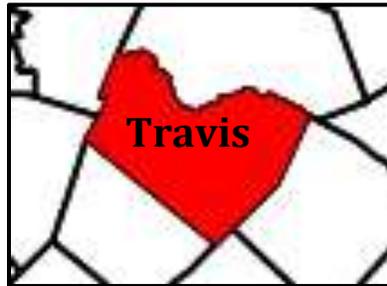


Travis County Disability Resource Guide 2013:

Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
Early Childhood Intervention Services
Mobility Services
Vision Services



Prepared by the
Community Advancement Network (CAN) in partnership with the
University of Texas in Austin School of Social Work.

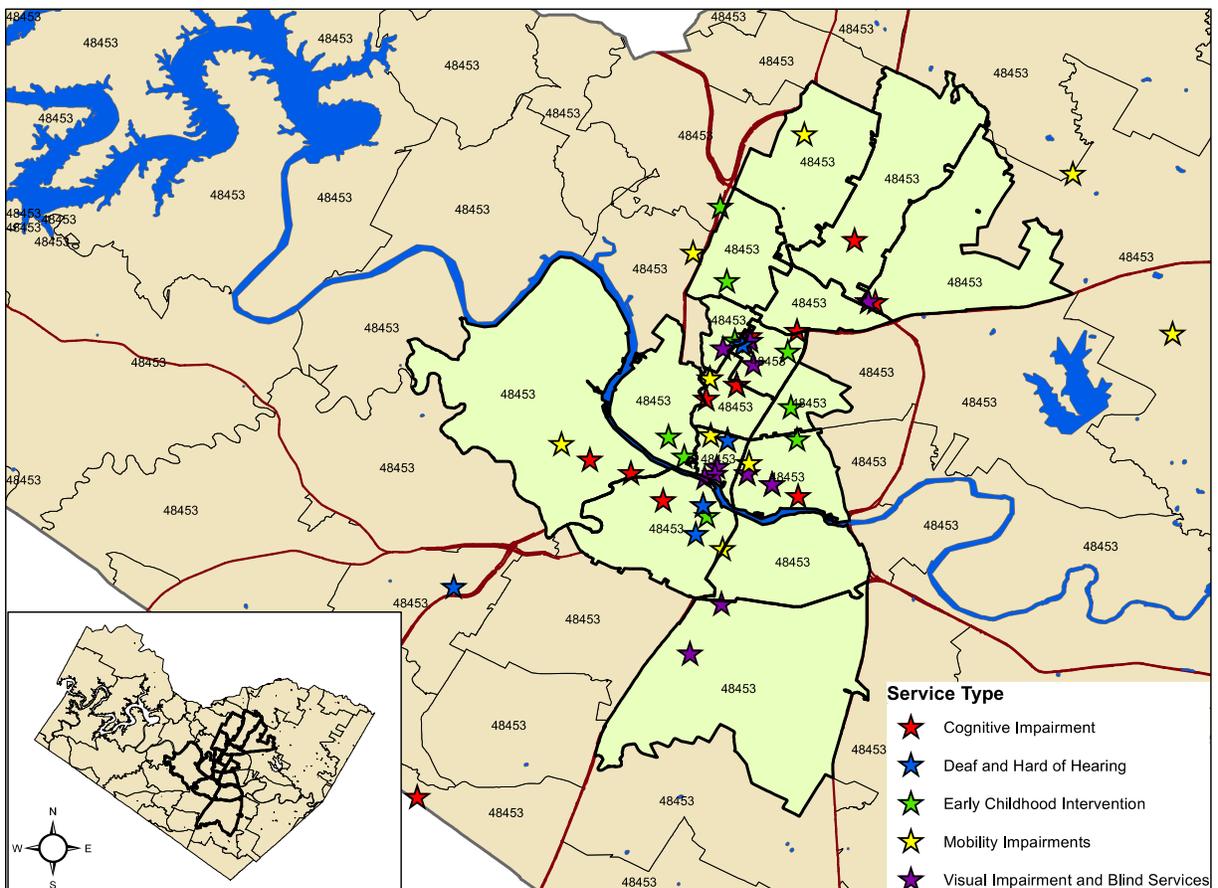


Introduction

This resource guide was prepared by the Community Action Network (CAN) in partnership with the University of Texas in Austin School of Social Work. A group Social Work graduate students from a course, Dynamics of Organizations and Communities, with the supervision of their professor, Dr. Calvin Streeter, worked with CAN to complete the resource guide. These students are: Louise Bonneau, Jennifer Gordon, Ann Roth, and Ted Wilson. The purpose of the resource guide is to provide a point-in-time reference of what types of services, how many service providers, and where service providers are located in Travis County. The focus of the research was over five categories of disability: Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services (shown as Cognitive Impairments on the map below), Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Early Childhood Intervention Services, Mobility Services, and Vision Services. There are more categories of disabilities to be researched in Travis County in order to more fully understand the scope of disability services in the county.

The resource guide is divided in sections separated by type of disability. With each section, a list of service providers is provided in alphabetical order. Within each service provider, specific information is provided. Each service begins with its name, address, phone number, fax number when applicable, website when applicable, and e-mail when applicable. After the contact information, a general description of the organization is provided. Then any programs related to the type of disability of the section are described. When applicable, a description and eligibility requirements are provided with each program. The information for that service provided is complete once all of the applicable programs are described, and the next service provider in the section is described using the same format.

Reference Map Showing the Location of Disability Services in Travis County by Service Type



Travis County Disability Resource Guide 2013

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Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services

Arc of the Capital Area, The

2818 San Gabriel St. Austin, Texas 78705

(512) 476-7044 Main

(512) 476-9054

www.arcofthecapitalarea.org

information@arcofthecapitalarea.org

The Arc of the Capital Area, a non-profit organization, is committed to promoting independence and choice by providing individualized services to adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc of the Capital Area is the regional office of The Arc of Texas.

Program: Adult Case Management Services

Description: Adult Case Management Services provides free, on-going services for adults with a developmental disability diagnosis residing in Travis County, and their families and caregivers. Case Management services include: Resource Development, Advocacy, Person-Centered Planning, Home Monitoring, Medical Maintenance, Money Management, Daily Living and Basic Needs services, social and recreational events.

Eligibility: Serves adults with a developmental disability diagnosis, such as mental retardation, Down syndrome, Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), speech delays, ADD/ADHD, and Cerebral Palsy. Must be 18 years and older, be out of school, and have completed intake. Program does have a waiting list.

Program: Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) Program

Description: CLASS provides home and community based services to people with related conditions as a cost-effective alternative to placement in an intermediate care facility for persons with an intellectual developmental disability or a related condition. A related condition is a disability, other than mental retardation, that originated before age 22 and that affects the ability to function in a daily life. Services include: Case Management, adaptive aids, minor house modifications, nursing services, and prevocational.

Eligibility: Must have a related condition listed on the approved Diagnostic Codes for Persons with Related Conditions and an adaptive behavior level of 2, 3 or 4; be eligible for Medicaid; no age limit for enrollment; reside in a CLASS catchment area; require habilitation attendant/habilitation training and case management services.

Program: Family Support Cooperative

Description: Provides education and support groups for parents and siblings of children who have disabilities. Groups meet once a month on the second Tuesday of each month, during the school year, from 6:30 pm -8:30 pm. These meetings are held at Rosedale School for two of the meetings (located at 2117 W. 49th St. Austin, TX 78705) and one around town meeting. Free Pizza and Childcare provided. A translator is available at each meeting for Spanish speakers. Program is a collaboration of The Arc of the Capital Area, Austin Independent School District, and Austin Travis County Integral Care.

Eligibility: Open to parents of children with any type of disability. There are no fees or waiting lists associated with program. Call for more information.

Program: Arc of the Arts

Description: Arc of the Arts program is one of the only programs in Central Texas to provide art classes to people with developmental disabilities by pairing them with

volunteer artists. The project provides a space where the artist's work can be created and displayed in a socially inclusive setting that is conducive to learning job skills and increasing self-esteem through art. The program gives clients an opportunity to socialize and participate in the community while creating music and different visual art projects that provide therapeutic benefits.

Eligibility: Must have an Intellectual or Development Disability and must be over the age of 14. Must be able to concentrate on task at hand for a minimum of half an hour. Must be in control of personal hygiene. Must be in control of emotions and behaviors. There is an application (must be completed in its entirety) and interview process, as well as a fee associated with this program. The fee is \$25.00/day, which is also subject to change.

Arcil, Inc

825 E. Rundberg Ln. Suite E-6 Austin, Texas 78753

(512) 832-6349 Main

(800) 414-6327 Toll-free

(512) 832-1869 Fax

www.arcil.com

arcil@arcil.com

Arcil, Inc. provides assistance to adults and children with all types of disabilities to achieve their individual independent living goals. Provides information and referrals for housing, education, attendant assistant services, and other community resources for people with disabilities. Other services include independent living skills training, advocacy, peer support, and recreational activities. Offers explanations of disability-related legislation and regulations and provides information about the eligibility process for public services and benefits. Provides assistance in completing the application forms for Social Security, and information about the appeal process if claim is denied. Does not provide legal representation. Offers referrals to other services such as housing, education, attendant assistance, and other community resources.

Program: Information and Referral Services

Description: Information and Referral Services provide comprehensive and up to date information on available resources for people with disabilities and assist individuals by providing referrals for: Housing, education, attendant assistance services, and community resources for related services.

Eligibility: Open to anyone with a disability. There is no waiting list or fees associated with the service.

Program: Peer Counseling Services

Description: Peer Counseling Services offer people with disabilities the opportunity to interact with peers sharing knowledge, experiences and related issues such as: friendship, leisure recreation, and family support.

Eligibility: Open to anyone with a disability. There is no waiting list or fees associated with the service.

Program: Individual and Systems Advocacy

Description: Individual and Systems Advocacy program assists individuals learning disability rights and the appeals process; assists in creating and submitting appeals.

Eligibility: Open to anyone with a disability. There is no waiting list or fees associated with the service.

Program: Independent Living Skills Training

Description: Independent Living Skills Training provides opportunities for people with disabilities to gain the skills that empower them to live independently. The following are examples of independent living skills activities: independent living skills training (problem solving, decision making activities), functional life skills training, and social and recreational activities

Eligibility: Open to anyone with a disability. There is no waiting list or fees associated with the service. For more information on available independent living skills training see the transition services department.

Austin-Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC)- Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Services

5225 N. Lamar Blvd. Austin, Texas 78751

(512) 483-5800 Main

(512) 472-4357 Ext. 3 Main: Intake for all ATCIC Services

(512) 703-1395 TTY/TDD

(512) 483-5828 Fax

ATCIC provides Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) services that help individuals and their families choose and access quality and cost-efficient services and supports. Through custom case management and service coordination, ATCIC works to best meet your unique needs and preferences. This is accomplished through an extensive network of private and public agencies in Austin and Travis County. IDD services are available for all Travis County residents.

Intake and Eligibility Determination: IDD services start with an intake appointment, made by calling the 24/7 Crisis Hotline 512-472-HELP (4357). Interviews are conducted at the North Lamar Professional Building, or an alternate convenient location. Psychologists provide a Determination of Mental Retardation (DMR) or diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders for persons seeking services in accordance with state law and DADS. Assessment results lead to referral to other community resources and/or entrance to ATCIC services for eligible persons. Continuity of Services for individuals with developmental disabilities (mental retardation), autism or pervasive developmental disorders who are leaving the state operated facilities is also provided. No eligibility restrictions.

General Revenue (GR) Funded Services:

Program: Community Support

Description: Community Supports are individualized activities that are consistent with the person-directed plan and provided in the person's home and at community locations, such as libraries and stores. Supports include: habilitation and support activities that foster improvement of, or facilitate, the person's ability to perform daily living activities; activities for the person's family that help preserve the family unit and prevent or limit out-of-home placement of the person; transportation for the person between home and his or her community employment site or day habilitation site; and transportation to facilitate the person's employment opportunities and participation in community activities.

Eligibility: Must have mental retardation, which is based: measure of person's IQ; a determination of the person's adaptive behavior level (ABL); and evidence of the disability that originated before the person's 18th birthday; have a pervasive developmental disorder, such as autism; be a nursing facility resident who is eligible for specialized services for mental retardation or a related condition; or be a child eligible for early childhood

intervention services. There is no waiting list for this service, however the client is allocated a set amount of money per month to pay for the range of services offered under General Revenue services. Call ATCIC to enroll in services.

Program: Respite

Description: Respite is either planned or emergency short-term relief provided to the person's unpaid caregiver when the caregiver is temporarily unavailable. Respite is provided by trained staff in the person's home and another location. If enrolled in other services, the person continues to receive those services as needed during the respite period.

Eligibility: Must have mental retardation, which is based: measure of person's IQ; a determination of the person's adaptive behavior level (ABL); and evidence of the disability that originated before the person's 18th birthday; have a pervasive developmental disorder, such as autism; be a nursing facility resident who is eligible for specialized services for mental retardation or a related condition; or be a child eligible for early childhood intervention services. There is no waiting list for this service, however the client is allocated a set amount of money per month to pay for the range of services offered under General Revenue services. Call ATCIC to enroll in services.

Program: Employment Services

Description: *Employment Assistance:* helps people locate paid, individualized, competitive employment in the community, and includes: helping the person identify employment preferences, job skills, and work requirements and conditions; and prospective employers offering employment compatible with the person's identified preferences, skills, and work requirements and conditions.

Supported Employment: Supported employment is provided to a person who has paid, individualized, competitive employment in the community (i.e., a setting that includes non-disabled workers) to help him or her sustain that employment. It includes individualized support services consistent with the person-directed plans, as well as supervision and training.

Vocational Training: Vocational training is a day training service provided to people in industrial enclaves, work crews, sheltered workshops, or affirmative industry settings to help them get a job.

Eligibility: Must have mental retardation, which is based: measure of person's IQ; a determination of the person's adaptive behavior level (ABL); and evidence of the disability that originated before the person's 18th birthday; have a pervasive developmental disorder, such as autism; be a nursing facility resident who is eligible for specialized services for mental retardation or a related condition; or be a child eligible for early childhood intervention services. There is no waiting list for this service, however the client is allocated a set amount of money per month to pay for the range of services offered under General Revenue services. Additionally, the amount of hours an individual works is considered so that SSI or Medicaid benefits are not affected. Call ATCIC to enroll in services.

Program: Home Health Services

Description: *Nursing:* Nursing is provided to people who require treatment and monitoring of health care procedures that are: prescribed by a physician or medical practitioner; or required by standards of professional practice or state law to be performed by licensed nursing personnel.

Behavioral Supports: Behavioral Supports are specialized interventions by professionals to help people increase adaptive behaviors and to replace or modify maladaptive behaviors

that prevent or interfere with their inclusion in home and family life or community life. Supports include: assessing and analyzing assessment findings so that an appropriate behavior support plan can be designed; developing an individualized behavior support plan consistent with the outcomes identified in the person-directed plans; training and consulting with family members or other providers and, as appropriate, to the person; and monitoring and evaluating the success of the behavioral support plan and modifying it as necessary.

Specialized Therapies: Specialized therapies are: assessment and treatment by licensed or certified professionals for social work services, counseling services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, audiology services, dietary services, and behavioral health services other than those provided by a local mental health authority; and training and consulting with family members or other providers.

Eligibility: Must have mental retardation, which is based: measure of person's IQ; a determination of the person's adaptive behavior level (ABL); and evidence of the disability that originated before the person's 18th birthday; have a pervasive developmental disorder, such as autism; be a nursing facility resident who is eligible for specialized services for mental retardation or a related condition; or be a child eligible for early childhood intervention services. There is no waiting list for this service, however the client is allocated a set amount of money per month to pay for the range of services offered under General Revenue services. Call ATCIC to enroll in services.

Program: Day Habilitation

Description: Day habilitation is assistance with acquiring, retaining, or improving self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills necessary to live successfully in the community and to participate in home and community life. Individualized activities are consistent with achieving the outcomes identified in the person-directed plan and are designed to reinforce therapeutic outcomes targeted by other service components, school, or other providers. Day habilitation is normally provided in a group setting (not in the person's residence) on a regular basis and includes personal assistance for those who cannot manage their personal care needs during day habilitation and assistance with medications and performing tasks delegated by a registered nurse in accordance with state law.

Eligibility: Must have mental retardation, which is based: measure of person's IQ; a determination of the person's adaptive behavior level (ABL); and evidence of the disability that originated before the person's 18th birthday; have a pervasive developmental disorder, such as autism; be a nursing facility resident who is eligible for specialized services for mental retardation or a related condition; or be a child eligible for early childhood intervention services. There is no waiting list for this service, however the client is allocated a set amount of money per month to pay for the range of services offered under General Revenue services. Call ATCIC to enroll in services.

Medicaid Waiver Programs

Program: Waiver Enrollment/Interest List Management

Description: ATCIC's Waiver Enrollment/Interest List Management Office manages the Home and Community Based Waiver (HCS) interest list for Travis County. Individuals are added to the interest list upon request. Individuals are encouraged to contact the division if their needs or circumstances change and are contacted annually to determine their need to remain on the interest list. Those eligible for HCS or TxHmL waiver services receive assistance in enrolling in the respective waiver program. This department also manages enrollment for individuals into the HCS waiver program, and those who select an intermediate care facility in the local service area.

Eligibility: There are no eligibility restrictions for being placed on the HCS interest list.

Program: Home and Community-based Services (HCS) Program:

Description: The HCS program provides services to people with mental retardation who live with their family, in their own home, in a foster/companion care setting, or in a residence with no more than four people who also receive services. The HCS program provides services to meet the person's needs so the person can maintain himself or herself in the community and have opportunities to participate as a citizen to the maximum extent possible. Services consist of case management, adaptive aids, minor home modifications, counseling and therapies, dental treatment, nursing, residential assistance, respite, day habilitation, and supported employment. Persons living in a foster/companion care setting or an HCS residence pay for their own room and board with either their monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) check or other personal resources. There is a limit to the yearly cost of services provided through the HCS Program.

Eligibility: Person must be Medicaid eligible; person must have mental retardation or an IQ of 75 or below with a related condition. Call ATCIC to enroll in services.

Program: Texas Home Living (TxHmL) Program:

Description: The TxHmL Program provides essential services and supports so that people with mental retardation can continue to live with their families or in their own homes. TxHmL services are intended to supplement, not replace, the services and supports they may receive from other programs, such as the Texas Health Steps Program, or from natural supports such as family, neighbors, or community organizations. Services consist of community support, nursing, adaptive aids, minor home modifications, specialized therapies, behavioral support, dental treatment, respite, day habilitation, employment assistance, and supported employment. TxHmL Program services are limited to a yearly cost of \$15,000 per participant. People whose names are on the list for the HCS program may be offered an opportunity to enroll in the TxHmL program.

Eligibility: Person must be Medicaid eligible; person must have mental retardation or an IQ of 75 or below with a related condition. Call ATCIC to enroll in services.

Program: Service Coordination

Description: Assigned Service Coordinators help individuals access medical, social, educational and other appropriate services to achieve the most optimal quality of life and community participation through screenings and assessment, service planning and coordination, resource authorization, advocacy, monitoring and crisis intervention as necessary. In addition, intensive service coordination is provided to children ages 3-21 with complex needs. Service coordinators work in partnership with the family to advocate, access and maintain supports for children with intensive needs. Service coordinators have broad knowledge of 1) developmental disabilities including mental retardation, autism, pervasive developmental disorders, and special health care needs; 2) children's service issues; 3) best practices; 4) special education process and law; 5) inclusion; 6) Americans with Disabilities Act; and 7) behavioral interventions to assist families in negotiating service systems. Services are comprehensive, individualized and provided at a frequency and intensity necessary to maintain successful community living.

Eligibility: Available for individuals with intellectual disabilities (mental retardation) and/or autism or pervasive development disorders, who are Travis County residents or individuals enrolled in the TxHmL or HCS waiver.

Program: Community Support Group Resources

SupportGroups@atcic.org

Description: Mental illness places a tremendous burden on individuals and families, often made worse by the isolation and sense of helplessness it creates. There are many support and educational groups available to help those affected. Visit IntegralCare.org for a complete listing of community support and educational groups, or email SupportGroups@atcic.org for more information.

Program: Consumer Benefits Office

Description: The Consumer Benefits Office helps ATCIC's consumer's access Social Security Administration services and programs. Services include, but are not limited to, assistance in applying for and maintaining Social Security Disability and/or Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Eligibility: Children and adults accessing ATCIC services.

Autism Society of Greater Austin

PO Box 160841 Austin, Texas 78716

(512) 479-4199

www.autism-society.org/chapter244

Autism Society of Greater Austin is a 510(c)3 nonprofit affiliate that focuses on providing information and referral services to families, professionals, and individuals impacted by autism within the Central Texas area.

Program: Awareness training and educational workshops

Description: Several meetings, trainings, and events are held throughout the community. For more information please send an email or call. Please allow a few days for a response, as volunteers staff the organization.

Eligibility: Services are offered to anyone within greater Austin and Central Texas. There is no waiting list or fees due to receive services.

CapMetro

2910 E. 5th St. Austin, Texas 78702

(512) 389-7480

(512) 389-7501 Eligibility

(512) 269-7779 Fax

www.capmetro.org

eligibility@capmetro.org

Program: MetroAccess

Description: Capital MetroAccess is a demand-response, shared-ride service for people whose disabilities prevent them from riding regular bus and rail service. MetroAccess service complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The term "paratransit" in this section refers to transit that is parallel in service to fixed-route bus service.

Eligibility: Eligibility for MetroAccess is based on the functional ability to use the regular city bus service. It is not a medical decision. The presence of a disability or a disabling health condition by itself does not make an individual eligible for MetroAccess service. Eligibility is also not based on age, inability to drive, or the lack of availability or inconvenience of regular city bus service. Only those persons whose disabilities, in combination with their functional abilities, prevent them from using the fixed-route services are eligible for MetroAccess. The new eligibility process will include an

application, professional medical verification, and an interview and orientation by staff for new and existing customers. A functional assessment may also be required. All customers will go through the new process at least once. Some customers may be deemed unconditionally eligible for MetroAccess and may not need to go through the in-person process again. All other customers may have to complete the in-person process again as they are due for recertification or as their condition changes.

CARTS

2010 E 6th Street Austin, Texas 78702

(512) 478-7433

(800) 456-7433 Toll Free

(512) 478-1110 Fax

www.ridecarts.com

The Capital Area Rural Transportation System, or CARTS, is a Rural Transit District formed through interlocal agreement by nine county governments in the seventy-five hundred square mile region surrounding the Texas capital city. CARTS delivers transportation tailored specifically for each of the one hundred and sixty-nine communities it serves. The service frequency in or to the various locales ranges from many times a day to once a month.

Program: CARTS will pick up any individual from their residence in a rural area and

Description: provide round-trip transportation anywhere in the service area (within the nine counties surrounding Travis). Transportation is provided to wherever the client would like to go and there are no location requirements or restrictions. CARTS service is available to anyone. CARTS vehicles are wheelchair accessible.

Eligibility: Individuals with disabilities need to fill out an application, provided by CARTS. The application must be filled out by both the applicant and the applicant's doctor, verifying a disability and if the service is needed temporarily or permanently. If the service is needed temporarily, the client must re-apply for services. Rates for individuals over 60 and for individuals with disabilities are \$3.00 one-way, or \$6.00 round-trip. 24 hours advanced notice is required to request a ride, however 2-3 days advanced notice is preferred.

Central Texas Autism Center: Austin Autism Services

3006 Bee Cave Rd. Austin, Texas 78746

(512) 328-5599

www.ctac1.com

CTAC believes that every child can learn and creates a nurturing environment where children can thrive. CTAC's staff is skilled in developing and delivering individualized therapy designed on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and Skinner's Analysis of Verbal Behavior (VB). Focus is on the development of behavior, language, social/play, academic, executive functioning and adaptive daily living (ADL) skills.

Program: Evaluation Services

Description: Evaluation Services typically include the following components: Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) is conducted to develop a behavior treatment plan. This plan will guide families and schools on how to prevent problem behaviors from occurring, what to do when they do occur and what to teach your children to do instead of the problem

behavior.1-3 day assessments which include FBA and language evaluations using the VB-MAPP by Dr. Mark Sundberg and/or the ABLLS-R by Dr. Partington as well as training for staff and parents on how to teach and take data on targeted skills. Services are offered to school districts in the school setting. Monthly or quarterly follow-up consults via email, video reviews or coming back to CTAC.

Eligibility: Must be 18 years old or younger to work with agency. CTAC only works with 20-25 families at a time so there is a waiting list. The wait time varies depending on the demand and time of year. The services are not free and the agency takes private insurance and out-of-pocket payment. Medicaid is not accepted.

Program: Clinical Therapy Services

Description: Therapy is conducted in Central Texas Autism Center (CTAC) clinic facility. During your child's first 5-10 therapy sessions, a therapist conducts a full evaluation on behavior and language. At this time, your therapist may schedule a home or school visit to get a complete picture of your child's needs. The assessment will generate your child's individual treatment plan with specific goals and objectives for the year.

Eligibility: Must be 18 years old or younger to work with agency. CTAC only works with 20-25 families at a time so there is a waiting list. The wait time varies depending on the demand and time of year. The services are not free and the agency takes private insurance and out-of-pocket payment. Medicaid is not accepted.

Program: Home Consulting

Description: Home consulting is when a therapist from Central Texas Autism (CTAC) center will develop and guide your home program. After evaluating your child, we will write a report setting up individual learning and behavior objectives for the year. Once the report is completed, we will meet with you and your team of therapists to train on how to implement the treatment plan, take data and set up materials. We then meet 1-2 times per month at CTAC with your child and team to continue to train and guide your program. Home visits can also be arranged.

Eligibility: Must be 18 years old or younger to work with agency. CTAC only works with 20-25 families at a time so there is a waiting list. The wait time varies depending on the demand and time of year. The services are not free and the agency takes private insurance and out-of-pocket payment. Medicaid is not accepted.

Program: The Academy Program at St. Francis School

Description: Year round ABA/VB therapeutic classroom for elementary aged students with Autism, PDD, Asberger's, or other related diagnosis. The classroom is designed for students who need intensive ABA/VB therapy but could also benefit from a classroom and inclusionary setting.

Eligibility: Must be 18 years old or younger to work with agency. CTAC only works with 20-25 families at a time so there is a waiting list. The wait time varies depending on the demand and time of year. The services are not free and the agency takes private insurance and out-of-pocket payment. Medicaid is not accepted.

City of Austin's Neighborhood and Community Development

1000 E. 11th St. Austin, Texas 78702

(512) 974-3100 Main

(512) 974-3100 Application and appointment line

(512) 974-3161 Fax

www.austintexas.gov/department/architectural-barrier-removal

The City of Austin's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) mission is to provide housing, community development and small business development services to benefit eligible residents, so they can have access to livable neighborhoods and increase their opportunities for self-sufficiency. To accomplish our mission, NHCD directly administers a variety of programs to serve the community's housing, community development and economic development needs and provides grant funding to various agencies and non-profit organizations.

Program: Architectural Barrier Removal:

Description: ABR provides accessibility modifications to homes of seniors and people with disabilities with limited incomes. All services are free to eligible persons. Program service includes: wheelchair ramp, handrails, door widening, bussing or flashing devices (for people with visual/hearing impairment), accessible door and faucet handles, shower grab bars and shower wands, and accessible showers, toilets and sinks.

Eligibility: Age 62 or older OR have a severe disability (as defined by Federal regulations), live inside Austin City Limits, and have a household income no more than 80% of the Austin Median Family (MFI). If disabled person is eligible for SSI or receives an award letter every month they are eligible for this program. There is never a waiting list to participate in the program.

Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas

3710 Cedar St. Austin, Texas 78705

(512) 323-0808 Main

(512) 451-3110

www.dsact.com

www.info@dsact.com

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas provides education, support, and resources to individuals with Down syndrome, their families, professionals, and the community, while building public awareness and acceptance of individuals with Down syndrome. Programs change seasonally. Call office or check website for current program offerings. All programs are divided by age groupings: Inkdots, KiDSACT, and Teen/Adult.

Program: Summer Programs

Description: Over 16 activities throughout the summer, divided up by age groups. Age groups include: Inkdots (0-5), KiDSACT (6-12), and Teen/Adult (13+).

Eligibility: Applicant must pre-register online to become a member. Once registered, all services and programs are free of charge. Contact (512) 323-0808 for more information and class availability. Must

Program: Member Services

Member services include assistance with the following: health care resources for families, choosing a school district, inclusion solutions, the learning program, and new and expectant parents.

Eligibility: Must have a relationship with someone with Down syndrome and fill out online application before beginning services.

Easter Seals of Central Texas

1611 Headway Circle, Building 2 Austin, Texas 78754

(512) 478-2581 Main

(512) 476-1683 Fax

www.centraltx.easterseals.com

Easter Seals Central Texas provides exceptional services so people with disabilities and their families can fully participate in their communities.

Program: Community and Housing Services

Description: *HUD Section 811 Wheelchair Accessible Condos:* Wheelchair accessible condo units for rent to income qualified adults with disabilities. Vacancies are rare, though applications for future availability are accepted. Residents pay 30% of their adjusted monthly income to live in units. Units are scattered site across Austin.

Eligibility: Must be at or below 50% of the median area income, must be head of household with a qualified disability, according to HUD guidelines.

Description: *Texas Home Of Your Own (HOYO) Program:* HOYO works one-on-one with people with disabilities to help them become homeowners. Eligible households can qualify for down payment and closing costs assistance.

Eligibility: Must be a person with a disability or have a family member with a disability. Must purchase a home in Blanco, Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, or Williamson counties.

Description: *Critical Housing Accessibility Modification Program (CHAMP):* CHAMP is a home modification program for people with disabilities. Through home modifications, CHAMP provides people with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy a barrier free home in the community. Home modifications can include building a ramp, installing grab bars, widening doors and more.

Eligibility: Applicants must have a documentable disability or have a family member with a disability. Applicants must be at or below 80% of the area median income and must reside in Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Dallas, Fayette, Gonzales, Hays, Lampasas, Llano, Tarrant, Travis, or Williamson counties.

Description: *Tenant Based Rental Assistance:* With funding support from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, ESCT offers rental assistance vouchers for income eligible individuals with disabilities to live in the community.

Eligibility: Call for eligibility requirements and funding availability.

Description: *Double-Click/Assistive Technology:* The Double click project increases independence for people with disabilities through the acquisition of low cost, refurbished computers. The purchase includes a CPU, monitor, keyboard, mouse, and speakers. Financial loans are also available for the purchase of these computers. CHS brings people and assistive technology together through training, technical assistance and services.

Eligibility: Program guidelines and applications are available upon request at dc@eastersealstx.com.

Program: Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation (CORP)

Description: One-stop services are provided for children and adults with disabilities in a clinic setting. These services include: physical, occupational, and bilingual speech therapy, service coordination and audiology. The clinic will include the M.D. Anderson Aquatic Therapy Pool and some accessible transportation. Child and Adult camps provide fun-filled therapeutic experiences for participants while offering respite for caregivers. Easter Seals Central Texas' Parent Support and Training program allows the agency to provide more in-depth wrap-around services for new and existing clients. All parenting programs are free.

Eligibility: Available to individuals with Autism, or family members/care givers of individuals with Autism. Program does have a waiting list. Please call for more information or to be placed on the waiting list.

Program: Paid Job Training (PJT)

Description: Provides employment for adults with disabilities and other barriers to employment. The program ensures that each trainee learns critical work skills and establishes a positive work history. By becoming a full-time employee with the PJT program, our team members build a successful employment history and gain valuable skills in the following areas: teamwork, healthy work habits, independence, sense of pride, and financial accountability.

Eligibility: Please call 512-440-7819 for program requirements and availability.

Program: Employment Services

Description: delivers job development and placement for adults with disabilities and includes: supported employment, independent living, follow along services, assistive technology, counseling, and case management. These special services address the individual support needs of our clients and make a significant contribution to their long-term success at work and at home. Each year Employment Services helps over 30 adults with disabilities find work in the community.

Eligibility: Please call 512-440-7819 for program requirements and availability.

Family Eldercare

700 Rutherford Ln. Austin, Texas 78754

(512) 450-0844

www.familyeldercare.org

Guided by the vision that seniors and adults with disabilities should live in a supportive community with dignity and as much independence as possible, Family Eldercare provides essential services to seniors, adults with disabilities and caregivers.

Program: Counseling Services

Description: Clinical Social Workers provide counseling for a wide range of challenges, including: depression, anxiety, caregiver stress, decreased coping skills, adjusting to life transitions, family conflicts, unresolved grief loss of a spouse or adult child emotional trauma, and crisis. Counseling Services is also available to provide screenings for depression and cognitive/memory impairment.

Eligibility: Our counseling services can be provided in your home or at Family Eldercare offices at 1700 Rutherford Lane in Austin. Medicare Part B or private pay may cover counseling by the hour. Services are offered on a sliding fee scale.

Program: Guardianship

Description: *Guardian of Person:* Family Eldercare is court-appointed to make decisions on behalf of the client regarding medical treatment, residential placement, and other matters regarding care and safety. The agency reports directly to the appointing court on an annual basis regarding the care and condition of the client. When necessary, Family Eldercare also becomes the representative payee for the client's government benefits.

Guardian of Estate: Family Eldercare is appointed by a Court of Law to make decisions about the estate of the client. This includes managing the client's assets and paying bills from the client's account with court approval.

Eligibility: Client must lack the mental capacity to make decisions and have no appropriate family or friends to act in that capacity. Guardianship services are offered without a fee for low-income elders and people with disabilities who qualify. Guardianship is also provided on a fee-for-service basis for those who can pay. Fees are set by state law and are subject to

the Court's approval. Referrals are carefully screened for appropriateness of the service and least restrictive alternatives to guardianship. Referrals must be submitted with appropriate medical evidence

Program: Money Management

Description: Bill payer assistance is available to low-income elders and people with disabilities who have the capacity to remain in control of their finances and voluntarily receive the services. Services include sorting mail, writing checks for the client to sign, balancing checkbooks and making sure bills are sent in a timely manner.

For individuals determined to be incapable of handling their own finances, representative payees are approved to receive benefits issued by Social Security and the Office of Personnel Management on behalf of the clients. Services also include budget setup, checkbook balancing and management of monthly bill payments. Monitoring and insurance is provided. All clients receive additional case management services to ensure adequate food, shelter and medical care. All bank accounts are insured through AARP and monitored by third-party volunteers who ensure accountability.

Eligibility: Clients must be elderly or an adult with disabilities; considered low-income (at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Index); incapable of performing the tasks themselves; and without anyone available or appropriate to assist them.

Imagine A Way

PO Box 203203 Austin, Texas 78720-3203

(512) 220-4324 Main

contactus@imagineawayfoundation.org

Imagine A Way provides financial support for therapy and also helps deliver a network of resources to help families with children diagnosed with Autism. Imagine A Way's focus is on children the age of 2 to 6 years old.

Program: Therapeutic Services

Description: Services include but are not limited to: speech and language therapy; occupational therapy; sensory integration therapy and applied behavior and analysis therapy (ABA). **Eligibility:** child must be between the ages of 2-6 years old and must have obtained a formal diagnosis on the autism spectrum and whose families do not already qualify for assistance for Medicaid. Financial assistance is not provided for families whose annual income is over \$90,000. There is an application process and funding is limited; call for availability. Currently there is a waiting list for services.

Mary Lee Foundation

1339 Lamar Square Dr. Austin, Texas 78704

(512) 443-5777 Main

(512) 442-6077 Developmental Disabilities/Adult Services

(512) 442-6077 Daybreak Center

(512) 443-1360 Long-Term Care Services

(512) 444-9949 Fax

www.maryleefoundation.org

marylee@maryleefoundation.org

Mary Lee Foundation is a private, non-profit service provider, specializing in residential treatment and vocational services for persons with disabilities.

Program: Affordable Housing

Description: Helping to provide affordable housing to the working poor, single parents with young children and those on Social Security Disability. While all apartments are open to any resident of the community, Mary Lee welcomes individuals with mental or physical disabilities.

Eligibility: Please call Mary Lee Foundation for further information.

Program: Case Management Services

Description: Case Management Services help adults and caregivers determine what the specific needs are of each client, and what services are available to meet those needs. Case Management Services provide assessment, planning, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of options and resources to meet an individual's specific needs.

Eligibility: Please call Mary Lee Foundation for further information.

Program: Daybreak Activity Center

Description: The Daybreak Activity Center provides therapeutic activities for people with developmental and mental health disabilities and survivors of brain injury. Opportunities for learning are offered through a variety of subjects and taught in a classroom-like environment. These classes include cooking, hygiene, symptom management, gardening, spelling, reading, math, money management, group processing, arts and crafts, and how to deal with stress.

Eligibility: Must be at least 18 years old, provide a psychological assessment, have a disability, be medically stable, have a funding source to pay for program, have manageable behavior, and not be an imminent danger to self or others. Mary Lee Foundation does not provide transportation. Payments accepted: private pay (call for rates), Contract with Intermediate Care Facility for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Related Condition provider, Home and Community-Based Services or other waiver provider or Mental Health/Mental Retardation General Revenue funds.

Program: Home and Community Based Services

Description: The HCS program provides individualized services and supports to persons with intellectual disabilities who are living with their family, in their own home or in other community settings, such as small group homes. Services provided are in areas such as residential assistance in the home or group home, case management, respite, day activity, speech therapy, physical and occupational therapy, dietary services, psychology, audiology, social work, nursing, dental, supported employment and assistance in finding competitive employment, adaptive aids and minor home modifications.

Eligibility: Must have a developmental disability and receive funding after being on a waitlist. Medicaid is accepted as payment.

Program: Intermediate Care Facility for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental

Description: Disabilities—Long-term care for adults with an intellectual disability or related conditions. Program includes case management, nursing, staff assistance and supervision, bookkeeping, independent living skills classes, transportation, assistance with meal preparation, taking medication, and hygiene.

Eligibility: Must be over the age of 18, have a developmental disability, no uncontrollable behavior, and no risk of elopement.

Program: Transitional Living Services

Description: This program is for short or long-term care for adults with disabilities. It is housed in a 6-unit apartment complex. This allows for our residents to be in the least

restrictive environment, while still having supervision and staff assistance. The program includes case management, nursing, bookkeeping, Independent living skills classes, transportation, assistance with meal preparation, and taking medications.

Eligibility: Must be at least 18 years old, have a developmental disability or health disorder, not exhibit uncontrollable behavior, and show no risk of elopement. Insurance is not accepted; private pay only.

Program: Texas Home Living (TxHL)

Description: This program provides selected essential services and supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that live in their family homes or their own homes. Services provided are in areas such as in home and out of home support, respite, day activity, speech, physical and occupational therapy, psychology, nursing, dental, adaptive aids, supported employment and assistance in finding competitive employment.

Eligibility: Must have a developmental disability and receive funding after being on waiting list.

Marbridge

2504 Bliss Spillar Rd. Manchaca, Texas 78652

(512) 282-1811 Main

www.marbridge.org

info@marbridge.org

Marbridge is a non-profit residential community that offers transitional and lifetime care to adults with a wide range of cognitive abilities and provides them opportunities to learn, experience and achieve a whole new life. Marbridge provides ample opportunities for life enrichment through employment, sports and leisure, arts and music, social activities, academic skill development and community integration.

Program: The Individual Plan Program

Description: Upon admission and then annually, a team of care providers and trainers evaluates each resident's abilities in various areas using the ACT Assessment Instrument. Staff developed this assessment instrument specifically for residents, applying advanced academic, educational, and performance-based training concepts. The results of the assessment serve as the foundation for the development of an Individual Program Plan (IPP) for each resident.

Program: Job Skills

Description: Services include: Pre-vocational training, on-campus employment, classroom instruction that supports on-the-job training, off-campus employment.

Program: Skills for Life

Description: The goal of Life Skills training is to enable residents to reach the highest level of personal independence possible in their daily routines. Life Skills trainings include Academic skills Improvement, Women's Health and Hygiene, Men's Health and Hygiene, and Money Management.

Program: Leisure training

Description: Leisure training promotes good health and increases self-esteem. Services include: Cardio, fit ball, softball, equine therapy, track and field, swimming, bocce, bowling, basketball, elder sports, weight training, flag football, walking, yoga, golf, couch to 5K running training, and regional and state Special Olympic participation.

McBeth Recreation Center, Danny G.

2401 Columbus Drive Austin, Texas 78746

(512) 947-9011

www.austintexas.gov/department/danny-g-mcbeth-recreation-center

Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center offers year round activities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Children are offered after school programs and spring break and summer day camps. Adults with disabilities are offered recreational day programs. There are also ongoing evening classes such as cooking, sports, social games, outdoor activities, and creative arts. For the more athletic participants, McBeth offers adaptive sports programs in tennis, swimming, cycling, basketball, rowing, dance and more.

Eligibility: Please call McBeth Center for more details and seasonally available programs.

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

4900 N. Lamar Blvd. Austin, Texas 78751

(512) 437-8000 Main

(800) 628-5115 Toll-free

www.dars.state.tx.us

Program: Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VR)

Description: The VR program helps people who have physical or mental disabilities prepare for, find or keep employment. Gaining skills needed for a career, learning how to prepare for a job interview or getting the accommodations needed to stay employed are just a few of the ways this program helps people with disabilities increase productivity and independence.

Eligibility: person has a disability which results in substantial problems in obtaining employment; vocational rehabilitation services from DRS are required by that person to prepare for, get or keep a job and the person is able to get or keep a job after receiving services.

Program: Independent Living Services

Description: Services provided in ILS program include: counseling and guidance; training and tutorial services; adult basic education; rehabilitation facility training; telecommunications; sensory and other technological aids for people who are deaf; vehicle modification; assistive devices such as artificial limbs, braces, wheelchairs and hearing aids to stabilize or improve function; and other services as needed to achieve independent living objectives, such as transportation, interpreter services and maintenance.

Eligibility: must have a significant disability that results in a substantial impediment to their ability to function independently in the family and/or in the community and must be a reasonable expectation that ILS assistance will result in the ability to function more independently.

Program: Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services

Description: CRS helps people with spinal cord or brain injuries receive intensive therapies to increase independence. Services include in-patient comprehensive medical rehabilitation, outpatient services, and post-acute traumatic brain injury services.

Eligibility: consumer must have a traumatic brain injury, traumatic spinal cord injury, or both. Must be at least 15 year old; be a United States citizen or immigrant alien; have lived in Texas for at least six months or have a primary caregiver who has lived in Texas for at

least six months; be medically stable enough to participate in rehabilitative activities; and agree to participate in the services offered by the DARS CRS program.

Program: Autism Program

Description: Services are provided through grant contracts with local community agencies and organizations that provide applied behavioral analysis (ABA) and other positive behavior support strategies.

Eligibility: Grant is for children only. Child must be 3 through 8 years of age (children lose eligibility on their ninth birthday); have a diagnosis on the autism spectrum; and be a Texas resident.

Texas Parent to Parent

3710 Cedar St., Box 12 Austin, Texas 78705-1449

(512) 458-8600 Main

(866) 896-6001 Toll-free

(512) 451-3110 Fax

Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P) is committed to improving the lives of Texas children who have disabilities, chronic illness, and/or special health care needs. TxP2P empowers families to be strong advocates through parent-to-parent support, resource referral, and education. In addition, TxP2P educates professionals about the unique needs of our children with the goal of improving care and opportunities for our children. Lastly, TxP2P is dedicated to championing the efforts of a diverse set of parent support groups and advocacy on behalf of our children's well being.

Program: Parent Matching

Description: TxP2P provides peer support to any child's family requesting it to provide help, information, and resources from an experienced, trained parent who has undergone a similar journey caring for a child with a disability or special health care need.

Program: Pathways to Adulthood

Description: Pathways to Adulthood assists families to envision a good life for their sons and daughters with disabilities after graduation, and provides support, information and tools for carrying out this vision.

Program: Family to Family-Sponsored Training

Description: Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P) has been designated as a Family to Family Health Care Information Center (F2F HIC) for Texas to provide training, resources and support for professionals, community members, parents, and family members to better support children with disabilities or special health care needs. F2F Centers assist caregivers so that they can make informed choices about short-term and long-term care for their children, so children can continue to live at home or in an integrated community setting through adulthood.

Program: Ask Rosemary

Description: As a parent of a child with a disability or special health care need, you may have many questions, but don't know who to turn to for help, or what to do next. We encourage you to "Ask Rosemary" and you'll receive a personal response from a TxP2P staff member or volunteer within two working days or sooner whenever possible. Submit questions either on-line at www.txp2p.org/parents/askrosemary or call agency directly.

Travis Medical

1104 W. 34th Street Austin, Texas 78705

(800) 458-4590 Main

(512) 454-9521 Fax

Travis Medical's mission is to offer the best and most appropriate selection of medical equipment & supplies at competitive prices with exceptional customer service. Travis Medical's priority is to help those in need maintain their independence. The products we offer are uniquely designed to improve health, safety, comfort, and simplify the home-care process.

VoCAT-Austin Community College VoCAT Program

5930 Middle Fiskville Road Austin, Texas 78752

(512) 289-9065 Main

mlossing@austincc.edu

www.continue.austincc.edu/choices/vocat/

www.austincc.edu

VoCAT is a unique Continuing Education college experience for special needs adults whose disabilities may prevent them from participation in traditional adult education programs. VoCAT is open to all adults, regardless of age or functioning level. Our specialized curriculum enables us to offer this opportunity to every student that seeks admission. The college experience is more than going to class. It is entering the adult world, becoming independent and being your own person.

VSA Arts of Texas

3710 Cedar St. Austin, Texas 78705

(512) 454-9912 Main

(866) 489-8412 Toll-free

(512) 454-1944 Fax

info@vsatx.org

www.vsatx.org

VSA Texas, the state organization on arts and disability, works to create a society where people with disabilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. Our mission is to promote the creative power in people with disabilities by working with all community members to facilitate full access to the cultural and educational arts. VSA Texas is a member of the international network of VSA, an affiliate of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Program: Artworks: Creative Industries

Description: Artworks: Creative Industries is VSA Texas' career development program for emerging artists with disabilities. The program serves artists around the state who, in addition to the regular challenges faced by artists starting their careers, face unique challenges of their own. To meet these challenges, Artworks: Creative Industries provides skills training and professional development resources in all artistic disciplines – music, visual art, performance and literature. Artworks: Creative Industries supports artists at any stage of development: youth transitioning into college or work, beginners just learning to draw and accomplished artists preparing to start their own business.

Eligibility: Please call VSA for further information.

Program: Start with the Arts Training

Description: VSA Texas offers "hands-on" training workshops that provide powerful tools for preschool, fine arts, and special education teachers - as well as parents and teaching artists - to engage and inspire Texas children through the arts, including those with disabilities and diverse learning styles. We also offer consulting for schools, districts, agencies, and community based organizations to incorporate inclusive, language-rich arts learning into existing activities, or to implement new arts-based programs.

Eligibility: Please call VSA for further information.

Program: Body Shift

Description: In an effort to expand access to dance for all people, Forklift has been collaborating with VSA Texas since 2003 to provide mixed-ability* dance classes for people with and without disabilities. Now entitled *Body Shift*, this collaboration includes Saturday monthly classes and month-long performance workshops. Led by Austin teachers with extensive experience in mixed-ability work, the objectives of this collaboration are to broaden access to the arts for people with disabilities, to expand the movement range and personal approaches to movement for the participants, and to provide an opportunity for dancers with disabilities and able-bodied dancers to dance together.

Eligibility: Please call VSA for further information.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Austin Association of the Deaf

P.O. Box 3884

Austin, Texas 78764-3884

<http://www.austindeafclub.org/>

Austin Association of the Deaf (AAD) became a charter club in 1946 to “encourage wholesome sports, pastime and recreation; exert a wholesome influence upon the conduct of its members; help the Deaf to secure employment, aid in educating the Deaf and maintain a club for the social enjoyment of its members.”

Austin Deaf Events

No physical address

www.austindeafevents.com

Summarizes upcoming events and happenings of interest to the Deaf and hard of hearing community in Austin and central Texas. Lists of Deaf Church services and Deaf Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. All persons with a respectful interest in the Deaf community are welcome to this list.

Austin Interpreters for the Deaf (AID)

PO Box 684694

Austin, TX 78768

<http://www.aid.tsid.org>

Email: austin.interpreters@gmail.com

AID is a non-profit organization that provides an organizational structure for interpreters in Austin and the surrounding areas to promote information sharing and professional development opportunities. AID is a local chapter of the Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf which is a Region IV Affiliate Chapter of the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID). The goal of all of these organizations is to promote the profession of interpreting and transliterating between American Sign Language and English.

Educational Resource Center on Deafness

1102 S. Congress Ave.

Austin, TX 78704

Phone: (512) 462-5329

<http://www.texasdhhresources.org/>

Email: ercod@tsd.state.tx.us

The Educational Resource Center on Deafness brings the resources of the Texas School for the Deaf to the state, as well as, works collaboratively with a variety of agencies, programs, and schools across Texas to create a network of information, services, and support designed to meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing students, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

A directory to the appropriate agency, program, service, information or resource serving deaf and hard of hearing students anywhere in the state; provides programs and services designed specifically for families and their deaf and hard of hearing children (birth – twenty two) who attend schools and programs throughout Texas; trainings for professional development and support; accessibility to our resources, programs, and services through

events in a variety of locations statewide and through technology for video-conferencing opportunities; Work collaboratively with programs throughout the state for more effective and efficient services.

Program: Discovery Retreat

Description: A place for students, of both oral and signing backgrounds, to interact with a variety of peers as they all seek to discover who they are and who they want to be! Retreats focus on promoting open-minded attitudes towards all types of communication, meeting peer and adult role models, and career exploration. Activities will include skits, ROPES course, team building activities, and more. CART (captioning), oral, and sign language interpreters will be provided for large group activities.

Program: Distance Learning

Description: We are currently working to provide online resources for Regional Day School Programs for the Deaf (RDSPD) who do not have access to high-end videoconferencing equipment; establish distance learning opportunities for RDSPD students to participate in Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) activities that are not currently available in their local schools; and create opportunities for TSD students to participate in RDSPD activities.

Program: Summer Programs

Description: Summer programming for deaf or hard of hearing children ages 3-22, from camps to drivers education.

Eligibility: Fees apply, child must be deaf or hard of hearing to attend summer programs.

Program: Communication Skills Workshop

Description: Improve expressive and receptive signed communication skills; Interact with Deaf and Hearing Professionals; Become immersed in a signing environment; Learn more about Deaf Culture and the Deaf Community; Be exposed to the difference between ASL and English Sign Language; Be involved in a variety of activities highly conducive to professional growth and development.

Eligibility: The Communication Skills Workshop provides professional training for ASL Teachers, Deaf Education Teachers, Interpreters (non-certified, Level I, II, III, and Basic), Interpreter-Aides, and Parents of deaf children in Texas. All participants must currently be working or expected to be employed the 2013-2014 school year in an Early Childhood through Grade 12 classroom OR parents must have a deaf child in Early Childhood through Grade 12. No childcare will be provided during the workshops.

Program: Family Signs

Description: A free sign language instruction program that provides one-on-one classes using computers with a high-speed Internet connection or videophones when available. This program is intended for parents of deaf or hard of hearing children who want to improve their sign language skills but do not have easy access to traditional sign language classes.

Eligibility: Currently designed for parents and guardians of deaf or hard of hearing children in Texas. If there are vacancies in the program, the Family Signs Coordinator may consider including extended family members or other individuals under special circumstances.

Program: Family Weekend Retreat

Description: For Texas families with children who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind or deaf with other disabilities, birth through 21 years old. All family members welcome.

Greater Metro Austin Community Center for the Deaf (GMACCD)

No physical address

<http://gmaccd.org/>

GMACCD is an organization that acts in the best interests of the Deaf community by offering workshops, hosting fundraisers and sponsoring athletic events.

Texas Association for the Deaf

P.O. Box 1982, Manchaca, TX 78652

<http://deaftexas.org/>

Email: membership@deaftexas.org

Texas Association of the Deaf (TAD) is an organization for persons who are D/deaf or hard of hearing. It is a membership organization to provide information and education including surveys and studies to bring the viewpoint on various issues affecting the lives who are D/deaf or hard of hearing at all levels of the community. TAD also helps to ensure communications accessibility in our state, counties, and cities to our D/deaf and hard of hearing citizens. It has proven its commitment to address the needs of D/deaf and hard of hearing members for more than a century.

Texas Connect

No physical address

<http://www.utdallas.edu/calliercenter/txconnect/>

The Texas Connect materials are designed as a resource for families of infants and young children who are deaf or hard of hearing and as tools for early intervention service providers who work with families.

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

4800 N. Lamar Blvd.

Austin, Texas 78756

DARS Disability Determination Services

P.O. Box 149198

Austin, TX 78714-9198

Phone: 1-800-628-5115 or TTY 1-866-581-9328

<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/index.shtml>

Email: DARS.Inquiries@dars.state.tx.us

The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, or DARS, administers programs that ensure Texas is a state where people with disabilities, and children who have developmental delays, enjoy the same opportunities as other Texans to live independent and productive lives. The DARS, Division for Rehabilitative Services, Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) works in partnership with people who are deaf or hard of hearing to eliminate societal and communication barriers to improve equal access for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. DHHS advocates for people of all ages who are deaf or hard of hearing to enable them to express their freedoms, participate in society to their individual potential, and reduce their isolation regardless of location, socioeconomic status, or degree of disability.

Program: Hearing Loss Resource Specialists (HLRS)

Description: Hearing Loss Resource Specialists (HLRS) provide services to persons with hearing loss, including those who are recently deafened. The Specialists identify solutions based on the needs of the individual and their family and strive to improve quality of life for these persons by providing essential training and information. Training may include: information on communication strategies, assistive technology, hearing loss awareness, cochlear implants and hearing aids. Assistance locating resources in the community and individual assessment of workplace, educational or community challenges are also provided. Contact for Travis County:

Olivia Rains
CSD of Texas
6901 N. Lamar Blvd, Ste 102
Austin, Texas 78752
Phone: 512-428-1813
Fax: 512-837-1444
Toll Free: 877-744-1364
VP: 512-213-2151
Email: HLRS7a@dars.state.tx.us

Eligibility: All persons with hearing loss in Travis County

Program: Deafness Resource Specialists

Description: (Deafness RS) have the knowledge-base and communication ability to work with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing and late-deafened in the areas of advocacy, self-empowerment and sensitivity training, as well as with Federal and State mandates on equal access to services, including education and employment. In many instances, Specialists work as liaisons between consumers and service providers on appropriate service provision. Contact for Travis County:

Brian Determan
V/VP: 512-481-7707
Fax: 512-420-0102
TTY: 512-419-0409
Email: DeafnessRS7a@dars.state.tx.us

Eligibility: All person who are deaf, hard of hearing, and late-deafened in region 7.

Program: Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program

Description: STAP provides vouchers to assist with buying specialized assistive equipment or services for persons whose disability interferes with their ability to access the telephone network.

Eligibility: To be eligible for assistance from STAP, a person must be a resident of Texas; have a disability that interferes with his or her ability to access the telephone network; be in a situation where no other person in the household with the same type of disability needing the same type of equipment has received a voucher for equipment, unless the people in the household are financially independent of each other; not have received a voucher for any specialized telecommunications equipment or services before the fifth anniversary of the date he or she exchanged a STAP voucher unless, before that anniversary, he or she needs a different type of telecommunications equipment or service because of a change in disability. For more information, see 5.2.3 Change of Disability; and be able to benefit from the telecommunications equipment or service provided by a voucher.

Program: Transition Outreach Program

Description: Locates and assists deaf and hard of hearing high school students with services to support school to work transition who otherwise might get overlooked and are in need of services so as not to get lost in the larger post high school world.

Eligibility: Deaf or hard of hearing high school student in Texas

Program: Camp Sign

Description: Week-long summer program for children who are deaf or hard of hearing between the ages of 10 and 15. A counselor in training program is available to children who are deaf or hard of hearing between the ages of 16 and 17.

Eligibility: Sliding scale fee, starting at \$35. Deaf or hard of hearing children 10-17 in Texas.

Program: Interpreter Training

Description: Sponsors skills building and training opportunities for interpreters and coordinates training sponsored by other entities. Provides Continuing Education Units (CEU's) for certification maintenance to participants in any approved training.

Eligibility: Varies by program and training level, some fees required for particular programs

Program: Certificate of deafness for tuition waiver

Description: A certificate of deafness for tuition waiver is a certificate that verifies hearing loss for applicants for tuition waiver at state-supported postsecondary schools in Texas.

Eligibility: To be eligible for a certificate of deafness for tuition waiver, the applicant must submit an application; be at least 17 years old at the time of application or, if less than 17, provide proof of being a high-school senior or having a GED; and establish an eligible hearing loss and/or functional deafness. To establish eligible hearing loss, an applicant needs documentation of an unaided average hearing loss of 55 decibels (dB) or greater using 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; or aided average hearing loss of 30 dB or greater using 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz.

Program: Deaf or hard of hearing driver identification program

Description: The deaf or hard of hearing driver identification program issues Visor Identification Cards to eligible persons to carry in their vehicles and use when they need to identify themselves as drivers who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Eligibility: To be eligible for a Visor Identification Card, an applicant must submit a DARS3955 to DHHS with the applicant information section completed, provide verification of a hearing difficulty that interferes with communication, be a resident of Texas, and have a valid Texas driver's license.

Program: Special Needs Funds

Description: The Special Needs Funds (SNF) program is designed to provide communication services for one-time events to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Services include interpreting, and Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART).

Eligibility: Funds are available on a limited first-come, first-served basis and must be used for funding the following approved events, which must be related to issues of concern for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing: local workshops or conferences, and statewide workshops or conferences. National events held in state are considered statewide conferences.

Program: Last Resort Communication Services

Description: May be provided for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing to facilitate access to essential services and community participation. Available as a last resort only when the Americans with Disabilities Act and other access mandates are not applicable. This service includes sign language or oral interpreters and real-time captioning.

Program: Information and Referral

Description: Provides information and referral regarding deafness and/or hearing loss and services available to all persons who inquire, regardless of hearing loss. Referrals are made to the appropriate sources for additional services or information in the local communities or where appropriate.

Program: Senior Citizens Program (SCP)

Description: Geared toward bridging communication barriers and reducing the isolation facing persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, ages 60 or older. Services vary from area to area and may include coping skills training, independent living services, and recreational activities.

Program: Vocational Rehabilitation

Description: The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program helps people who have physical or mental disabilities prepare for, find or keep employment. Gaining skills needed for a career, learning how to prepare for a job interview or getting the accommodations needed to stay employed are just a few of the ways this program helps people with disabilities increase productivity and independence. May provide hearing aids and assistive devices for qualifying adults who want to maintain current employment or who are seeking employment.

Program: Veterans Administration (VA)

Description: Veterans who have at least a 10% service-connected disability (any disability, not just hearing loss) the VA can provide hearing aids and other assistive devices.

Eligibility: Veteran with service-connected hearing loss.

Program: Active Duty Family Members (ADFM)

Description: ADFM who meet specific hearing-loss requirements, will be eligible to receive hearing aids including services and supplies as a TRICARE benefit.

Eligibility: The criteria for an adult ADFM to qualify for hearing aids and services are: 40 decibel (dB) hearing loss (HL) or greater in one or both ears when tested at one of the following frequencies; 500, 1,000, 1,500, 2,000, 3,000 or 4,000Hz; or 26dB HL or greater in one or both ears at any three or more of those frequencies (mentioned previously); or a speech recognition score less than 94 percent. The criterion for children of active duty service members to qualify for hearing aids and services is: 26dB HL or greater hearing threshold level in one or both ears when tested in one of the following frequency ranges; 500, 1,000, 2,000, 3,000 or 4,000Hz Eligible TRICARE beneficiaries will receive all medically necessary and appropriate services and supplies, including hearing examinations administered by authorized providers that are required in connection with this benefit.

**Texas Department of State Health Services
Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (TEHDI)**

PO Box 149347 MC-1918

Austin, Tx 78714-9909

Phone: 1-800-252-8023

Fax: 512/776-7125

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tehdi/Audiology-Services-Home.aspx>

Email: audiology@dshs.state.texas.us

Our purpose is to ensure all children who have hearing loss as newborn infants or young children are identified early and provided appropriate intervention services needed to prevent delays in communication and cognitive skill development.

Program: Universal Newborn Screening

Description: The Texas Newborn Hearing Screening (NBHS) was established in 1999 through the passage of House Bill 714, and is currently being implemented in Texas hospitals. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is the oversight agency.

Program: HoPE Partnership Program

Description: Provides support to families who have just learned that their infant or toddler has a hearing loss. HoPE Parent PartnersSM assist families in accessing medical, audiological, early intervention, family support services, and state and community resources based on the unique needs of each family. HoPE Parent PartnersSM work to ensure families have access to a full range of information and resources to meet their child's and family's needs.

**Texas Education Agency
Services to Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH)**

1701 N. Congress Ave.

Austin, TX 78701

Phone: 512-463-9734

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147497727>

The mission of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is to provide leadership, guidance, and resources to help schools meet the educational needs of all students and prepare them for success in the global economy.

Description: Texas Education Code §30.083 requires the development of a "comprehensive statewide plan for educational services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing."

The service centers provide statewide leadership in areas related to services to infants and toddlers (ESC 10), communication access (ESC XI), and access to the general curriculum (ESC 20). TSD provides outreach support to schools and families through the Education Resource Center on Deafness (ERCOD). TNAC provides advisory services on the alignment of the State DHH Plan with the National Agenda for deaf and hard of hearing students.

Local Contact:

Education Service Center for DHH students in the Travis County Region

ESC Region 13

5701 Springdale Road
Austin, TX 78723
Cyndi O'Toole
Phone: (512) 919-5180
Fax: (512) 919-5395
E-mail: cyndi.otoole@esc13.txed.net

***Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Service Centers Leadership Project
Statewide Leadership Contacts:***

Early Intervention/Preschool, Region 10

Alicia M. Favila, M.Ed.
Senior Consultant, DHH Services
ESC State Leadership Office - Birth to 5
Phone: 972.348.1594
Fax: 972.348.1557
Email: alicia.favila@region10.org

Communication Access, Region 11

Susie Tiggs, M. Ed.
Educational Specialist, State Leadership Office
Phone: 817.740.7580
Fax: 817.740.7684
Email: stiggs@esc11.net

Access to the General Curriculum, Region 20

John L. Bond, M. Ed.
Program Coordinator III, Special Education Support
Phone: 210.370.5418 V/TTY
Fax: 210.370.5756
Email: john.bond@esc20.net

Texas Hands and Voices

**PO Box 2208
Cypress, TX 77410
Phone: 936-463-TXHV (8948)
Email: office@txhv.org
<http://txhandsandvoices.org/txhv/>**

Established in Texas to support families and children who are deaf or hard of hearing and the professionals who serve them. Texas Hands and Voices is a parent-driven, parent/professional/community collaborative group that is unbiased towards communication modes and methods. The diverse membership includes those who are deaf, hard of hearing, and who communicate orally, with signs, by cues, or by combined methods. The goal is to help children reach their highest potential.

Program: Texas Guide by Your Side

Description: Guide services to families include: Direct parent-to-parent emotional support; Sharing information and resources in an unbiased manner; Workshops, trainings, and events for parents and children; Networking opportunities with other families; Referrals to other programs that serve deaf or hard of hearing children; Parent Guide and Deaf/Hard of

Hearing Guide services to professionals can include: Program information and outreach materials and/or partnership opportunities for family/parent events

Contact: CHRISTINE MOODY –Texas Guide By Your Side™ Program Coordinator
512-462-5738 (voice) 512-410-1198 (VP) or email coordinator@txgbys.org

Program: Event Support Program

Description: Texas Hands & Voices aims to create a strong network of families and professionals across the state. Through the Event Support Program, parents, families, and professionals may request up to \$150 per event in reimbursement funds to host a social/informational event or training for parents and families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Texas School for the Deaf

1102 S. Congress Ave.

Austin, TX 78704

Phone: (512) 462-5353 (v/tty)

Phone: (512) 462-5412

VP: (512) 410-1003

Fax: (512) 462-5424

<http://www.tsd.state.tx.us/>

The mission of the Texas School for the Deaf is to ensure that students excel in an environment where they learn, grow, and belong. We support deaf students, families, and professionals in Texas by providing resources through outreach services.

Program: Early Childhood Education

Description: The TSD Early Childhood Education program serves the ages of 0-5. Our Parent Infant Program works with ECI agencies when babies under the age of 3 are referred to TSD; the teachers do home visits, community group visits, and classroom instruction per individual family plans. The Preschool and Prekindergarten program serves students who receive initial services in special education from the age of 3 to 5. The PIP program is a half-day program, starting at 8:00 to 11:30 daily. Our Preschool and Prekindergarten program is a full day program, including snacks and lunch as well as naptime. Both ASL and spoken English language used.

Program: Elementary Education

Description: The TSD kindergarten through 5th grade elementary program celebrates both languages, ASL and English, ensuring that our students learn and grow. We focus on literacy development and enrichment, learning about our global community, and enriching the individual self. Our program uses the CSCOPE curriculum for all our K-5th grade core content areas, which is widely used in the state of Texas. Individual students' accessibility needs are considered such as assistive technology access, modifications to the curriculum, spoken English support, and other individualized accommodations that allow accessibility to the general curriculum. Counseling, occupational therapy, and other related services are provided when evaluations determine such need.

Program: Middle School

Description: Our mission at the Texas School for the Deaf Middle School is to provide each student a diverse education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation and excellence in learning. Our Middle School team joins parents and the community in assisting our students to develop academic skills and character that will help

them become good citizens who will succeed and contribute responsibly in a global community.

Program: High School

Description: Students can choose from a variety of academic classes and programs which have been developed to meet their needs and interests. We provide courses that are aligned to their graduation programs that will challenge students based on their abilities and skills and prepare them for post-secondary education or the world of work.

Program: Career and Transition Department

Description: The career and transition services staff at the Texas School for the Deaf are dedicated towards helping our students envision and achieve their post-secondary goals through a well-planned and coordinated process that is centered around the students strengths, interests, and needs. The goal of transition services is to guide students towards meaningful, long-term outcomes and to prepare them for adult living after they leave school.

Program: Audiology Services

Description: ASHA certified Doctors of Audiology perform audiological evaluations for deaf and hard of hearing students for use in educational programming, conduct hearing aid evaluations for the purpose of selecting and fitting amplification for students and provide consultation services to staff, outside agencies, and families regarding audiological needs of the students.

Program: Physical and Occupational Therapy

Description: School based physical therapists focus on removing barriers from a student's ability to learn and helping that student develop skills that increase his/her independence in the school environment. In addition, physical therapists identify and obtain special equipment and train school staff on ways to incorporate interventions and practice of motor skills into the classroom schedule. School based occupational therapists use purposeful activity to facilitate a child's active participation in self-maintenance; academic and vocational pursuits; and play or leisure activities that occur in school environments. Using direct and indirect services, as well as assistive technology and environmental modifications, school occupational therapists collaborate with parents, teachers and other educational staff to help implement a child's individual education plan.

Program: Speech and Language

Description: ASHA certified Speech Language Pathologists provide direct and indirect speech, language, and communication services based upon evaluations and the individual needs of the student. In addition, our Speech Language Pathologists also provide on-going consultative services to staff regarding communication methodology and strategies needed by students for effective instruction.

Program: Vision and Dual Sensory Impairment Services

Description: The deafblind specialist at Texas School for the Deaf is a Certified Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments. Support is provided to families and the students who have significant visual loss combined with hearing loss and to those students who may be at risk for serious vision loss. The deafblind specialist coordinates the team to serve these students; the family and student are integral members of this team. We strive to meet the needs of the students with sensitivity, compassion and understanding.

Eligibility: In order to be eligible to attend TSD, a student must have a documented hearing loss, be between the ages of 0 to 21 years, and live in Texas. Students are not considered for residential placement until they are 5 years of age and in kindergarten. No waiting list.

Travis Association of Deaf-Senior Citizens

7101 Hanging Circle Oak

Austin, Texas

Phone: 512-410-0547 VP

Fax: 512-892-7535

Email: Glenn Brunson, Bg331@aol.com

Social group for persons 55 or older who are deaf in the Travis County area for meetups, programs, and networking.

Travis County Health and Human Services - Services for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

2201 Post Road, #100

Austin, TX 78704

Phone: (512) 410-1598

Fax: (512) 854-9289

http://www.co.travis.tx.us/health_human_services/deaf_services/default.asp

Program: Case Management Services

Description: Travis County Services for the deaf has four full-time case managers who are fluent in American Sign Language. Each case manager works with the general population in addition to specialized populations including hard of hearing, senior citizens, deaf families and individuals with multiple disabilities.

Our case managers work with clients in a variety of situations including: Developing a service plan; Problem solving; Referrals to community services; Explain and advocate for access to services; Help with written documentation or phone calls.

Eligibility: The only eligibility requirement is that you or a family member are deaf or hearing impaired. No waiting list.

Program: Interpreter Services

Description: Travis County Services for the Deaf provides interpreters for all Travis County offices as well as the City of Austin Health Clinics and Municipal Court. Interpreters are also available for in office phone and document interpreting.

If you are deaf and have an appointment with one of the above listed departments, request that they provide you with an interpreter.

Eligibility: The only eligibility requirement is that you or a family member are deaf or hearing impaired. No waiting list.

Program: Legal, Advocacy, and Outreach Services

Description: Advocacy: Staff advocate for the adherence to the laws and equal access for individuals who are deaf to participate in local services and events. Legal Services

Coordination: Assist individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing to navigate through the complex legal system. Outreach: Staff provide education, information and referral for those desiring to learn more about deafness and deaf culture. Special Projects: Staff coordinate

donations for individuals for Christmas to provide gift certificates for single parents and gifts for those without families.

Eligibility: The only eligibility requirement is that you or a family member are deaf or hearing impaired. No waiting list.

Safe Place

PO Box 19454

Austin, TX 78760

Phone: 512.267.7233/ 512-482-0691 (TTY)

Fax: 512.385.0662

www.safeplace.org

Email: Wendie Abramson, info@safeplace.org

Program: Deaf Services for victims of sexual or domestic violence

Description: The Deaf Services staff are culturally Deaf and fluent in ASL. Deaf, hard-of-hearing or Deaf/blind victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or rape can get free and confidential services in Austin/Travis County such as: Counseling, SafeParenting classes, Case management and advocacy services, and Community trainings.

Early Childhood Intervention Services

Any Baby Can Child and Family Resource Center

1121 East 7th Street

Austin, TX 78702

Phone: (512) 334-4464

Fax: (512) 334-4465

www.anybabycan.org

Email: Alexandra Alfau, alexa@anybabycan.org

Any Baby Can improves the lives of children by strengthening them and their families through education, therapy and family support services.

Program: Early Childhood Intervention/Parent Child Program

Description: The ECI Program provides:

- Home-based case management and service coordination
- Specialized skills training
- Evaluations (occupational and physical therapy, speech pathology and nutrition)
- Therapies (occupational and physical therapy, speech pathology and nutrition)
- Community resource information and referrals

Eligibility: ECI services are available to families that: Have a child age zero to three with developmental delays or medical conditions; Live in one of the following zip codes: 78610/12/17, 78702/04/19/21/25/41/42/44/47 (If a family resides in a zip code other than these listed, ABC will refer to another ECI provider.) If a child's delay is not yet advanced enough to meet ECI eligibility criteria, the family may be referred to the Any Baby Can Health and Fair Start Program for prevention services. No waitlist. Accept Medicaid or insurance, sliding scale based on family income.

Association For Neurologically Impaired Children (AFNIC)

301 Park Lane

Austin, TX 78704-2412

Phone: (512) 444-164

Fax: (512) 444-2056

www.afniconline.org

Email: Philip Ferrara, ferrara54@tx.rr.com

AFNIC's advocates for children with neurological disabilities.

Description: AFNIC provides five main services: parent training, teacher training, peer training, attendance at ARD meetings.

Eligibility: Children that have already been identified as eligible for Special Education services or a 504 plan. Those children not yet identified that may be struggling at school and/or home where parents are wanting to know what they can do to help their child. Children that have been diagnosed or are suspected of having Tourette's Syndrome, PDD Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, Mood Disorders, Bipolar Disorder and more. Children with or are suspected of having behavior, learning and processing disorders that are affecting math, reading, writing and social development. Financial help available for families making \$30,000 or less per year. No waitlist, funding available.

The Arc of the Capital Area

2818 San Gabriel Austin, TX 78705

Phone: (512) 476-7044

Fax: (512) 476-9054

<http://www.arcofthecapitalarea.org/family-and-caregiver-support.php>

E-mail: Gerald Murphy, information@arcofthecapitalarea.org

The Arc of the Capital Area, a non-profit organization, is committed to promoting independence and choice by providing individualized services to adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc of the Capital Area's Family & Caregiver Support Services make sure that individuals are able to keep their spirits alive in spite of any personal sacrifices they must make while caring for their loved ones. We do this by providing services that ensure that parents of children with developmental disabilities have access to essential information and support to develop and strengthen their care-giving skills, reduce their isolation, decrease their stress levels and support their efforts to keep their children at home, in school and functioning within the community they live.

The following services are offered at minimal or no cost:

- Peer mentoring and advocacy
- Special Education assistance
- Disability Transition through Family Cooperative
- Basic needs and crisis assistance
- Guardianship

Program: Special Education Assistance

Description: Specialty Support Groups and Educational Workshops are a collaborative consortium between Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC), Austin Independent School District (AISD), Easter Seals of Central Texas, Nami Austin and The Arc, providing education and disability focused training for parents & caregivers of children with disabilities. In addition, The Arc provides educational assistance for parents with children who have Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and who are enrolled in Special Education. May provide financial assistance to clients for crises needs.

Eligibility: Children with a developmental disability diagnosis, such as mental retardation, Down Syndrome, Autism, Asperser's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), speech delays, ADD/ADHD, and Cerebral Palsy; and their caregivers. Ages 3-22, must be enrolled in Special Education, in Travis County. No waiting list, not a fee-based service.

Program: Family Support Cooperative

Description: Provides education and support groups for parents and siblings of children who have disabilities. Groups meet once a month on the second Tuesday of each month, during the school year, from 6:30 pm -8:30 pm. These meetings are held at Rosedale School for two of the meetings (located at 2117 W. 49th St. Austin, TX 78705) and one around town meeting. Free Pizza and Childcare provided. A translator is available at each meeting for Spanish speakers. Program is a collaboration of The Arc of the Capital Area, Austin Independent School District, and Austin Travis County Integral Care.

Eligibility: Parents of children with any type of disability, open to all counties. No waiting list, not a fee-based service.

Austin Travis County Integral Care

1717 W. 10th St.

Austin, Texas 78703

Phone: 512-472-3142

Fax: 512-472-4008

http://www.integralcare.org/?nd=cfs_infantparent

Email: CFSInfo@atcic.org Austin Travis Integral Care's mission is to improve the lives of people affected by behavioral health and developmental and/or intellectual challenges.

Program: Infant Parent Program/Early Childhood Intervention

Description: Serves children from birth to 36 months who have a developmental delay, medically diagnosed physical condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay or qualitative developmental delay. ECI focuses on family, respects the rights of parents and provides services within the family's natural, everyday routines and environments. When a child qualifies for services, a team of early intervention service professionals and the child's parent or legal guardian develops an Individualized Family Service Plan. Services may include speech, physical and occupational therapy, developmental services, nutrition and audiological services.

Eligibility: Children from birth to 36 months who: have a medically diagnosed physical condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay and who have a documented need for early intervention services, have a developmental delay, exhibit qualitative developmental delay, and reside in IPP-ECI service area. There is no wait list. Eligibility is established within 45 days from referral. Medicaid and insurance accepted. Sliding scale fees based on family income.

Case Management for Children and Pregnant Women with Health Problems or at-risk of Health Problems

Department of State Health Services

Case Management for Children & Pregnant Women-MC 1938

PO Box 149347 / Austin, Texas 78714-9347

1701 North Congress Avenue / Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: 512-776-2168

Fax: 512-776-7574

Toll Free: 1-800-252-8023 extension 2168

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/caseman/facts.shtm>

The mission of the Department of State Health Services is to improve health and well-being in Texas. Case Management for Children and Pregnant Women is a Medicaid benefit. Through the program, case managers help families get medical services, school services, medical equipment and supplies and other services that are medically necessary.

Description: Case managers who assist in finding and receiving services for pregnant women and children (0-20) who have health problems or who are at high risk for getting health problems. Case managers can help: get medical and dental services, get medical supplies or equipment, work on school or education issues, and get other services.

Eligibility: Children (birth to age 20) and pregnant women who get Medicaid and have health problems or are at a high risk for getting health problems. No waitlist. Services are always available to eligible participants.

Child, Inc.**818 E. 53rd St., Austin TX 78751****Phone: (512) 451-7361****<http://www.childinc.org>****Email: Gayla Winn, Gwinn@childinc.org**

Child Inc provides high quality education and comprehensive support services for children and their families while promoting personal and social responsibility in the communities they serve. Some of the services Child Inc offers to children with disabilities include:

- Outreach and recruitment
- Coordination with special education programs in the school district
- Diagnostic and referral services
- Treatment and Individual Education Plans (IEP's) through school districts
- Referral for additional therapies and services in the community
- Assistance with transitioning into school district programs
- Support group for parents of children with disabilities

Program: Early Head Start (6 months to 3 years)

Description: Child Inc Early Head Start is designed to serve pregnant women, infants, toddlers and parents. Early Head Start is a comprehensive Early Education and Child Development program that is required to achieve results in strengthening families. To accommodate the unique needs of our families, EHS offers both center-based and home-based environments. Our infants and toddlers receive all of the Head Start comprehensive services, such as health, dental, nutrition, mental health, social services, parent training, and parent involvement. These services are coordinated through the various division components in a shared-responsibility framework.

Eligibility: You meet federal income guidelines, check www.hhs.gov; your child is 6 months to 3 years; you live in Austin and Travis County. Currently a long waitlist exists.

Programs: Head Start (3 years to 5 years)

Description: Head Start is a comprehensive early education and child development program for families who meet the federal poverty guidelines. Children, ages 3 - 5, receive all comprehensive Head Start services including education, health, dental, nutrition, mental health and special education for children with disabilities.

Eligibility: You meet federal income guidelines, check www.hhs.gov; your child is 3 to 5 years; you live in Austin and Travis County. Currently a long waitlist exists.

Program: Home-Based Program

Description: Our in-home services are designed to serve stay-at-home mothers or mothers-to-be. The goal is to support mothers to become their child's first teacher. Services are provided by trained visiting teachers who conduct hour-and-a-half weekly visits that include instructional and parenting education to mothers, and modeling techniques with the child while the mother observes.

The program utilizes the "Parents as Teachers" curriculum which is nationally recognized. Parents are offered the opportunity to attend two group socializations each month to observe their children interacting with other children, socialize with other mothers and participate in a parent education presentation. In addition, to ensure that home-based children receive the full range of Head Start services, the visiting teacher serves as a case manager for health, dental, nutrition, mental health and special needs services. In addition, the visiting teacher assists the mother with any family social services needs.

Eligibility: You meet federal income guidelines, check www.hhs.gov; If your child is 0 to 5 years; If you live in Austin and Travis County.

Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Services Program of Texas Dept. of State Health Services

Department of State Health Services, MC 1938

P.O. Box 149347

Austin, TX 78714-9347

Purchased Health Services Unit, MC 1938

Department of State Health Services

1100 West 49th Street

Austin, TX 78756

Phone: CSHCN Inquiry Line at 1-800-252-8023/ (512)-776-7355

Fax: (512)-776-7565

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/cshcn/>

The mission of the Department of State Health Services is to improve health and well-being in Texas. The Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Services Program helps children with special healthcare needs and people of any age with cystic fibrosis.

Description: The program helps clients with their:

- Medical, dental and mental health care
- Drugs
- Special therapies
- Case management
- Family Support Services
- Travel to health care visits
- Insurance premiums
- Transportation of deceased clients

Eligibility: Child lives in Texas; is under 21 years old (or any age with cystic fibrosis); has a certain level of family income; has a medical problem that: is expected to last at least 12 months, will limit one or more major life activities, needs more health care than what children usually need, has physical symptoms. (This means that the Program does not cover clients with only a mental, behavioral or emotional condition, or a delay in development.) Currently, there is a waitlist, ranging from 6 months to 1 year based on need, severity, and Medicaid or insurance coverage. Current clients must renew their applications every six months.

Connections Networking Austin

No physical address

Phone: (817) 975-4111

<http://www.specialneedskidsdirectory.com/page/410479568>

Email: Lamarque Polvado, info@connectionskids.com

To recognize all children with special needs and to celebrate their uniqueness. Connections Networking Austin's mission is to assist their dedicated parents to find, discover, and explore the world of resources that exist to better their child's quality of life.

Description: Monthly meet-ups for parents to network and share resources.

Eligibility: All are welcome.

Easter Seals of Central Texas

1611 Headway Cir, Bldg 2

Austin, TX 78754

Phone: (512) 615-6852

Fax: (512) 615-7123

<http://centraltx.easterseals.com>

Email: Lisa Tate, info@eastersealstx.com

Easter Seals Central Texas provides exceptional services so people with disabilities and their families can fully participate in their communities.

Program: Early Childhood Intervention Program

Description: The Easter Seals Central Texas Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program serves babies and toddlers, aged birth to 36 months, with developmental delays or disabilities. Easter Seals' staff of early childhood specialists, therapists, social workers, and other professionals work in homes, childcare facilities, and other community settings to conduct evaluations and provide services to children and their families. Service coordination with other agencies is provided at no cost and is an essential component for integrating services around family-centered goals. Services offered through ECI are: developmental services, physical, occupational, and speech therapy, family education, counseling services, screenings and assessments, and activities to prepare children for the "next step" in their development. Families and staff work as a team to develop individualized plans of care for children and their families.

Eligibility: Easter Seals Central Texas ECI providers serve the following ZIP codes in the Austin area: 78615, 78621, 78653, 78660, 78664, 78701, 78705, 78712, 78722, 78723, 78724, 78731, 78751, 78752, 78753, 78754, 78756, 78757, 78758. No waitlist. Medicaid and insurance accepted. Sliding scale based on family income.

EveryChild, Inc.

8400 N. MoPac, Suite 201

Austin, TX 78759

Toll Free: 877-742-8844

Phone: (512) 342-8844

Fax: (512) 342-7002

www.everychildtexas.org

Email: Nancy Rosenau, info@everychildtexas.org

EveryChild's mission is to create a system that ensures children with disabilities grow up in families instead of institutions.

Description: We are working toward finding ways for families to be better supported to enable them to care for children at home. Helping parents keep or bring their children home with support is always the first priority, but when that isn't possible, we believe children should have another way to enjoy the benefits of family life, and parents should have an alternative to institutional placement.

We pull together people, providers, services and supports for children and youth with disabilities currently living in Texas facilities to be able to move to families. We partner with providers, community service agencies, and other stakeholders to build interest and capacity to support families in order to reduce the need for use of facility-care. We identify systemic opportunities and barriers and work closely with state policy and decision-makers to develop potential strategies and solutions to more effectively support family life for children with disabilities. We provide training, technical assistance and consultation regarding strategies and approaches that work.

Growing Roots

2921 East 17th Street Suite 400 (2nd Floor of People Fund Building, within Center 61) Austin, TX 78702

P.O. BOX 41048

Austin, TX 78704

Phone: 512-850-8281 or 512-240-2757

Fax: 888-589-1825

<http://growingrootsaustin.com/>

Email: Maria Hernandez, maria@growingrootsaustin.com

Growing Roots provides classes and support groups to inform, connect and support Spanish and English-speaking parents of children with special needs. Our vision is to create a community where all families of children with special needs are empowered to become active participants and successful advocates in their child's life.

Programs: Supportive Case Management, Monthly Support Groups, and Family Fun Days

Description: Through hands-on classes and support groups led by healthcare professionals and parents, parents learn about their child's medical and educational needs, connect with resources in their community and receive support from other parents. The end result is parents become empowered and active participants regarding their child's needs- establishing and growing their "roots" to improve outcomes for their child.

Eligibility: Growing Roots serves families with children 0-21 who have autism, are enrolled in special education, or were born a preemie. No waitlist, all programs are free of cost.

Imagine a Way Foundation

PO Box 203203

Austin, Texas 78720-3203

Phone: 512-220-4324

<http://www.imagineawayfoundation.org>

Email: contactus@imagineawayfoundation.org

Imagine A Way is a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded on a simple yet powerful principle that every child should have the chance to reach their full potential.

Description: We provide financial support for therapy and also help deliver a network of resources to help families with children diagnosed with Autism. Our focus is on children in the critical early childhood years of 2 to 6, when the window of opportunity exists to have the greatest impact on their lives.

Eligibility: Child must be between the ages of 2 and 6 and have an Autism diagnosis from a neurologist or pediatrician. The family must provide a signed medical diagnosis; Family income must be above the current qualifying amount for children's Medicaid in Texas and less than \$90,000/year; IAW is not responsible for transportation to or from therapy sessions. The family will be responsible for transportation. The child may not miss more than two scheduled therapy sessions per month without 48 hours notification to clinic or IAW support may be suspended; Families selected for final consideration will be required to provide additional financial information to validate need. Currently funds 1 to 2 families per year, application is reviewed based on need and severity, and funding based on donations received.

Open Door Preschool

Address: 3804 Cherrywood Road, Austin TX 78722

Phone: (512) 481-0775

Fax: (512) 481-0808

www.opendoorpreschool.org

Email: Larry Elsner, elsner@opendoorpreschool.org

Nurturing and inspiring young children of diverse needs, economic levels and family backgrounds in an engaging educational environment.

Description: Our early focus on serving children with disabilities along with typically-abled children has broadened to include children with emotional, economic, and at-risk challenges as well. Our mission—to nurture and inspire young children of diverse needs, economic levels, and family backgrounds in an engaging educational environment—informs all of the work that we do.

Eligibility: 2 months to 5 years old. With or without disability. Tuition subsidies available. There is currently a waitlist, but there is no fee to add name to waitlist.

Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (Formerly AISD Early Childhood Special Education)

1111 West 6th Street

Austin, TX 78703

Phone: (512) 414-3293

http://www.tea.state.tx.us

The mission of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is to provide leadership, guidance, and resources to help schools meet the educational needs of all students and prepare them for success in the global economy.

Description: Eligible children with disabilities, ages 3-21, are entitled to receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). In Texas, school district Preschool Programs for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) provide special education and related services for eligible children with disabilities ages three through five. PPCD refers to the services provided by the school district, not to the place where they are provided. Eligible children may receive PPCD services in variety settings such as pre-kindergarten, resource, and self-contained classrooms or in community settings such as Head Start and pre-school.

Eligibility: Must live within AISD boundaries, for children 3-5. No waitlist if child meets all eligibility requirements.

Sammy's House

2415 Twin Oaks Drive

Austin, Texas 78757

Phone: (512) 453-5258

www.sammyshouse.org

Email: Isabel Huerta, info@sammyshouse.org

Sammy's House is a nonprofit organization that provides services for children who are medically fragile and/or developmentally delayed. We operate a child development center, a respite care program, and a therapy equipment loaning program. Our high-quality care is loving and nurturing, set in an inclusive environment where children can safely grow and learn to the best of their abilities.

Program: Child Development Center

Description: At Sammy's House, learning is nestled in a play environment encompassing development in gross motor and fine motor skills, social-emotional, self-help, cognitive, and language development. Keeping our child-to-adult ratios low ensures high-quality care. Low ratios allow time for personal care and curriculum development.

Eligibility: Scholarships are available. Currently no wait for developmentally delayed or medically fragile children.

Program: Respite Care Program

Description: Sammy's House offers periodic respite care. Extended childcare is available during special times of the year for families with children with special needs. Our objective is to provide families with the time they need to strengthen the family.

Eligibility: Scholarships are available.

Program: Therapy Equipment Loaning

Description: Email for current availability.

Eligibility: Scholarships are available.

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

4800 N. Lamar Blvd.

Austin, Texas 78756

DARS Disability Determination Services

P.O. Box 149198

Austin, TX 78714-9198

DARS Inquiries Line: 1-800-628-5115

DARS TDD/TTY: 1-866-581-9328

<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/index.shtml>

Email: DARS.inquiries@dars.state.tx.us

The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, or DARS, administers programs that ensure Texas is a state where people with disabilities, and children who have developmental delays, enjoy the same opportunities as other Texans to live independent and productive lives. ECI is a statewide program for families with children, birth to three, with disabilities and developmental delays. ECI supports families to help their children reach their potential through developmental services.

Program: Early Childhood Intervention Services

Description: ECI referrals for Early Intervention Services in Texas, Early Intervention Services in other states, Texas public school services for children with disabilities over age 3. Anyone may call the DARS Inquiries Line for information or refer a family to Texas ECI programs. ECI encourages professionals and families to make a referral as soon as a delay or concern is suspected-even as early as birth. The local ECI program will determine eligibility and services. To find an ECI program in your area, go to the Program Search. Also provides ECI information for ECI services in Texas, support groups and disability groups and other resources, and other social services or places to find local social services. Call 211 for information about social services in your area.

Also handles calls and complaints from ECI families with concerns or complaints about services.

Receives publication orders for publications that ECI makes available to professionals and families. Many of these publications are provided in a PDF format that can be viewed and printed from this website.

There is no waitlist for these services. Call for referral.

Texas Parent to Parent

3710 Cedat St., Box 12

Austin, TX 78705

Phone: 866-896-6001, 512-458-8600

Fax: 512-451-3110

www.txp2p.org

Laura Warren, Executive Director, laura@txp2p.org

Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P) is committed to improving the lives of Texas children who have disabilities, chronic illness, and/or special health care needs. TxP2P empowers families to be strong advocates through parent-to-parent support, resource referral, and education. In addition, TxP2P educates professionals about the unique needs of our children with the goal of improving care and opportunities for our children. Lastly, TxP2P is dedicated to championing the efforts of a diverse set of parent support groups and advocacy on behalf of our children's well-being.

Program: Parent Match

Description: TxP2P provides peer support to any child's family requesting it to provide help, information, and resources from an experienced, trained parent who has undergone a similar journey caring for a child with a disability or special health care need.

Program: NICU Network

Description: The birth of a premature infant or a child who starts life in the NICU is a challenging and life altering time for a family. TxP2P has developed a network of volunteers to provide support to parents of premature infants and babies hospitalized in the NICU.

Program: Annual TxP2P Parent Conference

Description: Annual two-day conference each summer. Meet and network with other families and professionals who work with our kids. Attend sessions on advocacy, autism, behavior, parenting issues, special education, therapies, medical home, and transition/self-determination, and relax in a family friendly atmosphere.

Program: Online Resource Directory

Description: Access resources on a variety of topics and a list of organizations by county or region of the state 24/7 through TxP2P's growing list of online resources for parents and their children.

Program: Parent Group Services

Description: Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P) gives technical assistance and support to new and existing parent groups around the state through the Texas Parent Group Network (TxPGN). If you are considering launching some type of parent group, TxP2P can help you get started.

Mobility Services

Adapt of Texas

1640 A E. 2nd ST Suite 100, Austin, TX 78702
(512)442-0252
(512)442-0522
www.adapt.org

Program: Advocates for people with disabilities.

All Star Medical

1101 W. Pecan Street, Pflugerville, TX 78660
(512)251-5977
<http://www.allstarmedical.org>

A company that provides all types of medical equipment & supplies (must be paid for; however, they accept Medicaid).

Any Baby Can Child and Family Resource Center

1121 E. 7th St.; Austin, TX 78702
(512)334-4464
alexa@abcaus.org
<http://www.abcaus.org>

Program: Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)

Description: Serves low-income, first-time mothers and their children.

Program: Tandem Pregnant & Parenting Teen Collaboration

Description: Serves teen mothers who receive prenatal care at People's Community Clinic.

Program: Healthy and Fair Start (HFS)

Description: Serves low-income families with children younger than four years old whose well-being is at risk.

Program: Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

Description: Serves families with children birth to 36 months with a developmental delay, medically diagnosed condition or auditory or visual impairment.

Program: Comprehensive Advocacy and Resources for Empowerment (CARE)

Description: Serves families of children zero through age 20 who have physical, developmental, emotional or behavioral special health care needs.

Program: Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Program

Description: Serves families of children zero through age 20, touched by childhood cancer or similarly treated blood disorders.

Program: Children's Hearing Aid Texas (CHAT)

Description: Serves families of children zero through age 20 with audio logical needs and have no financial alternatives to meet these needs.

Program: No Estás Solo Mental Health Counseling Program

Description: Serves children and families enrolled in other Any Baby Can home visiting programs.

Program: New: Postpartum Services

Description: Serves new mothers and their partners and the professional community and health providers whose clientele includes new parents.

Eligibility: Clients come to Any Baby Can from a variety of formal and informal referral sources, including other social service agencies, Neonatal Intensive Care Units, pediatricians, hospitals, WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Clinics, school nurses, teachers, family members and friends. Do you know a pregnant woman, child or family who might need help? Call Any Baby Can at 512-454-3743 or email info@anybabycan.org.

ARC of the Capital Area

2818 San Gabriel, Austin, TX 78705

(512)476-7044

(512) 476-9054

information@arcofthecapitalarea.org

www.arcofthecapitalarea.org

Art of the Arts admission is on a case-by-case basis and participants must meet certain minimum criteria: ability to focus independently for a minimum of 30 minutes and open to minimal redirection; ability to have self-control when working in a group setting; ability to socialize appropriately with peers and staff with minimal redirection; ability to handle art and music instruments without causing harm to self or others; ability to use the toilet independently; ability to prepare his/her own food and eat independently; ability to create artwork on his/her own without hands-on assistance (if participant requires an aide, the participant/provider must arrange this)

All applicants must call The Arc of the Capital Area at (512) 476-7044 and go through the Intake and Referral process to determine eligibility. Intake and Referral will provide an application. All applicants must fill out a complete application and return to The Arc of the Arts Program Manager. Once the application has been turned in, The Arc of the Arts Program Manager will review the application and determine if there is an appropriate match. After the determination of a match, applicants will be put on the waiting list in order of receipt of application. We will notify applicants for interviews as space becomes available. Upon admission, participants will be scheduled for a trial day. If all goes well, a regular schedule will be set up. From there, all participants will be placed on a 3-Month Trial Basis. We realize that it takes new participants awhile to adjust to their new environment. Our staff will consistently do their best to communicate compassionately with participants and encourage participants to be their best selves. The staff also stays in regular communication with guardians/support team to determine the best way of helping participants to adjust. However, if a serious incident occurs, an incident report will be written and discussed with the guardian/support team. After a second incident a meeting will be held; after a third incident, dismissal may occur. Failure to disclose medical or behavioral issues may result in dismissal.

Program: Arc of the Arts Studio & Gallery

Description: Matches adults with disabilities with professional artists in the community.

Contact: Ann Wieding awieding@arcofthecapitalarea.org

Qualifications:

Program: Basic Needs & Crisis Assistance Services

Description: Provides individuals with developmental disabilities and their families with access to holiday assistance, medical/adaptive equipment and supplies, and crisis assistance to help with housing, utilities, medical payments, transportation and childcare costs.

Program: Case Management Services

Description: Coordinates a range of community integration services and supports to help adults with developmental disabilities, many of whom live alone, to achieve and maintain personal independence.

Contact: Kaili Goslant kgoslant@arcofthecapitalarea.org

Program: Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS)

Description: CLASS offers individuals with disabilities who need attendant care an alternative to institutionalization by helping them access the resources they need to live and work as independently as possible in the community.

Contact: Kaili Goslant kgoslant@arcofthecapitalarea.org

Program: Family & Caregiver Support Services

Description: Includes low or no-cost parent mentoring, special education advocacy, support groups and guardianship services for parents and caregivers of children with developmental disabilities.

Contact: Intake at 512-476-7044 ext. 205

Program: Guardianship Services

Description: Helps under-resourced families to establish guardianship of children with developmental disabilities who have recently reached or will soon reach adulthood (age 18).

Contact: Intake at 512-476-7044 ext. 205

Eligibility: Clients must have a developmental disability or a child with a developmental disability and reside in Travis County.

Program: Juvenile Justice Services

Description: Provides educational advocacy and support to help youth with developmental disabilities (ages 11-17) and special education needs to complete school, stay out of the justice system and become contributing members of the community.

Contact: Intake at 512-476-7044 ext. 205

AFNIC (Association For Neurologically Impaired Children)

301 Park Lane, Austin, TX 78704

(512)444-1641

<http://www.tsatexas.org>

AFNIC provides a variety of services to children with neurological disorders and their families in Texas. To obtain services, you will have to first become a member (the dues are \$50/year).

There is a relatively small charge for each of our services. We reserve the right to determine to whom we will provide services and which services will be provided.

Program/Service: Telephone/Consulting Support/Document review

Description: We support parents and teachers by answering their questions on how to develop an accessible environment for these children. Our support includes advice on how to identify the triggers, teach the skills to help the child cope with the triggers, help develop appropriate behavioral goals that are measurable and objective, and more. You get three hours per year without charge for telephone support, email support, document review, and document preparation, but after that the fee is \$20 per hour.

Program/Service: Parent and School Training workshops

Description: We provide training workshops to parents and schools to explain how to work with neurologically-impaired children, how to develop an accessible environment and teach the missing skills. An explanation of our training, a flyer you can give to your school, letters of recommendation from doctors, and letters from satisfied parents and schools are all available on our website. Over time, we drastically reduce the frequency and severity of the behavioral and educational challenges.

Program/Service: ARD attendance

Description: We attend special education ARD meetings as advocates for neurologically impaired children. We can help you understand the safeguards and help you navigate this complex process. We can also try to resolve any differences between the parents and school. The parents are required to pay us \$250 for up to three hours for any ARD school meetings we attend, and \$50 per hour for each hour thereafter. If we have to travel more than one hour round trip to a meeting or training, there will be an additional charge for each hour of travel in excess of one hour.

Program/Service: Short/Brief Phone Conferences

Description: Participation by phone for a brief conference that is not an ARD or 504 Meeting is individually reviewed and fees determined on a case-by-case basis.

If your family makes less than \$30,000 per year and you are unable to afford these fees, please contact us about alternative ways that you can support AFNIC.

Austin Resource Center for Independent Living

825 E. Rundberg Lane, Suite E6, Austin, TX 78753

(512) 832-6349

www.arcil.com

Program: Core Services

Description: Core services are available at ARCIL Austin, ARCIL San Marcos & ARCIL Round Rock

Program: Advocacy

Description: Provide information and assistance for people with disabilities and their families in accessing support systems, and promoting changes that enhance full access to the community.

Program: Independent Living Skills

Description: Provide opportunities for people with disabilities to gain the skills that empower them to live independently. The following are examples of independent living skills activities:

- Independent living skills training (problem solving, decision making activities)
- Functional life skills training
- Social & recreational activities
- For more information on available independent living skills training see our transition services department.

Program: Information & Referral

Description: Provide comprehensive and up to date information on available resources for people with disabilities and assist individuals by providing referrals for:

- Housing
- Education
- Attendant assistance services
- Community resources for related services

Program: Peer Counseling

Description: Offer people with disabilities the opportunity to interact with peers sharing knowledge, experiences and related issues such as:

- Friendship
- Leisure recreation
- Family support

Program: Transition Service

Description: Transition services empowers consumers to participate and advance as members of the community. This service focuses on independent living skills, community supports, social leisure activities and appropriate referrals for education, training and employment.

Program: Home By Choice (HBC) Project

Description: Do you, or someone you know live in a nursing facility but want to move back home? Do you want to live with family members or find an affordable apartment? People in nursing facilities can choose to live in their own homes or with their families with the appropriate support systems. Can you live at Home? Contact the ARCIL, Inc., HBC Project.

Miscellaneous Community Services

- Americans with Disabilities Act Technical Assistance
- Disability Awareness Workshops
- Consulting Services for Business and Government
- ARCIL Graphics, Services & Design

Austin/ Travis County Health and Human Services

7201 Levander Loop Bldg E, Austin, TX 78702

(512) 972-5400

<http://austintexas.gov/department/neighborhood-health-services>

Provides public health, social and environmental health services. Note: not specific to disabled persons, but provides resources to low-income residents.

Basic Services

Basic services provided at neighborhood centers include food pantry and bread distribution, clothes closet, child safety seats, notary services, form/application assistance and employment/case management information and referrals.

Program: Seasonal Services

Description: Seasonal program services include Christmas Bureau applications, income tax assistance, Coats for Kids vouchers and Thanksgiving baskets.

Program: Social Services

Description: Licensed social workers provide to clients social services such as home visits, crisis intervention, grief counseling and case management.

Program: Health Services

Description: Registered nurses provide health screenings and other health services at three neighborhood centers: Rosewood-Zaragosa Neighborhood Center, St. John's Community Center, and South Austin Neighborhood Center.

Eligibility: To receive assistance through the neighborhood centers, you must bring the following: Proof of address, Proof of income, and Picture ID

Austin-Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC)- Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Services

5225 N. Lamar Blvd. Austin, Texas 78751

(512) 483-5800 Main

(512) 472-4357 Ext. 3 Main: Intake for all ATCIC Services

(512) 703-1395 TTY/TDD

(512) 483-5828 Fax

www.integralcare.org

ATCIC provides Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) services that help individuals and their families choose and access quality and cost-efficient services and supports. Through custom case management and service coordination, ATCIC works to meet your unique needs and preferences. This is accomplished through an extensive network of private and public agencies in Austin and Travis County. IDD services are available for all Travis County residents. Intake and Eligibility Determination: IDD services start with an intake appointment, made by calling the 24/7 Crisis Hotline 512-472-HELP (4357). Interviews are conducted at the North Lamar Professional Building, or an alternate convenient location. Psychologists provide a Determination of mental Retardation (DMR) or diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders for persons seeking services in

Program: Employment Services

Description: Employment services to help people find employment opportunities that integrate their specific needs and interests. Services include individual employment profiles, supports in job searches, applications and interviews, job connection and negotiation support with employers, facilitation of natural supports for on-the-job training and accommodation access and career planning and support for achieving employment goals.

Eligibility: Employment services are available for adults with developmental disabilities (mental retardation), autism, enrolled in Home and Community-Based Services Waiver

(HCS) or Texas Home Living Waiver (TxHmL) programs or contracted through the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS).

Program: Home Health Services

Description: The Home Health program is licensed by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) and provides nursing (including psychiatric nursing), social and personal assistance services, nutritional counseling and physical, occupational and speech language services.

Eligibility: Available for individuals in a residence or independent living environment eligible for Medicaid and under the care of a physician. An IDD diagnosis is NOT a requirement to receive services under this license.

Program: Individual Support Services

Description: In-home individual support services provide individuals with developmental disabilities (mental retardation), autism, or pervasive developmental disorders who live in their home or the home of a family member, the intermittent assistance needed in order to maintain their independence and become more self-sufficient. Services are community-based and can be provided at the individual's residence. They include, but are not limited to, assistance with daily living skills such as housekeeping, grocery shopping, and accessing transportation, as well as supports connecting the individual with existing activities in the community. The services provided are intended to be transitional and designed to develop interdependent relationships in the community based on individual choices. **Eligibility:** Available for those with a diagnosis of developmental disabilities (mental retardation), autism, or pervasive developmental disorder or individuals enrolled in HCS and TxHmL programs.

Program: In-Home and Family Support Services

Description: In-home and family support services assist individuals with developmental disabilities (mental retardation), autism, or pervasive developmental disorders and developmental delays (birth to age four) by providing help with the purchasing of essential services and items. These include basic clothing, food, shelter, general medical care and education. In-home and family support services are intended to support individuals who want to live in their natural environment. Services and items funded vary based on individual needs and alternative resources available. In-home family and support service is a funding source of last resort used when all other funding resources (such as Medicaid, private insurance, community resources and programs) have been exhausted.

Eligibility: Available for children and adults in Travis County with developmental disabilities (mental retardation), autism, pervasive developmental disorders, and developmental delays (birth to age four) or their families.

Program: Residential Support Services

Description: Residential support services include supervised and family living and an array of clinical, habilitation, homemaker, and consultation services for individuals with developmental disabilities (mental retardation), and/or autism, and who may also have a secondary diagnosis of mental illness, substance use, hearing or mobility impairment or other medical conditions. Clinical, psychological, behavioral, counseling, nursing, social and interpersonal support services are provided in a variety of residential living options that maximize consumer choice, respect, skill acquisition, and participation within all aspects of community life. Individuals benefit from an organized network of support service, including daily living skills education, supervision and guidance, vocational supports and

service coordination. Services and supports provided are tailored to assisting each person achieve his/her personal goals.

Eligibility: Available for individuals with a diagnosis of developmental disabilities (mental retardation), or autism. Individuals must meet specific eligibility criteria as determined by the DADS or be eligible for HCS.

Program: Service Coordination

Description: Assigned service coordinators help individuals access medical, social, educational and other appropriate services to achieve the most optimal quality of life and community participation through screenings and assessment, service planning and coordination, resource authorization, advocacy, monitoring and crisis intervention as necessary. In addition, intensive service coordination is provided to children ages 3-21 with complex needs. Service coordinators work in partnership with the family to advocate, access and maintain supports for children with intensive needs. Service coordinators have broad knowledge of 1) developmental disabilities including mental retardation, autism, pervasive developmental disorders, and special health care needs; 2) children's service issues; 3) best practices; 4) special education process and law; 5) inclusion; 6) Americans with Disabilities Act; and 7) behavioral interventions to assist families in negotiating service systems. Services are comprehensive, individualized and provided at a frequency and intensity necessary to maintain successful community living. **Eligibility:** Available for individuals with intellectual disabilities (mental retardation) and/or autism or pervasive development disorders, who are Travis County residents or individuals enrolled in the TxHmL or HCS waiver.

Program: Waiver Enrollment/Interest List Management

Description: The Home and Community Based Waiver (HCS) interest list for Travis County is managed by this department at ATCIC. Individuals are added to the interest list upon request. Individuals are encouraged to contact the division if their needs or circumstances change and are contacted annually to determine their need to remain on the interest list. Those eligible for HCS or TxHmL waiver services receive assistance in enrolling in the respective waiver program. Enrollment for individuals into the HCS waiver program and those who select an intermediate care facility in the local service area are also managed by this department.

Eligibility: There are no eligibility restrictions for being placed on the HCS interest list.

Program: Community Support Group Resources

Description: Mental illness places a tremendous burden on individuals and families, often made worse by the isolation and sense of helplessness it creates. There are many support and educational groups available to help those affected. Visit IntegralCare.org for a complete listing of community support and educational groups, or email SupportGroups@atcic.org for more information.

Program: Consumer Benefits Office

Description: The Consumer Benefits Office helps ATCIC's consumers access Social Security Administration services and programs. Services include, but are not limited to, assistance in applying for and maintaining Social Security Disability and/or Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Eligibility: Children and adults accessing ATCIC services.

Cadence Therapy

13406 Cameron Road; Manor, TX 78653

(512) 814-6328

<http://www.cadencetherapy.com>

Program: An Occupational Therapy Private Practice specializing in Equine Assisted Therapy and Hippotherapy.

Cameron & Friends Daycare

Address: 21009 Secretariat Ridge Ln; Pflugerville, TX 78660

(512)251-8877

Jennifer Holweger; jenniferholweger@sbcglobal.net

<http://www.cameronfriends.com/>

Program: Provides childcare at their in-home location. Have experience with children with disabilities.

Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Program

1100 W. 49th St., Austin, TX 78756-3179

(512)458-7355

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/cshcn/>

The Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Services Program helps children with special health-care needs and people of any age with cystic fibrosis. The program helps clients with their: Medical, dental and mental health care, Drugs Special therapies, Case management, Family Support Services, Travel to health care visits Insurance premiums, and Transportation of deceased clients.

Eligibility: The program is available to anyone who

- lives in Texas
- is under 21 years old (or any age with cystic fibrosis)
- has a certain level of family income
- has a medical problem that
- is expected to last at least 12 months
- will limit one or more major life activities
- needs more health care than what children usually need
- has physical symptoms. (This means that the Program does not cover clients with only a mental, behavioral or emotional condition, or a delay in development.)

You may apply to the CSHCN Services Program year-round.

City of Austin's Neighborhood and Community Development (NHCD)

1000 E. 11th St.; Austin, TX 78702

(512) 974-3125

<http://www.austintexas.gov/empower>

Free Architectural Barrier Removal (ABR) home repair services to people with disabilities who reside in the Austin city limits and meet financial requirements.

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

316 w 12th street, suite 405, Austin, TX 78701

(512)478-3366

(512)478-3370

cotwd@cotwd.org

Advocates for people with disabilities

College Living Experience - Austin

11801 Stonehollow Dr., Ste 100; Austin, TX 78758

(512)339-7878

Martha Dorow

mdorow@experiencecle.com

<http://experiencecle.com/support-services/>

CLE provides a comprehensive support system that allows for students to pursue their own goals. Staff work closely with students on campus, in the community and their apartments to provide individualized instruction in: Academics, Independent Living, Social Skills, and Career Development.

Community Care

RBJ Building, 15 Waller Street, 5th floor, Austin, TX 78702

(512) 978-9000

www.communitycaretx.org/local_contacts-resources.html

Community Care uses a team approach to provide comprehensive primary care services to our patients. We believe your overall health and well-being depends on both your physical and mental health. Our services include primary care, pediatrics, women's services, HIV care, behavioral health services, dental care, nutrition counseling and clinical pharmacy services. Our team of physicians, mid-level providers (Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants), Dentists, Pharmacists, Nutritionists, and Behavioral Health Professionals all work in partnership with our patients to achieve the best health outcomes possible. Your good health is our priority.

Our goal is to continue to expand and enhance our services and to increase access to care. (This program actually falls outside of the scope of the resource guide.)

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

4800 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78756

<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/>

(512) 437-8000

(800) 252-7009

<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/services/dds.shtml>

The DARS Division for Disability Determination Services (DDS), funded entirely through the Social Security Administration (SSA), makes Social Security disability determinations for Texans with severe disabilities who apply for: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Texans with disabilities must first apply for benefits at their local Social Security Office and their applications are then forwarded to DDS by SSA for a disability determination; however, SSA is responsible for making final decisions as to whether or not a person is eligible to receive any Social Security benefits.

To apply for Social Security disability benefits, call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or visit their website at www.ssa.gov to learn more about the application process for disability benefits.

If you have already filed a disability claim with Social Security, you may contact DDS about processing your claim at 512-437-8000 or 1-800-252-7009 with information or questions concerning your claim.

Program: Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services (CRS)

Website: <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/crs.shtml>

Toll Free: (800) 628-5115 (Statewide number)

Email: DARS.Inquiries@dars.state.tx.us (Statewide e-mail)

Contact: Amelia Paramo

Phone: (512) 407-1354

Description: The DARS CRS program helps consumers who have experienced a traumatic brain injury, or a traumatic spinal cord injury. Every person in the CRS program receives their own treatment plan, based on their individual needs. The goal of the CRS program is to help people be more independent in their homes and communities.

Depending on what's needed, the CRS program pays for one or all of these treatments:
In-patient Comprehensive Medical Rehabilitation - A team of medical experts provides consumers with therapy, medical care, and other help. These services take place in a rehabilitation hospital and typically last 30 days.

Outpatient Services - Experts help consumers increase their ability to do daily activities that were affected by their injury. Consumers may have to go to a hospital or clinic during the day, but will be able to go home after their treatments.

Post-Acute Traumatic Brain Injury Services - These services help consumers deal with mental or thought issues related to their injury like forgetfulness or difficulties in solving problems. These services are offered on a residential (overnight stay) and non-residential basis.

Please understand that the CRS program has more people applying for services than it can serve. The consumer's name may be put on a waiting list once he or she is accepted into the program. CRS counselors will not be able to tell you how long the wait for services might be. Apply as soon as possible to receive CRS program services. When the consumer is medically stable enough - and when his or her turn comes up - we will let you know they can start the rehabilitation program.

Eligibility: Have a traumatic brain injury, a traumatic spinal cord injury, or both. These injuries must have significantly affected the consumer's ability to perform daily activities. Be at least 15 years old. Be a United States citizen or immigrant alien. Have lived in Texas for at least six months or have a primary caregiver who has lived in Texas for at least six months. Be medically stable enough to participate in rehabilitation activities. Agree to participate in the services offered by the DARS CRS program.

Program: Rehabilitation Technology Resource Center (RTRC) of the DARS Division of Rehabilitative Services (DRS)

Website: <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/RehabTechLab.shtml>

Vehicle Modification: (512) 424-4155 (Coordinator for Vehicle Modification)
423-4111 (Program Specialist for Rehabilitation Technology)

Demonstration of Loan Equipment: (512) 424-4138 (RTRC)
(512) 424-4111 (RTRC)

Description: The RTRC of the DARS Division for Rehabilitation Services (DRS) keeps track of the latest innovations in equipment and engineering services designed to help people with disabilities.

The latest technology enables people with disabilities to perform jobs once thought of as "off limits" to them. New products do not always reach the people who need them most. Through the RTRC, we can assist in finding equipment, explaining how it is used and how to get it. We work in all areas of disabilities including people with low vision. Having the right equipment can change a person's life. It can make the difference between living in an assisted care facility and living and working independently.

Vehicle modifications: Installation of wheelchair lifts, hand controls, reduced effort steering, and wide range of other adaptive vehicle equipment empowers our consumers to travel independently to achieve work and personal goals. Our staff reviews vehicle modification prescriptions and plans, and can provide the latest information about vehicle adaptations. We work in partnership with Texas Transportation Institute to assure that the modifications we purchase are safe and appropriate to meet our consumers' needs. For information about our services, please contact the Coordinator for Vehicle Modifications at (512) 424-4155 or the Program Specialist for Rehabilitation Technology at (512) 424-4111. NOTICE: Please consult with your counselor before purchasing any items on these lists. List of Vehicles Approved for Lowered Floor and Rear Entry Conversions – (Updated January 2013)
List of commonly installed vehicle assistive devices – Updated April 2012)

DARS Vehicle Modification Program Frequently Asked Questions Information and referral

Providing information and referring people to the right resources is a major service of the RTRC. The staff researches the latest products that are commercially available, giving people choices that can assist them in achieving their goals. This service is for DRS consumers, and, on a time-available basis, for the general public.

Assessments: RTRC can provide counselors with information about job site and home modifications, as well as computer assessments. The RTRC does not provide assistive technology assessments as this service is made available through qualified professionals such as physical therapist, occupational therapist, or rehabilitation engineers. All assessments for rehabilitation technology are conducted in the individual's customary environment or the environment where the technology will be used, such as the home or worksite. The assessment provides pertinent background information about the individual environment or site that the consumer uses (or will use) the technology. This assessment includes a detailed recommendation of the specifications for a device, system, or service; justification for the purchase (including advantages over other options); maintenance cost, cost/benefits, and how the equipment addresses the individual's functional limitations and vocational goals. If a brand or a model is specified, generic equivalents should also be allowed.

Demonstration and loan of equipment: The RTRC is located in the DRS Central Office in Austin and has a wide array of assistive equipment including wheelchairs and aids for communication, daily living, deaf and hard of hearing. The RTRC also addresses ergonomic issues. All of the RTRC's inventory is available for demonstration, and the majority of items are available to loan to consumers for a period of three weeks. Equipment loans enable our consumers to try out devices ensuring that they meet their needs prior to purchase. Equipment is loaned to rehabilitation professionals and to DRS consumers through their counselors. Other individuals or groups may request demonstrations at the RTRC by calling (512) 424-4138 or (512) 424-4111 to schedule an appointment.

Program: Independent Living Services

Website: <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/il.shtml>

Phone: 1-512-437-8000

Toll Free:1-800-252-7009

Description: Services provided in the ILS program may include: counseling and guidance; training and tutorial services; adult basic education; rehabilitation facility training; telecommunications, sensory and other technological aids for people who are deaf; vehicle modification; assistive devices such as artificial limbs, braces, wheelchairs and hearing aids to stabilize or improve function; and other services as needed to achieve independent living objectives, such as transportation, interpreter services and maintenance.

Eligibility: To be eligible for the ILS program, a person must be certified by a DRS counselor: to have a significant disability that results in a substantial impediment to their ability to function independently in the family and/or in the community, and there must be a reasonable expectation that ILS assistance will result in the ability to function more independently. ILS services can be provided to consumers when they meet the basic eligibility requirements. The DRS counselor provides guidance and counseling and, when possible, coordinates services from organizations offering comparable benefits directed toward achieving the ILS goal. For those ILS services that require DRS funds, consumers are continued on the ILS Waiting List. The timing of DRS-paid services varies depending upon available funding and the current number of consumers receiving or waiting for DRS-funded services.

Program: Vocational Rehabilitation

Website: <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/vr.shtml>

Phone: 1-512-437-8000

Toll Free:1-800-252-7009

Description: Services are provided based on individual needs. Some of these services are: medical, psychological and vocational evaluation to determine the nature and degree of the disability and the consumer's job capabilities, counseling and guidance to help the consumer and family plan vocational goals and adjust to the working world, training to learn job skills in trade school, college, university, on the job or at home, hearing examinations, hearing aids and other communication equipment, aural rehabilitation and interpreter services for the deaf and hearing impaired, medical treatment and/or therapy to lessen or remove the disability, assistive devices such as artificial limbs, braces, and wheelchairs to stabilize or improve functioning on the job or at home, rehabilitation technology devices and services to improve job functioning, training in appropriate work behaviors and other skills to meet employer expectations, job placement assistance to find jobs compatible with the person's physical and mental ability, and follow-up after job placement to ensure job success.

Eligibility: A person is eligible if: the person has a disability which results in substantial problems in obtaining employment; vocational rehabilitation services from DRS are required by that person to prepare for, get or keep a job and the person is able to get or keep a job after receiving services.

Easter Seals Central Texas

1611 Headway Circle Building 2, Austin, TX 78754

(512)478-2581

(512)476-1638

www.centraltx.easterseals.com

Contact Miriam Nisenbaum, mnisenbaum@eastersealstx.com

Program: Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation (CORP)

Description: One-stop services are provided for children and adults with disabilities in a clinic setting. These services include: physical, occupational, and bilingual speech therapy, service coordination and audiology. The clinic will include the M.D. Anderson Aquatic Therapy Pool and some accessible transportation. Child and adult camps provide fun-filled therapeutic experiences for participants while offering respite for caregivers. Easter Seals Central Texas' Parent Support and Training program allows the agency to provide more in-depth wrap-around services for new and existing clients. All parenting programs are free. The clinic is federally certified and services are accredited by The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) under Outpatient Medical Rehabilitation Best Practice Standards.

Do you need help to pay your therapy bills? We may be able to help you if you do not have insurance, Medicare, CHIP or Medicaid. Please call 478-2581 for more details.

Program: Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

Description: ECI services are provided in the natural environment of children aged birth to 36 months with developmental delays or disabilities. Early intervention service providers go to homes, childcare facilities, or community settings to conduct evaluations and provide services. Service coordination including coordination with other agencies is provided at no cost and is an essential component for integrating services around family-centered goals. These services are accredited by The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) under Pediatric Family Centered Best Practice Standards.

Program: Paid Job Training (PJT)

Description: PJT provides employment for adults with disabilities and other barriers to employment. The program ensures that each trainee learns critical work skills and establishes a positive work history. By becoming a full-time employee with the PJT program, our team members build a successful employment history and gain valuable skills in the following areas: teamwork, healthy work habits, independence, sense of pride, and financial accountability.

Program: Employment Services

Description: Employment Services delivers job development and placement for adults with disabilities and includes: supported employment, independent living, follow along services, assistive technology, counseling, and case management. These special services address the individual support needs of our clients and make a significant contribution to their long-term success at work and at home. Each year we help over 30 adults with disabilities find work in our community.

Program: Community & Housing Services

Description: Community and Housing Services Department offers a unique array of programs and services designed for one specific purpose: to ensure that people with disabilities have the opportunity to participate fully and equally in every aspect of our society.

Community and Housing Services Department believes people with disabilities must be able to choose and control their own destinies. We provide information support and advocacy to assist people with disabilities and their families in their efforts to navigate

through a complex system of services and supports toward independent, productive, and satisfying lives.

Empowerment Options, Inc.

P.O. Box 26188, Austin, TX 78755

(512)338-4493

<http://www.empowermentoptions.com>

Empowerment serves Texas families by providing a comprehensive support network and expert care for those with developmental disabilities. Our customized plans help individuals lead fulfilling lives and integrate into the community to the greatest possible extent. They offer: 24-hour residential care homes with safe and nurturing, yet stimulating environments, At-home residential habilitation for those who prefer to live in their own or their family's home but still need some support and services, Day habilitation, where we focus on functional skills-building, Respite care for back-up support when it's most needed, Case management to help locate and access community services such as medical, dental, education and in-home support, Community living programs, vocational opportunities and day activities designed to meet the needs of each individual and his or her family.

Encompass Pediatric Services

3508 Far West Blvd, Ste 320; Austin, TX 78731

(512) 230-0423

<http://www.ehhi.com>

Home Health and Private Duty Nursing Services for children who are medically fragile in Austin and surrounding areas

Family Support Cooperative Meetings (Austin ISD Parent Engagement and Support Office)

1012 Arthur Stiles Road, Austin TX 78721

(512) 414- 3189

(512) 414-3603

<http://www.eparentsupport.org/page.php?23>

The Austin Family Support Cooperative is a partnership between the Austin Independent School District (AISD), Austin Travis County Integral Care, Easter Seals of Central Texas, NAMI Austin and the Arc of the Capital Area created to inform and support families of children with disabilities.

The Family Support Co-op meetings include presentations from speakers and support groups in a variety of areas. Topics will include: Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADD / ADHD, Support for Guardians and more.

Good Wheelchairs

2007 Bert Ave, Austin, TX 78704

(512)420-8005

pickup@goodwheelchair.org

www.goodwheelchairs.org

Takes donated wheelchairs, fixes them and provides them at affordable prices. Does not take Medicaid or Insurance. Similar to GoodWill, but for wheelchairs.

Growing Roots

P. O. Box 41048; Austin, TX 78704

(512) 240-2757

www.Growingrootsaustin.com

Growing Roots empowers families of children with special needs through hands-on information, resources and support.

Healing with Horses Ranch

10014 FM 973; Manor, TX 78653

Phone: (512) 228 4126

Website: <http://www.healingwithhorsesranch.org/>

Therapeutic horseback riding; providing safe, affordable, Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies (EAAT) to individuals with physical, cognitive or emotional challenges to promote healing and independence.

Housing Authority of the City of Austin

1124 S. IH 35, Austin, TX 78704

(512) 477-4488

(512) 477-0953

www.hacanet.org/resources

To cultivate sustainable affordable housing communities and partnerships that inspire self reliance, growth and optimism.

Mary Lee Foundation

1339 Lamar Square Drive, Austin, TX 78704

(512) 443-5777

(512) 444-9949

www.maryleefoundation.org

Program: Affordable Housing

Description: Helping to provide affordable housing to the working poor, single parents with young children and those on Social Security Disability. While all of the apartments are open to any resident of the community, Mary Lee welcomes individuals with mental or physical disabilities.

Program: Brain Injury Program

Description: The Brain Injury Program of the Mary Lee Foundation consists of two programs: The Rehabilitation Center and the Extended Care Program. Both facilities are centrally located on Lamar Square Drive in Austin Texas.

Program: Case Management Services

Description: Case Management Services provided by Mary Lee Foundation help adults and caregivers determine what the specific needs are of each client, and what services are available to meet those needs.

Program: Daybreak Activity Center:

Description: The Daybreak Activity Center provides therapeutic activities for people with developmental and mental health disabilities and survivors of brain injury.

Program: Mary Lee Food Pantry

Description: Mary Lee Foundation operates and stocks a food pantry that is open to all residents in the Square. Open every Tuesday of the month, the food pantry provides nourishing foods and a little bit extra into the kitchens of the Mary Lee Foundation community.

Program: Home and Community Based Services

Description: Services provided are in areas such as residential assistance in the home or group home, case management, respite, day habilitation or activity, speech therapy, physical and occupational therapy.

Intermediate Care Facility for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: The ICF/IID program is long-term care for adults with an Intellectual Disability or Related Conditions.

Program: Sinclair Children's Center

Description: Sinclair Children's Center is licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and has a total capacity of thirty-five children, including both boys and girls.

Program: Texas Home Living

Description: This program is designed to provide in home services to persons who need assistance but who want to maintain the independence of a home setting.

Transitional Living Services

McBeth Recreation Center

2401 Columbus Drive, Austin, TX 78746

(512) 974- 9011

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/danny-g-mcbeth-recreation-center>

Provides programs and recreation participation opportunities for children, teens, and adults who have developmental and/or physical challenges

Programs: Adaptive Program: Good Neighbor Adventure Club, Afternoon Arts and More, Friendship Cafe, Modern Dance, Art in the Park, Outdoor Adventure Club, Recreational Bowling, Adult Monthly Dances, Variety Night, Helping Hands, Rock the Boat.

Para Driving Aids

4250B Felter Lane, Austin, TX 78744

(512)385-0808

<http://www.paradrivingaids.com>

Company provides client-paid vehicle modifications, stairway lifts.

Partners Resource Network

1090 Longfellow Drive, Suite B, Beaumont, TX 77706

(409) 898-4684

(800) 866-4726

(409) 898-4869 Fax

pathproject@partnerstx.org

www.partnerstx.org

Austin Contact: Stacy Ford (Region 13) (512) 736-0055,
email: stacyreg13path@gmail.com

Austin is in Region 13- this is the PATH Project.

Programs for Children with Disabilities: Ages 3 to 5

1701 North Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701-1494

(512)463-9414

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147494988>

Eligible children with disabilities, ages 3-21, are entitled to receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). In Texas, school district Preschool Programs for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) provide special education and related services for eligible children with disabilities ages three through five. PPCD refers to the services provided by the school district, not to the place where they are provided. Eligible children may receive PPCD services in variety settings such as pre-kindergarten, resource, and self-contained classrooms or in community settings such as Head Start and pre-school.

Riverkids Pediatric Home Health

3532 Bee Cave Rd., Ste 201; Austin, TX 78746

(512) 431-4721

Austin.Office@RiverKidsTexas.com

<http://riverkidstexas.com>

Pediatric Home Health Therapy: PT, OT and Speech

Safe Place Disability Services ASAP

P.O. Box 19454, Austin, TX 78760

(512) 267-7233

info@SafePlace.org

Disabilities-specific email: DisabilityServices@SafePlace.org

www.safeplace.org/Page.aspx?pid=317

Disability Services ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program) provides training and education to help increase awareness about and prevent sexual and domestic violence and abuse. Through custom designed presentations and trainings for disability service providers, domestic and sexual violence staff and criminal justice personnel, the program offers technical assistance and consultation to individuals and organizations seeking guidance to reduce the risks of abuse against individuals with disabilities or to enhance accessibility to persons with disabilities.

Sante Pediatric Services (now part of Epic Health Services)

2211 South IH-35; Austin, TX 78741

(512) 394-0652

<http://epichealthservices.com/>

Epic Health Services is a leading provider of pediatric private duty nursing and therapy services, as well as a variety of adult home health care services.

Special Transit Service (STS)

509 Thompson Ln, Austin, TX 78742

(512)478-9647
(512) 474-1200

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

1029 Camino La Costa, Austin, TX 78752
(512) 206- 3700
(866)627-6991
www.ssa.gov/disability

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a Federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues (not Social Security taxes): It is designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people, who have little or no income; and It provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

Eligibility Requirements: Anyone who is:

- aged (age 65 or older);
blind; or
disabled.
- And, who:
- has limited income;
- has limited resources;
- is a U.S. citizen or national, or in one of certain categories of aliens;
- is a resident of one of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, or the Northern Mariana Islands;
- is not absent from the country for a full calendar month or for 30 consecutive days or more;
- applies for any other cash benefits or payments for which he or she may be eligible, (for example, pensions, Social Security benefits);
- gives SSA permission to contact any financial institution and request any financial records about you;
- files an application;
- and meets certain other requirements.

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD)

6201 E Oltorff, Suite 600, Austin, TX 78741
(512)437-5432
(512)437-5434 Fax
www.txddc.state.tx.us
tcdd@txdcc.state.tx.us

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities helps people with developmental disabilities achieve their potential for independence, productivity and integration into their communities by working to develop a comprehensive system of service and supports in Texas.

Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)

1-855-839-3237
<http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm>

Eligibility: Individual eligibility requirements are listed under each program. However, all programs require an intake assessment.

Program: Adult Day Care Centers

Travis County Provider: AGE of Central Texas

Address: 3710 Cedar St Austin 78705

Phone Number: (512) 458 6305

Website: <http://www.ageofcentraltx.org/>

Contact: Stephanie Hoffman (Program Director)

E-mail Address: shoffman@ageofcentraltexas.org

Description: Adult day care is the daytime solution for family caregivers caring for an older adult who cannot be left at home alone due to memory loss, illness, or disability. With the support of adult day health services, these older adults who require support are able to continue living in their homes or with their families.

Staffed by skilled professionals, including nurses, certified nursing assistants, activity directors, and program aides, adult day health centers provide daily assistance to older adults who would otherwise require full-time in-home or residential care. Staff members are specially trained in senior health issues, and work closely with the families in the care of the member who attends.

In addition, adult day care centers provide nutritious meals and snacks, as well as engaging activities - view a sample activity page and calendar) planned by a licensed activity director. Activities can include gardening, games, music, and exercise. The goal of adult day care is to provide care during the day so older adults can live in the community longer. Research shows that the supportive services of adult day care may help prevent decline of health as well as premature entry into assisted living and nursing homes. (Copied from: http://www.ageofcentraltx.org/adc_what_is_it.php)

Eligibility: Adult day health care centers care for older adults with a variety of health needs who cannot be alone because of memory loss, social isolation, illness, or disability. AGE of Central Texas staff have all received specialized training in caring for those with memory loss. (Copied from: http://www.ageofcentraltx.org/who_attends.php) Schedule an appointment for the client to be assessed by the program nurse and get a letter from the client's doctor. Payment is accepted from Medicaid, long-term care insurance, or Veteran's Administration benefits. In addition private payments from clients are also accepted.

Program: Client Managed Personal Assistant Service (CMPAS)

Website: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/cmpas.html>

Description: Under the Client Managed Personal Assistance Services (CMPAS) program, the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) contracts with licensed agencies to provide personal assistance services to people with physical disabilities who are mentally and emotionally competent and willing to supervise their own attendant or who have someone who can supervise the attendant for them. The services provided are 1) health-related tasks prescribed by a physician. 2) Personal assistance, as needed, by personal attendants selected and supervised by the person getting services.

Eligibility: You must be 18 or older. You must need help with at least one personal care task. You must be able to direct your own care. Your doctor must verify you have a current medical need for help with personal care tasks and other activities of daily living. You have a copay after \$1,911 of income. There are no resource limits. Licensed personal assistance services agencies determine eligibility and the amount of care needed, develop a pool of potential personal assistants, and provide emergency back-up personal assistants.

Agency phone number: 1-855-839-3237 (Travis County DADS)

Program: Community Attendant Services (CAS)

Website: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/cas.html>

Description: Community Attendant Services (CAS) is a non-technical, non-skilled service providing in-home attendant services to people who need help with personal care tasks. CAS is available to eligible adults and children whose health problems cause them to be functionally limited in performing activities of daily living. Services provided include escort, home management and personal care.

Escort: Accompanying a person to a medical appointment. This service does not include direct transportation by an attendant.

Home management: Help with housekeeping activities to support the person's health and safety, including cleaning, laundry, shopping and other household tasks.

Personal care: Help with activities related to physical health, including bathing, dressing, grooming, routine hair and skin care, preparing meals, feeding, exercising, helping with self-administered medication, toileting, and transferring/ambulating.

Eligibility: You can be of any age. You must be functionally limited in performing at least one personal care task, based on your medical condition. You must have a practitioner's statement of medical need. You must have an unmet need for home management and personal care. Your income and resources may not exceed specified limits. You must not be Medicaid eligible.

Program: Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS)

Toll-free number: 1-877-438-5658

Website: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/class.html>

Description: The Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) program provides home and community-based services to people with related conditions as a cost-effective alternative to an intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability or related conditions (ICF/IID). A related condition is a disability, other than an intellectual disability, that originated before age 22 that affects the ability to function in daily life.

Services provided are Adaptive aids and medical supplies, Auditory enhancement training, Behavioral support, Case management, Continued family services, Dental and dental sedation, Dietary, Habilitation, Minor home modifications, Nursing, Occupational therapy, Physical therapy, Pre-vocational habilitation, Respite care, Specialized therapies, Speech therapy, Supported employment, Support family services, and Transition assistance services

You can access the following services through the CDS option: Habilitation, Nursing services, Occupational therapy, Physical therapy, Respite care, Speech pathology, support consultation services. This service may not be available right away. Your name will be placed on an interest list and you will be contacted when services are available.

Eligibility: You must be diagnosed with a related condition that manifested before age 22. You must be eligible for Medicaid in the community and not be enrolled in another Medicaid waiver program. You must need habilitation and case management services. You must live in your own or your family's home. Your income and resources may not exceed specified limits. You cannot be enrolled in another waiver program. Please be prepared to provide Social Security and Medicaid numbers, type of disability, age of the onset of the disability, date of birth, address and telephone number of the person needing services.

Program: Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS)

Website: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/dahs.html>

Description: Licensed day activity and health services (DAHS) facilities provide daytime services to people who live in the community as an alternative to living in a nursing home or other institution. Services, which usually are provided Monday through Friday, address physical, mental, medical and social needs. Sometimes, this is called adult day care or adult day services. Services provided include: noon meal and snacks, nursing and personal care, physical rehabilitation, social educational and recreational activities, and transportation.

Eligibility: You must be at least 18. You must have a functional disability related to medical diagnosis. You must have a medical diagnosis and physician's order requiring care or supervision. You must need help with one or more personal care tasks. You must meet these eligibility criteria: you must be a Medicaid recipient to get Title XIX services; and your income and resources may not exceed specified limits to get Title XX services.

Program: Emergency Response Services (ERS)

Website: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/ers.html>

Description: Adults who are functionally impaired and live alone or who are socially isolated in the community can get round-the-clock emergency assistance through Emergency Response Services. In an emergency, the person can press a call button to signal for help.

The electronic monitoring system, which includes 24-hour, seven-day-a-week monitoring, helps ensure the appropriate person or service agency responds to an alarm call.

Eligibility: You must be 18 or older. You must have a landline communication device compatible with available ERS provider equipment. You must routinely be alone for eight or more hours per day and have the mental capacity to operate the equipment. You must be willing to sign a release allowing responders to make a forced entry into the home when responding to an activated alarm call and there is no other means of entering the home. You may be a Medicaid recipient or have income and resources not exceeding specified limits. You must meet a specified functional assessment score.

Program: Family Care (FC)

Website: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/fc.html>

Description: Family Care is a non-skilled, nontechnical attendant care service available to eligible adults who are functionally limited in performing activities of daily living. Services are provided by an attendant and do not require the supervision of a registered nurse. Services provided are: escort, home management, and personal care. Escort: Accompanying a person to a medical appointment. This service does not include direct transportation by an attendant.

Home management: Help with housekeeping activities to support the person's health and safety, including cleaning, laundry, shopping and other household tasks.

Personal care: Help with activities related to physical health, including bathing, dressing, grooming, routine hair and skin care, preparing meals, feeding, exercising, helping with self-administered medication, toileting, and transferring/ambulating.

Eligibility: You must be 18 or older. You must have an unmet need for home management and/or personal care tasks. Your income and resources may not exceed specified limits. You must meet a specified functional assessment score.

Program: Home Delivered Meals

Agency Phone Number: 1-855-839-3237 (Travis County DADS)

Website: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/meals.html>

Description: The Home Delivered Meals program provides a nutritious meal delivered to the person's home to ensure he or she gets at least one healthy meal per day.

Eligibility: You must be 18 or older. You must be functionally limited in preparing meals. You must meet a specified functional assessment score. You must be a Medicaid recipient or have income and resources that do not exceed specified limits.

Program: In-home and Family Support Program (IHFSP)

Website: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/ifs.html>

Description: The In-Home and Family Support program provides direct grant benefits to people with physical disabilities and/or their families to choose and purchase services that help them to remain living in their own homes. The services provided are: Access to counseling and training programs to help people provide proper care to a person with a disability. Attendant care, home health services, home health aide services, homemaker services, chore services to provide instruction/training and assistance with routine body functions, dressing, preparing and consuming food, and ambulating. Medical, surgical, therapeutic, diagnostic and other health services related to a person's disability, which may include medications not covered by Medicare or Medicaid. Other disability related services pre-approved by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services. Pre-approved transportation as well as room and board cost incurred by person with a physical disability or his or her family during evaluation or treatment. Purchase or lease of special equipment or architectural modifications of a home to facilitate care, treatment therapy or general living conditions of a person with a disability, and respite care.

Eligibility: You must be 4 or older. You must have a physical disability substantially limiting one or more major life activities. A copayment begins at 105 percent of the state median income for household size.

Program: Nursing Facility

Agency Phone Number: 1-855-839-3237 (Travis County DADS)

Website: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/nf.html>

Description: Nursing homes are residential facilities that provide care for people whose medical condition regularly requires the skills of licensed nurses. Nursing homes provide for the medical, social and psychological needs of each resident, including room and board, social services, over-the-counter drugs (prescription drugs are covered through the Medicaid Vendor Drug program or Medicare Part D), medical supplies and equipment, rehabilitative services, and personal needs items.

Eligibility: You must have needs that prevent independent living. You must need nursing or medical care regularly throughout a 24-hour period. Your need for care must be documented by a physician. You may need rehabilitative services such as occupational, physical or speech therapy. If you receive Medicaid, your income and resources may not exceed specified limits.

Pre-admission Screening and Review: All people who are planning to move to a partially federally funded nursing facility and who are suspected of having a mental illness, or a diagnosis of an intellectual disability or a related condition must receive a Pre-admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) screening. This includes private pay individuals. People are assessed to see if they need specialized services. People who are not satisfied with their PASRR determination have the right to a fair hearing to appeal the determination.

Services provided by Pre-admission Screening and Review (PASRR) are alternate placement services, customized manual wheelchairs and specialized durable medical equipment, determination of intellectual disability, rehabilitative/maintenance therapies, service coordination by the local authority or local mental health authority, and vocational training.

Program: Primary Home Care (PHC)

Website: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/phc.html>

Description: Primary Home Care (PHC) provides non-technical in-home attendant services to people who have an approved medical need for assistance with personal care tasks. PHC is available to eligible people whose health problems cause them to be functionally limited in performing activities of daily living according to a practitioner's statement of medical need. Attendants provide PHC services. Services provided include escorting a person to medical appointment for diagnosis and/or treatment, home management to help with housekeeping activities that support the person's health and safety, and personal care related to the care of the person's physical health.

Eligibility: You must be 21 or older. You must have an unmet need for help with home management and personal care tasks. You must have a practitioner's statement of medical need.

You must be eligible for Medicaid. You must meet specified functional assessment score and have a functional limitation with at least one personal care task based on your medical condition.

Program: Residential Care

Website: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/rc.html>

Description: The Residential Care program provides services to eligible adults who require round-the-clock care, but do not require daily nursing intervention. Services include personal care, home management, escort, 24-hour supervision, social and recreational activities, and transportation. Residential care is a 24-hour living arrangement in which the person pays room and board and keeps a monthly allowance for personal and medical expenses. The remainder of his income is contributed to the total cost of care.

Emergency care is a living arrangement that provides services to eligible people while case managers seek a permanent arrangement. People who get emergency care do not contribute toward the cost of their care.

Eligibility: You must be 18 or older. You must meet a specified functional assessment score. You may be a Medicaid recipient or have income and resources not exceeding specified limits. You needs must not exceed the facility's capacity under its license capacity.

Program: Special Services to Persons with Disabilities

Website: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/sspd.html>

Description: Special Services to Persons with Disabilities include services provided in the community in a variety of settings. These services help people develop the skills needed to remain in the community as independently as possible. Provides counseling, help developing the skills needed for independent living, and personal care.

Eligibility: You must be 18 or older. You must meet a specified functional assessment score. You may be a Medicaid recipient or have income and resources not exceeding specified limits.

Program: Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP)

Website: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/mdcp.html>

Description: The Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) provides services to support families caring for children who are medically dependent and to encourage the transition of children in nursing homes. This service may not be available right away. Your name will be place on an interest list and you will be contacted when services become

available. Services provided are: Adaptive aids — items necessary to treat, rehabilitate, prevent or compensate for conditions resulting in disability or loss of function. Adaptive aids also may be devices enabling a person to perform the activities of daily living or control the environment in which they live.

Adjunct supports — individualized and disability-related services, including personal care supports for basic activities of daily living (ADL), instrumental ADL, skilled care and delegated care supports, to: assist a child to participate in child care; assist a person to participate in post-secondary education; or increase a person's independence.

Minor home modifications — necessary physical modifications of a person's home to prevent institutionalization or support de-institutionalization. The modifications must be necessary to ensure health, welfare and safety or to enable greater independence in the home.

Financial management services — assistance delivered by a consumer directed services agency. Respite services — temporary relief for the primary caregiver from their caregiving role during times when the caregiver would normally provide care. Transition assistance services — a one-time service to help Medicaid-eligible Texans transition from the nursing home to the community.

Texas Medicaid Program

Brown-Heatly Building, 4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78751

(512) 424-6500

(800) 252-8263

<http://www.dads.state.tx.us/ltss/texasmedicaid.html#what>

Medicaid pays for health care and long-term care services for people who might not be able to pay for it themselves. Here are some examples of services Medicaid pays for: Doctor and clinic visits, Hospital visits, Emergency care, Medicine, Glasses, Dentist visits for children age 20 and younger, Family planning, Pregnancy and childbirth care, Mental health care Care in a nursing facility or other place of care, Care in your home, Speech therapy (helps you learn how to speak again or speak better), Occupational therapy (helps you learn how to do everyday activities like getting around your home, getting in a car, and getting dressed), Physical therapy (helps you learn how to move around better or become stronger)

Eligibility: You might be able to get Medicaid in Texas if: You have a low income. AND You or a family member is in a group that Medicaid covers.

Texas Parent-to-Parent

3710 Cedar St., Box 12, Austin, TX 78705

(512) 458-8600

(866)896-6001

(512) 451-3110

www.txp2p.org

A statewide non-profit developed for parents by parents: provides parent to parent matches, support, information, website, resources, newsletter, training.

Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC)

5555 N Lamar Ste K103, POBox 9879, Austin Tx 78766

(817)371-7353

Email: twxsilc@texas.net

Website: <http://www.txsilc.org/>

The purpose of the Council is to develop, in cooperation with the DARS and the Network of CILs, the State Plan for Independent Living. This document is a detailed three-year plan that sets the parameters and establishes the goals for the provision of independent living services in Texas. The Council is also charged with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the State Plan. Other roles of the SILC are systems advocacy, education of the public regarding disability-related topics, and provision of technical assistance concerning the independent living philosophy and approach.

Travis Medical

1104 W. 34th St. at Medical Pkwy; Austin, TX 78705

(512)458-4589

<http://www.travismedical.com/>

Travis Medical's mission is to offer the best and most appropriate selection of medical equipment & supplies at competitive prices with exceptional customer service. Our priority is to help those in need maintain their independence. The products we offer are uniquely designed to improve health, safety, comfort and simplify the home-care process.

Travis Medical has been providing home medical equipment for over 25 years. Our knowledge and experience allow us to offer the most beneficial solutions to our customers. We have tailored our processes in order to provide you the most efficient and customer friendly shopping experience possible.

By striving to exceed our customer's expectations, Travis Medical's commitment to excellence is unparalleled. Our friendly, courteous and knowledgeable staff can provide expertise for the following "products and services":

- Custom Rehab Equipment
- Disposable Supplies
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Respiratory and Sleep Equipment and Supplies
- Hospice Solutions
- Reimbursement Expertise
- Convenient Delivery Methods and Options

VoCAT- Vocational Communication Academics Technology

5930 Middle Fiskville Rd; Austin, TX 78752

(512)223-7515

vocat@austincc.edu

<http://www3.austincc.edu/it/cms/www/schedule/schedule.php?op=browse&snid=10506&ct=CE>

Vocational Communication, Academics and Technology (VoCAT) is a unique Continuing Education college experience for special needs adults whose disabilities may prevent them from participation in traditional adult education programs.

The college experience is much more than going to class. It is entering the adult world, becoming independent and being your own person. VoCAT students participate in adult education to involve them in the Austin, TX community with vital and unique connections with peers and employers.

VSA Arts of Texas

3710 Cedar St. #7, Austin, TX 78705

(512) 454-9912

<http://www.vsatx.org>

VSA Texas, the state organization on arts and disability, is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization that works to create a society where people with disabilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. Our mission is to promote the creative power in people with disabilities by working with all community members to facilitate full access to the cultural and educational arts. VSA Texas is a member of the international network of VSA, an affiliate of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Whole Movement Center

1709 Rio Grande; Austin, TX 78701

(802) 324-1731

<http://www.wholemovementcenter.com/>

Unique Movement Education and Therapy for Whole Children; Developmental Movement for Very Special Infants, Children and Parents

Wonders & Worries

923 Westbank Dr. Suite C, Austin, TX 78746

(512)329-5757

<http://www.wondersandworries.org>

Support for families coping with serious illness

Vision Services

Any Baby Can

1121 E. 7th St.
Austin, TX 78702
(512) 454-3743 Main
(800) 672-0238 Toll Free
(512) 477-9205 Fax
www.abcaus.org
info@abcaus.org

Any Baby Can improves the lives of children by strengthening them and their families through education, therapy and family support services. Most of our services are provided through home visitation programs, and we also offer community classes and support groups. At Any Baby Can, we believe that every child deserves a strong family, and it's the foundation of everything we do. Clients come to Any Baby Can from a variety of referral sources, including other social service agencies, Neonatal Intensive Care Units, pediatricians, hospitals, WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Clinics, school nurses, teachers, family members and friends.

Program: Comprehensive Advocacy and Resources for Empowerment (CARE)

Description: The Comprehensive Advocacy and Resources for Empowerment (CARE) Program serves families of children zero through age 20 who have physical, developmental, emotional or behavioral special health care needs. Parents and children receive emotional support, learn coping skills, and are connected to community resources. The program also offers family events that provide a place for families to meet, have fun and support each other. A variety of events are offered throughout the year including family picnics and Mom's Night Out. The CARE Program provides home-based case management, including navigation of insurance options, facilitation among parents/caregivers, school, healthcare and other professionals to create an effective advocacy team for the child, emotional support, coordination of medical and social services, crisis assistance, community resource information and referrals. Services are offered in the client's home, clinic or other convenient locations. Services are free to those who are eligible.

Eligibility: CARE services are available to families that have a child ages zero through 20 with special health care needs, do not have Medicaid (children with Medicaid are referred to another program), live in Travis, Williamson, Hays or Bastrop county, are not enrolled in ECI or Candlelighters programs at Any Baby Can.

Program: Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

Description: ECI serves families with children birth to 36 months with a developmental delay, medically diagnosed condition or auditory or visual impairment. The ECI model was built on the understanding that the most effective time to improve a child's ability to grow and learn is before the age of three. ECI helps children reach their full potential and increases parents' knowledge, skills, and ability to support their child's physical, mental, and emotional development. The ECI program provides home-based case management and service coordination, specialized skills training, evaluations (occupational and physical therapy, speech pathology and nutrition), therapies (occupational and physical therapy, speech pathology and nutrition, and community resource information and referrals. Services are offered in the client's home, childcare center or other convenient locations.

Eligibility: ECI services are available to families that have a child age zero to three with developmental delays or medical conditions, live in one of the following zip codes:

78610/12/17, 78702/04/19/21/25/41/42/44/47 (If a family resides in a zip code other than these listed, ABC will refer to another ECI provider), and if a child's delay is not yet advanced enough to meet ECI eligibility criteria, the family may be referred to the Any Baby Can Health and Fair Start Program for prevention services. All screenings and evaluations are at no cost to families, but there may be a charge for other services. Payment for those services is determined by family income. For children with Medicaid, CHIP or those in foster care, there is no cost to the family.

Austin Lighthouse: Travis Association for the Blind

2307 Business Center Dr

Austin, TX 78764

(512) 442-2329 Main

(512) 442-5498 Fax

www.austinlighthouse.org

info@austinlighthouse.org

Travis Association for the Blind, otherwise known as the Austin Lighthouse, is a service oriented non-profit organization with the mission to assist people who are blind or vision impaired to attain the skills they need to become gainfully employed in the community.

Program: Vocational Training

Description: The vocational training program offers employment to people who are blind. It also offers specific training for vocations in warehouse environments; sewing, skin-care production; receptionists; and other vocations that require computer and multi-line phone skills. In addition to training, the vocational training program offers assistance in helping people in the program find employment.

Eligibility: To participate in the vocational training program, one must be legally blind.

Program: Beginning Computer

Description: Classes introduce students to the exciting world of computers. Classes include beginner basics, Microsoft Windows, Window-Eyes, ZoomText, Jaws, Microsoft Word, Internet access, and e-mail services. Instruction also covers special devices available that allow people who are blind to use computers; how to shop and purchase for a first computer. Tuition is free.

Eligibility: To participate in computer classes, one must be legally blind and be proficient in keyboard use.

Program: Beginning Keyboarding

Description: Beginning Keyboarding is a prerequisite to computer classes for students with little or no keyboard skills.

Eligibility: To participate in the beginning keyboarding program, one must be legally blind.

Business Enterprises of Texas (BET)

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

4900 N. Lamar Blvd.

Austin, Texas 78756

(512) 377-0559 Phone

(512) 424-4730 Fax

www.dars.state.tx.us/dbs/bet

Provides employment opportunities for qualified persons who are blind to operate food service, and vending machine locations on Federal, state and private properties throughout the State of Texas.

Description: BET provides employment opportunities for qualified persons who are blind to operate food service, and vending machine locations on federal, state and private properties throughout the State of Texas. Qualified persons undergo a 16 week-long training program. Any person that is referred from DARS and is qualified and interested in completing the program is accepted. After students complete the program and begin working for a company, the person pays a portion of their earnings back to BET to help fund the program for future students.

Eligibility: BET services are available to people who are blind by Federal standards, U.S. citizen residing in Texas, 18 years of age, good general healthy and stamina, current eye and physical examination documentation, and a high school diploma or GED.

Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)

2010 E 6th St

Austin, TX 78702

(512) 478-7433 Main

(512) 478-1110 Fax

<http://www.ridecarts.com>

The Capital Area Rural Transportation System, or CARTS, is a Rural Transit District formed through inter-local agreement by nine county governments in the seventy-five hundred square mile region surrounding the Texas capital city. The CARTS District includes all of Bastrop, Burnet, Blanco, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays and Lee counties and the non-urbanized areas of Travis and Williamson counties. CARTS delivers transportation tailored specifically for each of the one hundred and sixty-nine communities it serves. The service frequency in or to the various locales range from many times a day to once a month. CARTS buses operate from five transit stations, located strategically throughout the CARTS district. These centers are located in Austin, Bastrop, Round Rock, San Marcos and Smithville.

Program: Medical Transportation

Description: CARTS is the Transportation Provider for medical transportation services for Service Area 12 provided under Medicaid and administered by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Area 12 includes the City of Austin and all of the CARTS District plus Llano County. Medical appointments not eligible for this program are physical therapy and dentist appointments.

Eligibility: To receive medical transportation, one must live in the service area (Bastrop, Burnet, Blanco, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays and Lee counties and the non-urbanized areas of Travis and Williamson counties), the city of Austin, or Llano County. This service is available to individuals with Medicaid.

Program: Reduced fare

Description: Half-price fare for people who have a disability.

Eligibility: Disabled persons are entitled to discounted fares when traveling on CARTS. Certification of a disability by a physician or qualified medical professional is required.

Capital Metro (CAP Metro)

323 Congress Ave

Austin, TX 78701
(512) 385-0190 Main
(512) 385-5872 TTY/TDD
(512) 369-7779 Fax
www.capmetro.org

Capital Metro is Austin's regional public transportation provider. Throughout our network, CAP Metro provide 50 Metro routes, eight Express routes, 19 UT shuttle routes, 3,000 bus stops throughout Central Texas, MetroRail passenger rail service between the City of Leander and downtown Austin, Nine MetroRail stations located along a 32-mile line, MetroAccess service for passengers with disabilities, Van and carpool coordination, freight rail service, MetroBike shelter at Kramer Station, and cycling partnership programs. CAP Metro's goal is to make transit easy and affordable, fun and worry-free. CAP Metro places a high value on giving riders excellent and friendly service, a first-rate rider experience, and transit choices people want the most.

Program: MetroAccess

Description: Capital MetroAccess is a demand-response, shared-ride service for people whose disabilities prevent them from riding regular bus and rail service. MetroAccess service complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The term "paratransit" in this section refers to transit that is parallel in service to fixed-route bus service. As defined by the ADA, a disability is recognized, with respect to an individual, as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. All persons who, by reason of disability, are unable to use Capital Metro's fully-accessible bus and rail services may be eligible for MetroAccess Service.

Eligibility: Eligibility for MetroAccess is based on the functional ability to use the regular city bus service. It is not a medical decision. The presence of a disability or a disabling health condition by itself does not make an individual eligible for MetroAccess service. Eligibility is also not based on age, inability to drive, or the lack of availability or inconvenience of regular city bus service. Only those persons whose disabilities, in combination with their functional abilities, prevent them from using the fixed-route services are eligible for MetroAccess. The eligibility process will include an application, professional medical verification, and an interview and orientation by staff for new and existing customers. A functional assessment may also be required. All customers will go through the new process at least once. Some customers may be deemed unconditionally eligible for MetroAccess and may not need to go through the in-person process again. All other customers may have to complete the in-person process again as they are due for recertification or as their condition changes

Program: MetroBus

Description: On any public bus, CAP metro offers stop announcements, stop upon request (when a person boards, they can ask a driver to let them know when their stop is coming up), and entrance by ramp upon request.

Eligibility: Any person riding a CAP metro bus is eligible for these accommodations.

Program: MetroRail

Description: On the MetroRail, CAP metro offers announcements for every stop; automated vending machines to purchase a ticket with braille buttons, and an auto system that will provide verbal instructions.

Eligibility: Any person riding the MetroRail is eligible for these accommodations.

Program: Reduced Fare ID

Description: The Reduced Fare ID Card program allows persons with physical or mental disabilities (either permanent or temporary) to ride for a reduced fare, if, due to the disability, you are unable to use Capital Metro's regular fixed route transit services as efficiently as non-disabled persons. A reduced fare is half the cost of the standard cost. The initial fee to purchase for a Reduced Rare ID card is \$3. The ID is valid for two years. To use a Reduced Fare ID, tap the Reduced Fare ID Card on the target located on the farebox when boarding a bus. The farebox will read the card and verify that you can ride for reduced fare. Deposit \$.50 for a one-way ride fare, tell the bus driver that you wish to purchase a reduced fare day pass, or scan a previously purchased pass. Bus operators are authorized to ask to see your Reduced Fare ID Card when you board the bus. If the farebox indicates your Reduced Fare ID Card is invalid, you will be required to pay a full fare or exit the vehicle. The Operator cannot override an invalid Reduced Fare ID Card.

Eligibility: The Reduced Fare ID is available to seniors 65 and older, Medicare card holders, and people with disabilities. To qualify, individuals must fill out an application and people with disabilities must show verification from a medical professional.

Easter Seals Central Texas (ESCT)

1611 Headway Circle Building 2

Austin, TX 78754

(512) 478-2581 Main

(512) 476-1638 Fax

www.centraltx.easterseals.com

Easter Seals Central Texas provides exceptional services so people with disabilities and their families can fully participate in their communities. The Employment Services Program at ESCT helps adults with disabilities to find and keep jobs. All services are provided free of charge. The specialized programs that make up Employment Services address the individual support needs of our clients, and make a significant contribution to their long-term success both at work and at home. This one-on-one support truly results in enhanced self-confidence and independence.

Program: Follow Along Program

Description: Provide follow-along support for clients who have been stable in their job for more than 90 days. By offering work place support and continued contact with clients, the program strives to foster success in long-term employment.

Eligibility: Easter Seals Central Texas providers serve the following ZIP codes in the Austin area: 78615, 78621, 78653, 78660, 78664, 78701, 78705, 78712, 78722, 78723, 78724, 78731, 78751, 78752, 78753, 78754, 78756, 78757, 78758. Medicaid and insurance accepted. Sliding scale based on family income.

Program: Independent Living Program

Description: Provides support to adults with disabilities with the goal of helping them maintain as much independence as possible in their chosen living arrangements. The program is flexible and geared to the individual needs of clients. Independent Living Clients learn about various aspects of living independently, including fitness, wellness, and activities available to them in the Austin community.

Eligibility: Easter Seals Central Texas providers serve the following ZIP codes in the Austin area: 78615, 78621, 78653, 78660, 78664, 78701, 78705, 78712, 78722, 78723, 78724, 78731, 78751, 78752, 78753, 78754, 78756, 78757, 78758. Medicaid and insurance accepted. Sliding scale based on family income.

Program: Liberation Station

Description: Technology lab where clients have access to computers, and assistive technology for those who need it. The goal of Liberation Station is to provide computer skills, and encourage participants to explore their community and expand their world via the Internet.

Liberation Station has software for students with partial impairment (zoom text, magnifier, type speak). Additionally, Liberation Station has a mobile lab that goes out to schools.

Eligibility: Easter Seals Central Texas providers serve the following ZIP codes in the Austin area: 78615, 78621, 78653, 78660, 78664, 78701, 78705, 78712, 78722, 78723, 78724, 78731, 78751, 78752, 78753, 78754, 78756, 78757, 78758. Medicaid and insurance accepted. Sliding scale based on family income.

Program: Supported Employment and Transition Programs

Description: Provide assistance to adults with disabilities who want to work. Whether it is a person's first job, a job change, or a need for assistance to keep a job, individualized support is available. We work closely with the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to help individuals identify their employment goals, and develop plans to achieve them.

Eligibility: Easter Seals Central Texas providers serve the following ZIP codes in the Austin area: 78615, 78621, 78653, 78660, 78664, 78701, 78705, 78712, 78722, 78723, 78724, 78731, 78751, 78752, 78753, 78754, 78756, 78757, 78758. Medicaid and insurance accepted. Sliding scale based on family income.

Learning Ally

**1314 West 45th St
Austin, TX 78756
(512) 323-9390 Main
www.learningally.com**

Learning Ally is a national, non-profit organization that promotes personal achievement when access and reading are barriers to learning by advancing the use of accessible and effective solutions.

Program: Audiobook

Description: Learning Ally provides audio books through CDs or computer software. To receive services, one would apply online or receive materials to apply through post mail. The for a one-year subscription to the program is \$119, but Learning Ally will never turn a person away because of inability to meet the costs. The yearly subscription will allow one to have access to all of the books Learning Ally has available and the computer software needed to operate the audiobooks. If a person does not own a computer, but does have possession of a specialized CD player, Learning Ally has CDs that are compatible with these CD players and can mail CDs as necessary.

Eligibility: In order to become a member of Learning Ally, one must have a print disability (blindness or visual impairment qualify) that is verified by a physician.

National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Texas, Austin Chapter

**5701 Tallow Tree Dr
Austin, TX 78744
(512) 796-9638 Main**

www.nfbaustin.org
president@nfbaustin.org

The National Federation of the Blind is an organization of over 50,000 blind people, striving to promote equal opportunity for the blind. Founded in 1940, the Federation has affiliates in every state, Puerto Rico, and Washington DC. Dedicated to the complete integration of the blind into society, the Federation works toward the removal of legal, economic, and societal barriers to full participation by blind people in employment, education, recreation, and all other aspects of community life. The National Federation of the Blind of Texas provides encouragement and a network of support and promotes an understanding of the real problems of blindness: the attitudes and misconceptions which people who are blind and the general public have about blindness. NFB of Texas believes that with training and opportunity the average blind or visually impaired person can lead a perfectly normal life, not just dream about it.

Program: Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL)

Description: The BELL Program introduced blind and low vision children to the beauty and importance of Braille through a one-week summer curriculum that is fun, creative, and comprehensive. The curriculum includes Braille and other essential blindness skills as well as the arts, science, and recreation. At BELL, students participate in confidence-building activities with blind peers and are mentored by independent, professional blind adults. Most importantly, they experience the beauty of Braille first-hand.

Program: Mentoring Program

Description: NFB of Texas helps blind youth, and young adults develop the blindness skills and positive attitudes necessary to lead a life of success and accomplishment. Thanks to the National Center for Mentoring Excellence (NCME), the Division of Blind Services (DBS), and the National Federation of the Blind of Texas (NFBT); blind youth and young adults have the awesome opportunity to build relationships with independent, successful blind people in the lone-star state. Organized team-building and community-based activities will provide valuable experiences. Each protégé will be carefully matched with a mentor. These relationships and opportunities will help to erase the 75 percent unemployment rate among the blind community. Mentoring Program activities may range from the large group variety to specific organized time set by pairs on their own. Hiking, water skiing, barbecue picnics, roundtable discussions regarding blindness, historical tours, visits to college campuses, concerts, and an array of other activities will allow mentors to show protégés how blind people utilize alternative techniques to enjoy all aspects of their communities and campuses.

Eligibility: The mentoring program is for youth, ages 14 to 25, who are blind and live in Texas.

Program: Project CHANGE (Connections Helping Another Navigate and Guarantee Employment)

Description: Project CHANGE addresses the many factors that contribute to underemployment within the blind community. The ten-month long program combines vocational and blindness skills training, work experience, mentorship and community service to create an encouraging, individualized experience for its participants. Project CHANGE staff members will also work with protégés' employers to ensure workplaces that are accessible, well-informed and welcoming.

Eligibility: Project change is for people who are blind, between the ages of 14 and 25, and live in Texas. To participate in the program, one must meet the eligibility requirements and advance through an application process.

Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

**701 W. 51st St.
Austin, TX 78751
(512) 438-3011 Main
www.dads.state.tx.us**

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) was created to administer long-term services and supports for people who are aging as well as for people with intellectual and physical disabilities. DADS also licenses and regulates providers of these services, and administers the state's Guardianship program.

Program: Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD)

Description: DBMD provides home and community-based services to people who are deaf blind and have another disability. DBMD is a cost-effective alternative to an intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability or related conditions (ICF/IID). The DBMD program focuses on increasing opportunities for consumers to communicate and interact with their environment. The following services are provided: adaptive aids and medical supplies, assisted living (licensed up to six beds), audiology, behavior support services, case management, chore provider, dental treatment, dietary services, employment assistance, environmental accessibility, intervener, minor home modification, nursing services, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility, physical therapy, prescription drugs (if not covered through Medicare), residential habilitation, respite care, speech therapy, hearing therapy, language therapy, supported employment, and transition assistance services.

Eligibility: People eligible of services can be of any age, must have a diagnosis of deafblindness (or a related condition that will result in deafblindness) as well as another disability resulting in a demonstrated need for one or more service on a monthly basis, related condition must have manifested before age 22, must meet level of care criteria for placement in an ICF/IID, income and resources may not exceed specified limits, and cannot be enrolled in another waiver program.

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS): Division for Blind Services (DBS)

**University of Texas at Austin Office
24th Guadalupe St. Academic Center, Room 7
Austin, TX 78713
(512) 471-6693 Phone
(866) 581-9328 TTY/TDD
(512) 424-4730 Fax
www.dars.state.tx.us/dbs/index.shtml
dbsinfo@dars.state.tx.us**

The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, or DARS, administers programs that ensure Texas is a state where people with disabilities, and children who have developmental delays, enjoy the same opportunities as other Texans to live independent and productive lives. DARS has four divisions, each with its own programs: rehabilitations services, blind services, early childhood intervention services, and disability determination services. DARS administers programs that help Texans with disabilities find jobs through vocational rehabilitation, ensure that Texans with disabilities live independently in their communities, and assist families in helping their children under age 3 with disabilities and

delays in development to reach their full potential. The DARS Division for Blind Services (DBS) assists blind or visually impaired individuals and their families. Depending upon their goals and needs, DBS offers services to help regain independence or find a job. DBS staff work in partnership with Texans who are blind or visually impaired to get high quality jobs, live independently, or help a child receive the training needed to be successful in school and beyond. DBS envisions a Texas where people who are blind or visually impaired enjoy the same opportunities as other Texans to pursue independence and employment, and our mission is to work in partnership with Texans who are blind or visually impaired to reach their goal.

Program: Blind Children's Vocational Discovery and Development Program (BCVDDP)

Description: Children who are blind or visually impaired have brighter futures today than at any time in history! No longer isolated from their peers and the rest of society, children who are blind or visually impaired are fully involved in the world around them. Advances in technology make it possible for them to live, learn and play alongside their peers. Powerful laws protect their rights to education, access to their communities and other important civil rights. There have never been more excellent resources to help children who are blind and visually impaired achieve their fullest potential. If your child is blind or visually impaired, the Division for Blind Services Blind Children's Vocational Discovery and Development Program (BCVDDP) may be able to help you, your child, and your entire family. Every year, hundreds of Texas families turn to the Children's Program for information and support to help their children grow and thrive. A Blind Children's Program Specialist—an expert in providing services to children with visual impairments—works with each child and family to create a Family Service Plan. The plan—tailored to the child's unique needs and circumstances—is a flexible document that will develop along with the child. BCVDDP assists children in developing confidence and competence needed to be an active part of community; provides support and training to parent in understanding rights and responsibilities throughout the educational process; assists parent and child in vocational discovery and development process; and provides training in areas like food prep, money management recreational activities, and grooming, and supplies information to families about additional resources.

Eligibility: BCVDDP services are for children between the ages of birth and 22 years who live in Texas, who are blind or have a vision impairment

Program: Cris Cole Rehabilitation Center (CCRC)

Description: A comprehensive vocational rehabilitation training, live-in facility working in partnership with consumers to help them achieve their employment and independent living goals. It serves as a residential adult training facility in Austin. CCRC offers comprehensive training in core skills such as orientation and mobility (O&M), Braille, daily living skills, career development, technology, adjustment to blindness seminar, and advanced career guidance.

Eligibility: To qualify for services at CCRC, one must be referred by DARS, legally blind, 18 years or older, in Vocational Rehabilitation Program at DARS, able to transfer skills from one environment to another, have a permanent residence, manage medical issues independently, be a Texas resident, and must be their own legal guardian.

Program: Independent Living Rehabilitation Program (IL)

Description: IL assists people who are blind or visually impaired to gain control of their life and the confidence needed to live independently. Successful independent living training can help a person accomplish everyday tasks, participate in favorite activities, communicated with family and friends, gain a better understanding about their vision

impairment, and get back confidence that may have been lost. This program provides eye examinations; information and referral; orientation and mobility training; counseling; recreation and socialization; and independent living skills.

Eligibility: To qualify for these services, one must have visual impairments that is a substantial impediment to living independently.

Program: Transition Program

Description: The Division for Blind Services Transition Program assists young people (ages 10-24) who are blind or visually impaired to make an effective transition from secondary school to adult life and the world of work. The program prepares these young consumers who may have multiple disabilities to make informed decisions about their future goals. This program has opportunities for career exploration; opportunities to gain work experience while in high school; feedback about the consumer's current academic, vocational, and independent living skills; training in skills needed to achieve their goals; and adaptive tools to achieve their goals.

Eligibility: The transition program is for people who are between the ages of 10 and 24, are blind or have a visual impairment, and live in Texas.

Program: Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Description: The Vocational Rehabilitation Program helps people who have a vision problem that prevents a person from getting a job or may have caused a person to lose a job. It provides assessments, rehabilitation teaching, counseling, guidance, referrals, services for deafblind individuals, orientation and mobility services, physical and mental restoration, reader services, transportation, technological aids and devices, vocational training, and employment assistance.

Eligibility: The Vocational Rehabilitation Program is for people who have a visual impairment that is a barrier to employment; can benefit from vocational rehabilitation services in terms of employment outcome; or require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, get, or retain gainful employment.

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI)

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The TSBVI provides residential educational programs for youth who are blind or visually impaired. TSBVI is for students who are enrolled in a Texas public school and are legally blind. Students who attend TSBVI come from a school district that cannot provide all of the services the student needs and needs assistance meeting those needs for 1-2 years. TSBVI includes classroom instruction and remedial instruction on independent living skills. It also offers short-term programs for students in areas related to vision loss, such as adaptive technology, Braille and tactile math tools. Summer camps and summer school enrichment programs are also offered. TSBVI provides trainings for individuals with disabilities and families on disability issues, self-advocacy and empowerment so they can influence the service delivery system and obtain supports they need to be productive members of their community. Council-sponsored conferences and workshops help

consumers, family members and professionals tackle issues such as employment, family support, personal assistance and housing.

Program: Comprehensive Programs

Description: Comprehensive Programs provides a comprehensive core curriculum and training in skills for independence to meet the needs of each student during the regular school year; a special focus on the expanded core curriculum: braille and other modes to access the general curriculum, orientation and mobility, assistive technology, career education, independent living skills, recreation and leisure, self-determination, sensory efficiency, social interaction skills; an opportunity for coursework in Austin ISD schools; has on-campus residential living skills training; weekends home transportation; has a full array of recreational and competitive extracurricular activities including drama, art, musical performance, student council, track and field, wrestling, goal ball, swim team, rowing and tandem biking; and a strong emphasis on successful transition to adult life.

Eligibility: Eligible students are blind or visually impaired, attend a Texas Public School, and need temporary additional support outside of their school district.

Program: Educational Programs

Description: The Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired curriculum is designed to meet the unique needs of visually impaired learners. Students work primarily in one of these curricular approaches, but may participate in parts of others.

Academics - Designed for students who are functioning within two years of their grade level. This is the regular, public school curriculum for grades K-12, including the Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills adopted by the state. In addition to attending classes at TSBVI, many academic courses are taught at campuses of the Austin Independent School District. Students receive additional academic support for these courses at TSBVI from teachers certified in Visual Impairments. **Elementary Concepts** - Designed for student ages 6-12 years of age who are blind or visually impaired and may have additional impairments. This approach is for students who are at the readiness level for academic learning, but are not yet reading, writing or doing math on a first grade level.

Programming consists of thematic units, which involve students in age-appropriate learning activities in concept development, math readiness, reading & writing readiness, music & games, art, cooking, and social play. **Practical Academics** - Designed for students 12 years of age or older who are functioning more than two years below their chronological age, with at least kindergarten equivalent reading and writing skills. Practical Academics courses focus on teaching students to use their academics skills in a variety of meaningful, functional tasks in preparation for adult life. These students can be taught in a self-contained classroom, a subject-specific classroom, and/or community based setting, depending on individual needs and abilities. The course work will be driven primarily by the student's IEP (Individualized Education Program) Goals and Objectives. **Basic Skills** - Designed for students aged 6-22 who have visual impairments combined with other disabilities who learn best with the support of consistent routines and meaningful functional activities. Often these students have difficulty generalizing skills in new and different situations. Social and emotional development, communication skills, and community-based instruction are significant components of this approach.

Eligibility: Eligible students are blind or visually impaired, attend a Texas Public School, and need temporary additional support outside of their school district.

Program: EXperiences in Transition (EXIT)

Description: EXIT is designed to focus on transitioning young adults from school to the adult world. This course of study will provide programming for Practical Academic students ages 18-22 in an environment that more closely replicates the adult environment in which they will be living. The EXIT program focuses on these areas of transition: personal management; housing/household management; adult leisure, recreation and fitness; physical and mental health needs; transportation; employment; post secondary education; and age of majority. Also included will be instruction in social skills and self-determination skills.

Eligibility: Eligible students are blind or visually impaired, between the ages of 18 and 22, attend a Texas Public School, and need temporary additional support outside of their school district.

Program: Post Secondary Program

Description: This program, offered in partnership with the Texas Commission for the Blind, provides training for students who are legally blind and have a regular State Board of Education high school diploma or GED. Students seeking this post-secondary experience are in need of remedial academic, independent living and work-related skills training. They will cultivate the skills, attitudes and opportunities necessary to meet the demands of competitive employment and adult living. Instruction is also available in expanded core curricular of special areas, such as compensatory skills - braille and adapted mathematics, orientation & mobility, recreation/leisure skills, social interaction skills, career education, independent living skills, technology, and visual efficiency skills. These learning experiences are included in regular classroom activities and/or specifically designed instruction. Related Services are provided to identified students in the areas of occupational and physical therapy, counseling, school health, social work, low vision and assistive technology/adaptive equipment.

Eligibility: Eligible students are blind or visually impaired and have a regular State Board of Education high school diploma or GED.

Program: School Year-Short Term Programs

Description: Short-Term Programs provide short-term services to visually impaired students who attend their local districts during the school year. School Year Short-Term Programs range from three to five days in length and offer intensive, individual, narrowly focused training to academic students who are on or close to grade level in any area specifically related to vision loss, such as adaptive technology, Braille & Nemeth Code, and tactile math tools in relation to the Expanded Core Curriculum. Close collaboration with independent school districts occurs before and after participating in these programs. Instructions support the regular curriculum by teaching disability-specific skills needed to access the regular curriculum, basic concepts that support the curriculum, and attitudinal changes that support successful learning.

Eligibility: Eligible students are blind or visually impaired, function close to or on grade level, attend a Texas Public School, and need temporary additional support outside of their school district.

Program: Summer Short-Term Programs

Description: Summer Short-Term Programs provides a wide range of offerings, from elementary to high school, academic to severely multiply-impaired, in a broad array of content areas such as vocational, functional application of academic skills, independent

living skills, social-emotional development, and adapted athletics. Programs range from 1-3 weeks.

Eligibility: Eligible students are blind or visually impaired, function close to or on grade level, attend a Texas Public School, and need temporary additional support outside of their school district.