

Where to Turn, What to Do

[Part Two of Two for Ages 16-22]

Good information is the key to preparing for the many transitions in your child's life. Informing Families Building Trust is committed to providing you with trusted, reliable information to help you plan for, and successfully move through, each milestone.

If you have a son or daughter between ages 16-22, the idea of life after high school may feel overwhelming; however, there are things you can do right now, while your child is still in high school, that will make the transition to adulthood go more smoothly.

Planning for the Future

A special needs trust shelters and protects assets that would otherwise disqualify your child for government benefits, such as SSI and Medicaid. Through the DD Life Opportunities Trust (LOT), you can invest in the future and save for services that may not be provided by the government. To enroll in LOT, you do not need to hire an attorney or pay high enrollment fees, and the minimum investment is only \$25 per month.



Guardianship

Many people assume that guardianship is the best way to help adults with developmental disabilities make important decisions. Often, however, guardianship is not even necessary. In fact, Washington state's guardianship law requires considering alternatives first.



Housing

The Housing Choice Voucher Program, also known as Section 8, is a federally-funded program that provides rental subsidies to low-income families, seniors and persons with disabilities. The voucher follows you wherever you choose to rent in the area, as long as the landlord accepts Section 8 assistance. Another option is Project-Based housing for seniors, people with disabilities and low-income families, which is not as flexible as the voucher program.



Learn More

Life Opportunities Trust

Visit: www.ddlot.org for more information about the Life Opportunities Trust.

Watch: "Washington State Developmental Disabilities Trust" video series @ www.informingfamilies.org

Guardianship

Call: Disability Rights Washington @ 1-800-562-2702;
1-800-905-0209 (TTY)

Visit: www.washingtonlawhelp.org

Watch: "Guardianship and Alternatives" video series: @ www.informingfamilies.org

Housing

Call: Your local Public Housing Agency @ 1-877-741-3281

Visit: www.hud.gov

Watch: "The How's of Housing" video series @ www.informingfamilies.org