Supplemental income
Medical benefits through Medicaid
Assistance with filing for services
Plan for Achieving Self Support program (PASS)

Application process and timeline:

Call 1-800-772-1213 for information or to make an appointment. Apply for SSI for your disabled child at any age. Eligibility will be based on the parent's assets and income. If your child was denied due to your income and resources, reapply shortly before your son or daughter's 18th birthday. When a person is 18, his/her own income and resources are taken into consideration, not that of the parents. The application process can take up to a year. It is not uncommon to be turned down the first time. Ask for assistance to re-apply. You can obtain disability specific information on the SSA website at www.ssa.gov/work.

Local Agency Information:

Organization _____

Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SCHOOL TO WORK ALLIANCE PROGRAM – SWAP

Address:

2211 W. Evans
Denver, CO 80223
(303) 866-4150

Purpose:

The School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP) is a collaborative initiative between the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and local school districts, which is supported by the Colorado Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to provide successful employment outcomes and increased community linkages for DVR eligible youth who have mild to moderate needs in employment. The program currently involves approximately 110 school districts that cluster into 28 SWAP sites.

Eligibility:

SWAP is an optional program available to youth who:

- Are between the ages of 16 and 25;
- Are in school (served by 504, special education, or at risk of dropping out)
- Are out of school (graduates, drop-outs, under or unemployed);
- Are eligible for DVR services; and
- Need short-term support to become competitively employed.

Services:

Clients being served through SWAP are eligible for services typically provided through DVR. Services provided will vary based on the needs of the individual and may include:

- Vocational assessment
- Career exploration
- Career development
- Employment related instruction
- Job development
- Job placement
- Case management
- One year of follow-up services after successful employment
- Referral to other service providers for economic and disability related employment supports such as housing, child-care, transportation, etc.

Application and timelines:

Application is made through your local DVR office. Referral may be made through a DVR counselor or through a District or BOCES SWAP Coordinator. Contact your Special Education Director or the DVR office nearest to you for information.

Local Agency Information:

Organization _____

Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES UNIT, & LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Address:

Colorado Department of Education
201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-6694

Purpose:

The state agency responsible for monitoring the identification and the provision of services for those persons between the ages of three through twenty-one who are unable to receive reasonable benefit from ordinary education in the public schools without additional support because of a disability.

Eligibility:

Eligibility for services at the local school level is determined by a multidisciplinary assessment in five functioning areas. The staffing team determines if a child has a disability impacting his/her ability to receive benefit from ordinary education without support.

Disability categories include:

- physical
- vision
- hearing
- speech disorders (communication)
- perceptual communicative disorder
- significant identifiable emotional disorder
- significantly limited intellectual capacity
- multiple
- early childhood

Services:

Services are based on individual student need and are outlined and prescribed in the IEP (Individualized Educational Program). Guaranteeing a free appropriate public education, services may include instruction and accommodation in the areas of adjusted academics, developmental/compensatory training and life skills.

Application and timelines:

Any person may refer a school age (3-21) individual with a suspected disability to the local school. A multidisciplinary assessment is conducted in a timely fashion to determine eligibility for services.

Local Agency Information:

Organization _____

Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____