

## Other Resources

### Advocacy and Guardianship Information:

The Arc of Whatcom County  
2602 McLeod Road, Bellingham WA  
(360) 715-0170

[www.arcwhatcom.org](http://www.arcwhatcom.org)

### Transportation:

Whatcom Transportation Authority  
(360) 676-7433  
(360) 733-1144 (Specialized  
Transportation Eligibility)

[www.ridewta.com](http://www.ridewta.com)

- √Get help in getting around
- √Call to see if you qualify for half price bus passes

### Food and Other Assistance:

Department of Social and Health Services  
(DSHS): Community Services Office  
4101 Meridian, Bellingham, WA  
1 (877) 501-2233.

1 (800) 209-5446 -TTY

[www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-services-offices/services-we-offer](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-services-offices/services-we-offer)

√Programs are based on income

### Housing:

Housing Authority  
208 Unity St., Bellingham, WA  
(360) 676-6887

Email: [housing@bwcha.org](mailto:housing@bwcha.org)

√Call to see about openings on wait list

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## Important Dates

### By Age 16

- ☑ Get a picture ID from the Department of Licensing (after 18, it's more difficult.)
- ☑ Apply to become a client of the Developmental Disabilities Administration

### Age 17

- ☑ Consider guardianship, if needed.
- ☑ Discuss your school district's transition program at the IEP meeting.

### Age 18 *Adulthood!*

- ☑ Can reapply for Social Security as an adult (parent income is no longer counted)
- ☑ Apply for Medicaid Personal Care funding with DDA if help with bathing, grooming, dressing, laundry, etc. is needed.

### Age 20

- ☑ Apply for DVR services no later than the beginning of your final year of school.

### Age 21

- ☑ Graduate from high school transition program with connections and services in place to:
  - ☐ Get a job (or keep your existing job)
  - ☐ Continue your education
  - ☐ Build a meaningful life and daily routine after school ends
  - ☐ Live as independently as possible

For more information contact  
The Whatcom County Health Dept.  
Developmental Disabilities Program  
360-778-6047

## High School Transition for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Get connected and  
have a plan....



Before you leave  
high school



**Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)**

119 N. Commercial Ste. 700  
Bellingham, WA  
(360) 714-5000  
(360) 714-5002 TTY  
[www.dshs.wa.gov/ddd](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ddd)

**Social Security Administration (SSA)**

710 Alabama St.  
Bellingham, WA  
(866) 256-6906  
(360) 325-0778 TTY  
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)**

4101 Meridian  
Bellingham, WA  
(360) 714-4136  
(360) 714-4009 TTY  
[www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr)

**School District Transition Program**

Contact the Special Education Director in your district:

- Can apply at any age
- Must have records which show disability began before age 18
- DDA Case Managers can help refer to most services and supports
- Determines level / need for personal care services
- Assists with supports to live with others or by yourself
- Referrals for long-term job coaching and community support after school has ended.

- Can apply at any age
- Must have records that show that disability will substantially impact your ability to work
- May provide supplemental income based on need and disability
- Provides medical insurance through Medicaid and Medicare
- Provides incentives for individuals to work without losing Medicaid eligibility

- Can apply when old enough to work
- Help getting and keeping a job
- Learn about skills, interests and abilities
- Information about devices used to help with work
- Short term job coaching and support on the job
- Skill training for work
- Help in understanding how work will affect social security benefits

- Bellingham. . . . .(360) 676-6458  
Blaine. . . . . (360) 332-0722  
Ferndale. . . . .(360) 383-9221  
Lummi. . . . .(360) 758-4319  
Lynden. . . . . (360) 354-2893  
Meridian. . . . .(360) 318-2153  
Mt. Baker. . . . (360) 383-2012  
Nooksack. . . . (360) 988-4754  
Educational Service District (ESD) 189.....(360) 299-4000
- Preparing for college
  - Preparing for work
  - Learning skills for living independently



**Tip:**

If you help your adult son or daughter with bathing, grooming, dressing, laundry etc. consider applying for Medicaid Personal Care when they turn 18. **1-800-567-5582** to request services.



**Tip:**

Eligibility requirements change at age 18. Consider reapplying if turned down at an earlier age.



**Tip:**

Apply no later than the beginning of your final year of school. Services are short-term.



**Tip:**

Funding for many adult services do not start until 21. Staying in school until 21 can help prevent a gap in services.