

Section 15:

Post-Secondary Options

Registered Apprenticeship Programs

<https://www.earnandlearniowa.gov/apprentice>

Post-Secondary Community College 4+ Transition Programs

Des Moines Area Community College – STRIVE Academy

https://www.dmacc.edu/strive/Pages/strive_academy.aspx

Eastern Iowa Community College District – ACCESS Program

<https://www.eicc.edu/future-students/high-school-students/access.aspx>

Indian Hills Community College – Raise Individual Student Expectations (RISE)

<https://www.indianhills.edu/academics/highschool/rise.php>

Iowa Lakes Community College – Student Alternative Vocational Education (SAVE) Program

<https://iowalakes.edu/student-services/special-needs-services/>

Kirkwood Community College – Vocational Individualized Training and Learning Services (VITAL)

<http://www.kirkwood.edu/vital>

Northwestern Iowa Community College – 4+ Program

<https://nwicc.edu/high-school/four-plus/>

Southeastern Community College – Secondary Transitional Education Program (STEP)

<https://www.scciowa.edu/highschool/succres/step.aspx>

Western Iowa Tech – Project SUCCESS

<https://www2.witcc.edu/project-success/>

Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) Programs

UI REACH at The University of Iowa

UI REACH (Realizing Educational and Career Hopes) is a comprehensive transition program for students aged 18-25 years old with intellectual, cognitive, and learning disabilities. UI REACH offers an integrated college experience in a caring and structured environment.

Academics, career and transition, and student life are areas of focus and upon completion students receive a two, three, or four-year certificate.

Phone: 319-335-3500

Website: <https://education.uiowa.edu/reach>

Email: ask-education@uiowa.edu

Northwestern NEXT

NEXT is a two-year program at Northwestern College in Orange City for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities offering specialized classes in life skills, audit up to 9 credits of preapproved courses from the college catalog and participation in campus activities, social events, and residence hall experiences with same-aged peers.

The mission of the Northwestern NEXT program is to provide a personalized inclusive college experience for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a supportive Christian environment.

CONTACT:

- John Menning: 712-707-7454 · john.menning@nwcsiowa.edu
- Sherry Lang: 712-707-7456 · herry.lang@nwcsiowa.edu
- Julia Zora: julia.zora@nwcsiowa.edu
- Website: <https://www.nwcsiowa.edu/next>

Day Habilitation (Day Hab)

Day Habilitation for Adults with Chronic Mental Illness 

[Iowa Compass resources: Day Hab for people with Chronic Mental Illness](#)

Development Disabilities Day Habilitation Programs 

[Iowa Compass resources - Day Hab Programs for people with Developmental Disabilities](#)

The Arc of East Central Iowa's Day Habilitation Program is a year-round program Monday - Friday dedicated to supporting individuals diagnosed with intellectual disabilities to explore and engage in the community safely with the assistance of support staff. Areas of focus for services include behavior management, community integration, daily living activities, intellectual and cognitive functioning, language and communication, mobility development and improvement, physical and emotional support, responsibility and self-direction, self-advocacy, and socialization. For a detailed list of information on Day Habilitation Services through The Arc visit <https://arceci.org/programs-services/day-habilitation>.

Employment Support

[Iowa Compass Employment Resources](#) 

List of organizations providing employment services throughout the community. For additional information on other programs not listed below in our area, utilize the hyperlink above or contact your case manager.

The Arc of East Central Iowa's Employment Support aids individuals in finding and retaining fulfilling employment with help from a team of professionals to assist in creating and attaining an individual's goal of thriving in the workplace. Employment services include job coaching, Project SEARCH, and employment support.

For a detailed list of information on Employment Support services through The Arc visit <https://arceci.org/programs-services/employment-support>.

Job Coaching is a program designed to focus on providing an individual with support on their employment journey. Individuals will receive dedicated support from a job coach who will assist them in building skills for a specific job, creating and developing successful work habits, and socialization and communication skills. The job coach will support the individual as they adjust to their new job and will provide any assistance needed to maintain employment and thrive in their employment opportunity.

Project SEARCH is provided by The Arc of East Central Iowa in partnership with UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Hospital and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Project SEARCH helps individuals build skills to succeed on the job by providing nine months of classroom instruction and workplace internships at UnityPoint Hospital in Cedar Rapids Iowa. Interns will learn and practice real-world skills, increase independence, confidence, and self-esteem, make professional

relationships and friendships, receive individualized coaching and feedback every day, search for and apply for secure employment in non-traditional jobs for people diagnosed with a disability. To be considered for Project SEARCH an individual must be between the ages of 18 to 30, have a developmental or intellectual disability, and have graduated from high school or have a GED.

Supported Employment is a program to assist individuals in gaining employment opportunities matching their goals and preferences by focusing on an individual's strengths, choosing the right job for them, and maintaining employment in an integrated community employment setting. The program includes assessment services to gather information about the individual's interests, skills, and preferences for a job, job shadowing in different workplace settings, short paid workplace assessments to determine if the job is a good fit for employee and employer, optional work adjustment training to identify and overcome barriers, and transportation training to learn public transportation to get to and from work independently.

ADA and Employment Protection

Title I of the ADA prohibits private employers, state and local governments, employment agencies, labor unions, or employers with 15 or more employees from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities. This includes advancement opportunities, application process, compensation, hiring & firing, layoff & leave, recruitment, tenure, training, and any privileges given to non-disabled employees.

A qualified individual would include someone who could complete the skills of the position, has experience, education, or other requirements necessary for the position, and can perform essential job functions with or without reasonable accommodations. The ADA requires covered employers to provide reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities.

Accommodation is any modification to the job or work environment to help an employee with a disability perform their job or enjoy the same benefits and privileges of employment as another employee without a disability. Some examples of modifications include additional training, modifying an employee work schedule, modification to the employee's workstation, etc. If you are currently employed and feel accommodation is needed in your work environment, contact your human resource department for further steps. For more information on Title I visit <https://www.gpadacenter.org/employers>.