OUR MISSION

The Village of Progress, Inc., works with Ogle County adults with developmental disabilities to challenge them to reach their potential at work and in the community. Our vision is that all Ogle County Adults with developmental disabilities feel valued and respected.

OUR PURPOSE

The Village of Progress, Inc., believes that all persons should be treated with respect regardless of intellectual or physical disabilities. We believe that interaction with the community, even one person at a time, has value in changing perception about those with developmental disabilities. The Village does this by seeking out entrepreneurial opportunities over government funding.

VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

Box 418
710 South 13th Street
Oregon, IL 61061

Phone 815-732-2126
Fax 815-732-3228

NAVIGATING DISABILITY SERVICES

What Every Parent Must Know About Their Child's Transition after Graduation

VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

Parenting a child is already tough enough. But it's even more challenging when your child has a developmental disability.

Now that your child is in their teens, it's time to start thinking about their life after high school.

In Illinois, special education services last until a student turns 22. (Or until the school year ends, whichever is later.)

However, even though your child is in their teens, and 22 seems like an eternity away, now is the time to start planning.

Why? Because in Illinois, the transition from special education to community support is filled with potential delays and pitfalls. Typically, students who've aged out of special education are placed on Illinois' "waiting list." That list includes thousands of other people – all waiting for their turn to receive services.

Until their name is drawn from that waiting list, they will not be eligible for state disabilities funding. And that state funding is necessary to attend community day service programs, receive help from trained personal assistants, obtain job coaching, or move into a group home.

At present, it can take up to 10 years for a person to have their name drawn from that waiting list. In the meantime, they – and their guardians – have virtually no state resources to help them.

But there are a few things you can do now to reduce the wait.

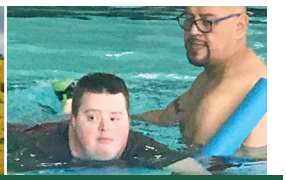
The most important first step is to call Service Inc. (815-339-0740). When you call, let them know that you have a child with developmental disabilities and want to get them registered for funding. Service Inc is a state-authorized agency that interviews people with disabilities and their families. They are the agency that starts the process moving.

Second, use this time in your child's life to explore options for when your child does leave school.

Many opportunities exist that you might not be aware of. These include:

- Community Day Service Agencies, such as Village of Progress, which build vocational and social skills while providing a supportive community during the day.
- Job opportunities. The Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) asseses a person's readiness to work in the community. They can also provide job coaching to help with the transition to a real-world job. RAMP is another agency that helps with job training.

Third, the Village of Progress offers an attendance grant that, in effect, provides community day services to your adult child even though they are still on the State's waiting list. This allows your son or daughter to attend the Village of Progress on a part-time basis free of charge while awaiting funding.



If you'd like to learn more about the Village of Progress

Mark Probasco
mprobasco@villageofprogress.org
815-732-2126