

# Mission

The mission of the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities: Improving LIFE so that individuals with developmental disabilities reach their full potential!

LIFE is an acronym for the Core Values.

**Living LIFE** - I desire to live my life in the same manner as you. This means having the opportunity to choose my home, my relationships, my hobbies, my career, and my beliefs.

**Inclusion** - I am included, accepted, and able to participate in ALL things throughout my community.

**Freedom of choice** - My voice is heard in decisions that affect me. My opinion matters.



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**Getting Ready for Graduation**

A transition timeline for families of the high school years



## School to Adult Life

The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD), Service and Support Specialists (SSA), and Employment Navigators (EN) are available to assist individuals, families, school programs, and support teams in planning and coordinating school to adult life transition services.

### From age 14 and ongoing

- Transition plan in place outlining graduation goals as a part of IEP (Individual Education Program) with focus on Employment First Principles.
- Opportunities to develop vocational skills and explore the type of work that supports the youth's chosen career path.
- Teaching appropriate self-help skills and skills related to their specific needs.
- Multi-agency team collaboration to support long term planning.
- Develop self advocacy skills.
- Assess social skills and provide linkage to community activities to help the youth develop meaningful relationships.
- Gain Understanding of areas of challenge and identify services and tools to support independence.
- Exploring volunteer opportunities.
- Promote hobbies and leisure/recreational activities.
- Ensure youth has effective communication supports.
- Identify mentors or support groups as needed.
- Ongoing assessment of progress to help identify strengths and needs to promote employability skills.

## Transition Timeline

All transitions involve change—adding new expectations, routines, responsibilities—and letting go of others. This timeline will help individuals and families identify where they are and pick a place for action!

- **By Age 14**
- Individual's IEP must involve a transition plan for what to do after high school, including employment. The individual should be involved in this transition plan and attend IEP meetings.
- Focus on inter-agency collaboration—invite your SSA to the IEP meeting. SSA can only attend the IEP meeting if invited.
- Can apply for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) services.
- If not already determined eligible, request intake appointment to assess LCBDD eligibility.
- **By Age 16—steps above and...**
- Team should be exploring paid & volunteer work experiences in the community including summer youth work experience.
- Obtain State of Ohio Identification Card.
- Discuss transportation options.
- Individual's IEP must include measurable post secondary goals and must include means of assessment for transition objectives.
- Re-determination of LCBDD services.
- Notify individual of the rights that will transfer to him/her when they turn 18.

## Transition Timeline cont'd

- **By Age 17—steps above and...**
- Explore need for guardianship and self advocacy strengths.
- If appropriate, begin guardianship proceedings two months before individual turns 18. This is a legal process; a parent is not automatically a legal guardian simply because their child has a disability.
- **By Age 18 through graduation—steps above and...**
- Males MUST register with Selective Service. This can be done by visiting your local post office or online at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov).
- Increase independence with daily living skills and home management skills.
- Plan for where individual will live after graduation.
- Develop and expand social routines; plan to meet social needs after graduation.
- If needed, individual may be able to stay in school until they reach the age of 22.
- If needed, apply for Medicaid and Social Security benefits at age 18. Finalize healthcare plan/insurance coverage. Complete Benefits Analysis. Identify adult medical and mental health care supports as needed.
- Have OOD case manager in place to assist with employment goals.