

Benefits Counseling

Getting a job does not cancel other benefit options including SSI, SSDI, Medicaid or others. There are many work incentive programs to enhance earning potential for those on benefits. A benefits counselor is a necessary addition to an employment team and is available through DVR or WIPA.



Kristen & Graham Kaiser, Dirt Coffee

Learn More

A Brighter Future: Family & Youth tracks - COEF
My Colorado Journey
CDE Transition Toolkit

Resources

CODB101.org
employmentfirstcolorado.org
mycoloradojourney.com
cde.state.co.us/cdesped/
transition_tk
DVR.colorado.gov

**Competitive
Integrated
Employment provides
financial stability,
social opportunities,
connects people to
their community, and
gives them purpose.**



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**Employment is a social
determinant of health, builds
confidence and increases
independence.**

“This project was supported, in part, by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Grant T73MC11044 and by the Administration on for Community Living under the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCDEDD) Grant 90DDUC0014 of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.”

Starting the Employment Journey

*Anyone who wants to work CAN
work regardless of the level of
disability!*



Elevate@elevatebeer

**Understanding the
Transition from School
to Work!
The Place to Start and
the Pathway to Success.**

Start Early

Pre -Employment starts in the schools. Children should start exploring what want to do when they graduate early in their school years.

Around the beginning of high school (15 years old) their IEP turns into a Transition IEP and the after high school plan is a part of their IEP, goals, and they can work on Pre-Employment skills in school.

DVR is the Place to Start

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) can be started in the school by your case manager or by the parent.

*Parents can log on to **DVR.colorado.gov**.

*DVR Interest and Referral form has access to two videos with more information and the form to fill out to begin the process.

*Eligibility is determined by supporting paperwork including IEP or 504 documents, medical or psychological evaluations, and disability benefits paperwork if applicable.

*The level of support is determined by the goal of the youth as well as the barriers to getting and keeping a job.

The Pathway to Begin

*Youth begin in school and case managers have resources to help explore options.

*Colorado Employment First (COEF) partners with DVR and has training and mentoring for parents and youth.

*DVR/SWAP works with youth starting at 14 in schools until they get a job.

The DVR Process and Timeline

Timeline	Function
Referral for Service (Anytime)	Started by Case Manager or Parents Basic Questions
Intake-1st Appt (30 Days from Referral)	Application Process Bring forms IEP, Medical
Eligibility Determination (Up to 60 Days from Intake)	Determines Eligibility and Level of Support
Plan for Employment (Up to 90 days from Eligibility)	Identify and determine the plan for employment. Goals, Services/Supports, and Timeline
Implementing and Receiving Services	Individual receives and participates in identified services toward obtaining employment goal.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

*School/parents can contact DVR/SWAP.
*Five Categories: Job Exploration, Work Based Learning, Post Secondary Ed., Workplace Readiness and Self Advocacy

School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP)

*A contractor of DVR that works in schools.
*Focused on Mild to Moderate needs.
*Works to set up the prelim process for applying, interviewing, job readiness.
*Fill a job opening that already exists. Support with training.
*Supported until stable in the job.

Supported Employment (DVR)

*Ongoing support for significant support needs in a traditional job.
*Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) with full inclusion.
*Persons centered plan that focuses on strengths and interests.
*Includes job coaching and modifications if needed.
*Can start with DVR but requires additional funding or waiver for long term support.

Customized Employment (DVR)

*Determines strengths a job can be formed around.
*Longer development process that utilizes discovery and customization.
*Works well if traditional job placement isn't successful due to the level of supports needed.
*Can start with DVR but requires additional funding or wavier for long term support.