

Parent Guide to Transition Planning & Guide to IEP Planning Process

Department of Exceptional Education

The Transition Plan: What the Law Says

Tennessee and federal law say that all students who receive special education services must have transition planning included in their IEP (Individualized Education Plan) beginning at age 14 (or younger if appropriate). The IEP must list the student's transition needs and a plan for "instruction and services" to meet those needs. The IEP / Transition Plan must be updated once a year. Here's what the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) says about transition planning:

Each child with a disability must have included in their IEP:

- Beginning at age 14 (or younger if appropriate) and updated annually a statement of the student's transition service needs that includes the child's courses of study (such as taking part in advanced placement courses, a vocational education program, etc.).
- Beginning at age 16 (or younger if appropriate) a statement of needed transition services for the child, including, when appropriate, a statement of the interagency responsibilities or any needed linkages.
- Beginning at least 1 year before the child reaches age 18 a statement that the child has been informed of his or her rights under IDEA, if any, that will transfer to the child on reaching age 18.

IDEA 2004 at Section 602(34) defines transition services as a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that:

- Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living or community participation).
- Is based on the individual child's needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences and interests.
- Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other postschool adult living objectives, and when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.

How Can Parents Prepare their Child for the Transition Process?

Listen to Your Child's Ideas, Goals and Dreams

• Focus on their interests and abilities rather than disabilities. Encourage and help them explore their dreams and ideas, even if yours are different.

Help Your Child Learn the Skills that He or She Will Need as an Adult

- Find ways for your child to be independent from a young age. Have them practice self-help skills and give him or her tasks around the house.
- Allow them to make choices and learn to make wise decisions.
- Teach them to be an advocate for themselves.
- Assist them in developing and practicing social and communication skills needed for work, school, recreation, and friendships.
- Encourage them to become part of the community. Look into after school and recreational activities, chances to volunteer, and job options.
- Work on IEP goals and objectives at home.

Make the Most of the IEP Process

- Begin planning early at least by age 14.
- Encourage your child to be a part of the planning process as much as possible. Make sure he or she is part of team meetings and has the opportunity to provide input. Ask your child's teacher about IEP planning tools that assess interests, aptitudes, learning styles, etc. and provides opportunities for career exploration.

Be Prepared for IEP Meetings

• You can bring others to your child's IEP meeting (relative, friend, advocate, service provider). They can give

moral support, help gather and share information and viewpoints, and even take notes. Talk with the special education supervisor or your child's teacher about who you would like to invite.

- Write down questions and ideas you have, both before and during the meeting. Have a person explain anything that is not clear to you. Get answers to all your questions before the meeting ends. Or get a date when someone will with get back to you.
- Think about the goals and objectives in the IEP / transition plan. Will they prepare your child for adult life, such as living and working in the community? Do not feel pressured to make decisions on the spot.
- Before you leave the meeting, make sure you know what will happen next, such as when you will get the finalized IEP and who the contact person is.

The Role of the Parent

During your child's transition years, you might have to play many roles, including these:

Become an Active IEP Team Member

At IEP time you will receive a notice of your child's IEP meeting. Below are things you should do before and during the IEP meeting:

- Attend all IEP meetings.
- Think about questions to ask the teachers and school staff.
- Ask about diploma options.
- Review the IEP/Transition checklist before the IEP meeting. Check off during the IEP meeting.
- Read and know what the law says about transition.
- Encourage your child to attend and participate in the IEP meeting.
- Ask questions if you do not understand any part of the IEP meeting.

Share What You Know About Your Child

You can share important information about your child's personal traits, interests, likes and dislikes. Be clear about your child's abilities at IEP meetings and transition planning meetings.

Be a Role Model

Let your child know that he or she can become as independent as possible. Give your child chores around the home, and focus on good grooming, physical fitness, and good social and communication skills.

Be a Case Manager

You will need to make sure that the goals of the transition plan are fully met. This can be hard if your child's need for service continues after his or her school years. It's likely you will have to work with many different people and agencies to get the adult services and supports your son or daughter needs

Encourage Job and Career Exploration at School and at Home

You and your child's teachers need to talk with the student about the many career choices, and the rewards of work. Talk to your son or daughter about your own job and other jobs and careers and have him or her explore hobbies which use skills and tools related to his or her job interests. Find out about School-to-Career, summer jobs, and other programs in your school and community.

Work for More and Better Supports

You and your child must keep working with service providers, employers, and policy makers to create more choices for students with special needs.

Let Your Son or Daughter Take Risks

You might have mixed feelings about your son or daughter becoming more independent. You might know that letting go is the best thing, but it can be hard to let your student takes the risks that go with independence. It helps to stay focused on your child's abilities.

Be a Financial Planner

Often when young people with disabilities work or get money from others, this can change their cash payments from programs like SSI. Talk to professionals about how your son or daughter's job, savings, and things like trusts and inheritance might affect this, and make plans for it.

Become Involved in Your Child's School

One of the most important things a parent can do is get to know the school staff, both, the regular and special education staff. Find out about all school services, including regular education and after-school activities (such as sports and clubs). Get to know the people involved in the activities that interest your child. Join the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO/PTA), the Special Education Local Advisory Committee (LAC), or the School Improvement Team. Share ideas with other parents about creating and getting access to inclusive programs and activities.

Start Planning Now for Adult Services and Supports

Learn about the different programs and services that are available for your child now and when he or she gets older which will help them be independent and be part of the community? Figure out what supports your child now gets that will need to be continued in the future. Find out what agencies can provide these supports. Invite any agencies who might offer transition or adult services to your child to the IEP/Transition planning meeting. Begin financial planning for your child's adult life. At age 17, investigate applying for SSI (Supplemental Security Income). Find out about Ticket to Work plans and other Social Security programs. Find out about how adult services will be paid for. think about estate planning and guardianship issues.

Keep Good Records

Before the student leaves school, get copies of all high school transcripts, evaluations, tests, and reports. Write down notes on each meeting and phone conversation, with the name of agency, contact person and date. Keep a copy of all letters between you and agencies. Keep everything organized in file folders or three-ring notebooks. Keep records of any on-the job training reports or other work experiences the student has had. Get letters of recommendation from the employer, teachers, or job coaches.

Become an Advocate

Get to know the laws covering education and disability issues (ADA, IDEA, Rehabilitation Act). Also get to know your decision-makers and lawmakers.

Transition Checklist

Use this checklist to see whether your child's IEP meets the requirements of IDEA (the Federal law covering education for students with disabilities) and Tennessee Special Education Regulations:

- Did your child take part in developing the Transition Plan and IEP? If not, were steps taken to make sure your child's interests and needs were considered in the plan?
- Are the annual goals and objectives in the IEP based on your child's needs?
- Were staff members of agencies which might be providing or paying for transition services invited to the IEP/Transition meeting? If the invited agencies did not send any staff members, did the team take other steps to make sure those or the agencies took part?
- Does the IEP/Transition include your child's long-range goals in employment, post-secondary education and training independent living, and community participation
- Is the course of study in the IEP what your child needs to reach the long-range goals?
- Are the annual goals and objectives designed to help your child reach the long-range goals?
- If there are no annual goals and objectives related to the long-range goals this year, is the reason written in the IEP?
- Did the team include in the IEP: instruction, related services, community experiences, the creation of employment and other post-school, adult living objectives and, when appropriate: acquiring daily living skills, functional vocational evaluation
- Were assessments begun at age 14? Are assessments reviewed once a year and are the results used in development of transition goals?

- Was the need for assistive technology in transition considered?
- Did the IEP team meet again if the responsibilities of other agencies identified in the IEP were not met?
- For students turning 17, did the team talk about the transfer of rights?
- Did the school arrange for an interpreter if you do not speak English?

Transition Plan Timeline

You and your child may wish to think about many of the items below when you prepare transition plans with your IEP team. Not all of them may apply to your child, and there may be other areas important to you that are not listed here.

4 to 5 years Before Exiting High School

School and Work

- Know how you learn best and what accommodations you need to do well in school and at work.
- Explore your job and career interests and skills. Complete interest and career inventories and think about other schooling or training you would need.
- Look into college or continuing education schools or programs, and their admission requirements.
- Start financial planning (financial aid for college or continuing education).
- Save samples of your best schoolwork and achievements.
- Explore opportunities to volunteer in the community.
- Take part in informational interviews or job shadowing experiences.

Community Living

- Think about where and how you would like to live and supports you would need to do this.
- Begin learning skills you'll need for independent living.
- Look into assistive technology that can make it easier to have a job and be part of your community.
- Become more involved in your community and make new friends.
- Look into and learn to use public transportation (like buses.)
- Look into driver's education when the time is right for you.
- Think about the skills you'll need for taking care of your money (budgeting, savings, checking account.)
- Get a state identification card and learn when and how to give out personal information.
- Learn and practice personal care.

Support

- Determine your need for income support and health care support like SSI (Supplemental Security Income), Independent Living Services and Medicaid.
- Work with your parents on setting up trusts, if needed.
- Practice how to communicate best with others at work, at school, with friends, and in the community.
- Make plans to be sure you will still have the assistive technology you need after you leave high school.

Be your Own Advocate

- Learn to make clear to others your interests, wishes and needs.
- Be able to explain your abilities and disabilities and any accommodations you might need.
- Learn and practice how to make informed decisions.

2 to 3 years Before Exiting High School

School and Work

- Match career interests and skills with vocational (job-related) courses and work experiences in the community.
- Seek summer employment (intern in your career interest area.)
- Begin a resume and make changes to it as needed.

- Learn more about colleges and other adult education schools and programs, and the support services they offer. Make plans for accommodations to take college entrance exams and complete applications. Find out what options are available for financial aid and scholarships.
- Take part in job shadowing experiences that are offered.
- Complete an application with the state's Division of Rehabilitation Services to see if you are eligible for services from them.

Community Living

- Learn more about community supports offered by community and state agencies.
- Invite adult service providers, friends, and others to IEP/Transition meetings.
- Learn independent living skills, such as budgeting, shopping, cooking, and housekeeping.
- Determine what personal assistant services you need and how to manage these services.
- Choose health care providers and learn and sexuality and family planning.
- Visit a variety of adult support agencies. Ask questions about services they could provide or could create to meet your needs.

Supports

- Determine your need for income support and health care support like SSI (Supplemental Security Income), Independent Living Services and Medicaid.
- Work with your parents on setting up trusts, if needed.
- Practice how to communicate best with others at work, at school, with friends, and in the community.
- Make plans to be sure you will still have the assistive technology you need after you leave high school.

Being Your Own Advocate

- Look into the legal status of decision making before you become a legal adult.
- Learn about the laws that affect the rights of people with disabilities, American with Disabilities Act (ADA), Rehabilitation Act, etc.

1 Year Before Exiting High School

School and Work

- Choose and get a job, along with any supports needed.
- Learn to be on time for work, appointments, and social activities.
- Make plans for how you will get to school, work, etc. (bus, car, friends).
- Get copies of transcripts and other important records from your school before you graduate.
- Write your resume and get letters of recommendation from your teachers before you graduate.
- Choose the college or adult education school or program you plan to go to and make plans with the school for accommodations.

Community Living

- Make detailed plans for living on your own if that's your goal. Keep practicing your independent living skills.
- Learn to take care of your health care needs (make appointments, fill and take prescriptions, etc). Make a list of people and agencies that can help you if problems come up.

Being Your Own Advocate

- Work on communication skills and self-advocacy skills (standing up for and speaking up for yourself)
- Become involved with advocacy and support groups

Supports

- Make sure you have in place income and health care support programs you might need (SSI, Independent Living Services, Medi- caid).
- Build detailed plans of supports you will need with adult service agencies.
- Begin transitioning into your new adult service plan.

Transition Planning in the IEP Process

Transition is about planning for life! It includes planning for academic and non-academic courses and learning experiences, employment and related training opportunities, choices about where to live in the community, and what to do for fun and socialization. One of the goals of transition is to help youth understand their disability and choices to determine their future. One of the ways transition does this is by connecting your child to teachers and other caring adults, support services, and experiences that build skills and help them reach their goals. Transition is based on family values, priorities, and culture, and is focused on an individual child's strengths, interests, preferences, and needs.

The involvement of youth and families is important so that youth can begin to understand themselves and then identify a team of caring adults who will support their journey. A primary rite of passage for all youth is graduating from high school. The beginning of adulthood is celebrated at this time with an expectation that youth will develop an increasing independence and autonomy and move on to further education, meaningful jobs, finding their own places to live, and their own friends, companions, and life in the community.

These are tough, but exciting times! As a parent, you have survived many stages of your child's life...the terrible twos, beginning school, those wonderful early adolescent years. You have watched your child's development often with pride and sometimes with frustration. Graduation from high school is fast approaching, whether you are ready or not! This is where transition comes in. You have experienced many transitions, or changes, in your child's life. This is probably the most difficult transition that the two of you have experienced thus far. Both you and your child are experiencing some strong feelings about this change. As a parent, your advice is invaluable! You have a perspective that no one else can offer. The teachers will have valuable information to share with you, but you have a perspective that no one else can offer.

In 1990, the Federal Government passed a law called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). One component of this law was the issue of transition of students from the world of school to adult life. The new IDEA 2004 law says that schools must address transition by the age of 16, or earlier if the IEP Team deems appropriate. Tennessee Rules requires transition planning to begin no later than age 14 and include development of measurable post-secondary goals and a course of study that will reasonably enable your child to meet his/her goals for after high school.

Transition planning includes these four components:

- **Employment** What does your child want to do to earn a living and become a productive member of society? How can the schools prepare the student for these goals? Are these goals realistic?
- **Post-secondary education and/or training** Where will my child acquire the skills to become what he/she wants? How will he/she pay for it? What agencies will assist him/her in meeting this goal?
- **Independent living** Is my child capable of living independently as an adult? What skills does the student need in order to live as independently as possible?
- Community participation How will my child be involved in the community? Will he/she participate in recreation, church activities, or other organizations? Can he/she get around in the community independently?

The school will discuss transition planning at least at each meeting where the annual IEP is developed. The schools need you to help design these plans for your child. Preparing for the Transition/IEP Meeting: The more you plan ahead, the better prepared you will be able to participate in your child's transition/IEP meeting!

Prepare for the Transition/IEP Meeting

- Complete the enclosed student/parent questionnaire with your child.
- Be prepared to share this questionnaire with your child's IEP team.
- Bring suggestions to meetings on what actions you feel are needed to meet or move toward goals in the transition plan.
- Make yourselves familiar with the various roles and functions of team members.
- Become aware of who is responsible for what services.
- Become aware of timeliness for completion of goals.
- Be supportive of your child's transition program.

- Participate in and reinforce the activities in the classroom and community that will prepare and help your child succeed in the adult world.
- Promote appropriate behavior.
- Teach and reinforce good grooming habits.
- Teach money management skills.
- Parents have rights on behalf of their child.
- Parents have a right to have transition services included in their child's IEP while in school.
- The parents' right to transition services transfer to their child at the age of majority (18) unless conservatorship has been legally established.
- Your child is not necessarily entitled to adult services unless he/she meets the criteria to the specific program to which he/she is applying.

Questions You Might Ask at the Transition/IEP Meeting Questions for Secondary School Personnel:

- What are the career and vocational objectives on my child's IEP?
- Will my child participate in job training, if appropriate?
- On what social skills does the IEP team think my child needs to work?
- I would like my child included in more vocational classes. What classes do you suggest?
- What types of vocational assessments are administered to determine my child's interests and strengths?
- Will my child be taught functional math and reading?
- What functional activities contribute to independence?

Questions for Post-Secondary/Vocational Training or Education Programs:

- What training programs are offered?
- What is the length and cost of the programs?
- What are the entry requirements of the program?
- What support services are available for him/her?
- How and where can financial assistance be obtained?
- What is the application procedure?
- Do you help in locating a job when my child finishes your program?

Questions for Adult Service Agencies:

Many of the following questions can be answered by visiting Tennessee Disability Pathfinder: https://www.tnpathfinder.org/

- What programs and services are offered by your agency?
- What types of disabilities do you serve?
- How do you determine eligibility?
- What is the cost for your program? Can financial assistance be obtained and, if so, whom do I contact?
- Is there a waiting list for your programs? If so, how long?
- Who is the contact person?
- How old does my child have to be to receive your services?
- What is the duration of the services?
- What is my role and level of involvement?
- Do you offer individual and family counseling?

How You Can Help in Developing a Transition Plan

- Involve your child. Your child has specific ideas for his future. Take the time to listen to these ideas.
- Set realistic goals. Take your child's ideas, abilities, and interests into consideration. Help him/her set goals that are realistic.
- Encourage independence. Move your child to more independent situations. This includes self-care, independent travel, money management, and decision making.

- Gather information about services that are available to your child upon graduation from high school. Find
 out about services avail- able through Vocational Rehabilitation, and all other available programs. Place
 your child's name on any appropriate waiting lists. Gather information about guardianship and
 conservatorship, when needed.
- Build self-esteem. Have confidence in your child. Expect him/her to achieve with appropriate supports. Your confidence will send a positive message to your child.
- Encourage friendships with peers. Place your child in activities where he/she will spend time with youth that can be friends.
- Provide real experiences. Persons with disabilities need experiences in the community. Provide the opportunity for your child to participate in activities such as recreation, church, and youth organizations.
- Encourage good grooming and good work habits.
- Encourage the child to learn to accept criticism. In order to function as an adult, youth need to accept criticism with grace, whether this criticism is fair or unfair.

Guardianship/Conservatorship and the Age of Majority

Beginning at least one year before the age of majority, the IEP process must include a statement that the student and his or her parents have been informed of his or her rights and that these rights will transfer to the student upon reaching the age of majority. Educational rights that transfer to the student at age 18 are:

- receive notice of and attend individual education program (IEP) meetings.
- consent to reevaluation.
- consent to change in placement.
- request for mediation or a due process hearing to resolve a dispute about evaluation, identification, eligibility, IEP, placement, or other aspects of a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

In the state of Tennessee, a minor reaches the age of majority on his or her 18th birthday. Upon attaining the age of majority, all rights and privileges of an adult are granted to this individual allowing the 18-year-old to legally make decisions about personal affairs, including educational matters.

An individual who turns eighteen is no longer legally subject to the authority of his or her parents. This is also true for an individual that has a disability regardless of the level of functioning. For someone to make decisions on behalf of an individual with disabilities who has turned 18, a caring adult (which may or may not be the parent) must obtain a court order granting him or her conservatorship and/or guardianship. To apply for a guardianship/conservatorship, contact the probate division of the circuit court in your local county or an attorney of your choice. Guardianship and conservatorship allow the parent or individual appointed by a court to make legally binding decisions on behalf of an adult child, who may not possess the functional or mental capability to do so independently.

Material in this guide is from Tennessee Connections Transition Manual produced by the transition task force in collaboration with personnel from the Tennessee Department of Education. The entire guidebook is available from: www.state.tn.us/education/speced

Note: If your child receives SSI benefits, find out how he/she can work and continue to receive benefits at www.ssa.gov or ask your IEP Team members to put you in touch with the local Social Security Office.

Student/Parent Questionnaire for Transition Planning

Please consider these questions as you prepare for the next IEP meeting for your child. At this meeting we will develop a transition plan, which will identify future goals for your child. These questions will help identify your dreams for your child as we pre- pare for the future.

Employment:

- □ I think my child will work in a:
- □ (check most appropriate option) Full time regular job

- □ Part time regular job
- □ A job that has support and is supervised
- □ Other:___

My child's strengths in this area are:

My child seems to enjoy working as:

When I think of my child working, I feel that (s)he needs to develop skills in this area:

Note: Tennessee has a site to help teach students about different careers, job duties, salary range, education requirements, etc. at http://tcids.tbr.edu/

Education:

After graduation, my child will attend:

- □ College
- □ Community college
- □ Vocational training
- □ On-the-job training
- □ Other: _____

My child's educational strengths are:

Recreational:

- □ When my child graduates, I hope (s) he is involved in (check all that apply):
- □ Independent recreational activities
- □ Activities with friends
- □ Organized recreational activities

Other:_____

During free time, my child enjoys:

My child's strengths in this area are:

My child's weaknesses in this area are:

Transportation:

When my child graduates (s)he will (check all that apply):

- □ Have a driver's license and car
- □ Walk
- □ Use a bus or taxi independently
- Use supported transportation (i.e., carpools, special program)
- □ Other:

My child's strengths in this area are:

My child needs to develop skills in this area:

Please check 3 to 5 areas in which your child needs information/support:

Social/Interpersonal:

- □ Making friends
- □ Setting goals
- □ Getting along with family
- □ Handling legal responsibilities
- □ Managing anger
- □ Communicating needs appropriately
- □ Getting along with the opposite sex
- □ Other: ____

Personal Management

- □ Hygiene
- □ Safety
- □ Mobility/Transportation
- □ Money Management/budgeting
- □ Time Management
- □ Health Care Issues such as a serious medical condition or management of medication
- Other _____

Community Resources and Transition Information The information that can be used to assist in developing agency linkages for students. Please call or visit agency web sites for additional

information.

Employment and Training			
Agency	Services/Training	Address	Phone
Arc of the Mid-South	Community services, career development & job placement, and family services	3485 Poplar, Suite 210 Memphis, TN 38111-4633	(901) 327-2473
Age Group: Disability Group: All			
Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	Adult day training, vocational programs, supported employment, community participation, early intervention services for preschoolers,	Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities	Intake Referral (866) 372-5709
www.tn.gov/didd/waiver	residential and supported living services, and family support services.	315 Dedrick Street Nashville, TN 37293	Case Management Information (901) 745-7200
		(615) 532-6530	(301) 743-7200
Division of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services	Crisis Assessment (Do not provide care for Youth)	951 Court Ave. Memphis, TN 38104	(855) 274-7471
www.state.tn.us/mental			
www.tn.gov/behavioral-health			
Division of Rehabilitation Services	Diagnostics & evaluations, counseling, and	40 S. Main Street	(901) 528-5284
www.tn.us/humanserv/DRS	guidance, mental or physical restoration services, prosthetic aids and appliances, vocational training, transportation and	Memphis, TN 38103	Option 1
Age Group: 16 and up	maintenance, interpreter services, mobility training, reader services, technology aids,		
Disability Groups: All	employment assistance/placement and other services that are needed to help an individual reach their vocational goal.		
Easter Seals	Easter Seals provides services to children and	500 Wilson Pike Circle	(615) 292-6640
www.eastersealstn.com	adults with disabilities and other special needs, and support to their families. Job training and employment, adult day services, camping and recreation, medical rehabilitation, and inclusive childcare.	Suite 228 Brentwood, TN 37027	
LiveltUp, Inc.	Adult Care; enrichment; day services; respite services; home sitter services	6949 Appling Farms Parkway Suite 112	(901) 761-4277
www.livitupinc.org		Memphis, TN 38133	
Lowenstein House, Inc.	Lowenstein House was designed to help individuals diagnosed with mental illness achieve	821 South Barksdale Memphis, TN 38114	(901) 274-5486
www.orgsites.com/tn/lowensteinhouse	independence and self-sufficiency through, counseling, skills training, job placement, housing assistance, emotional support and guidance.		

Milestone, Inc.	Assist individuals with disabilities respond to industry transitions in order to stay competitively	6226 E. Shelby Drive Memphis, TN 38141	(901) 421- 6117
www.milestoneonthemove.com	employed.		
Partner in Policy Making	A free leadership program for persons with disabilities.		(615) 532-6556
www.tnddc@tn.gov			
Pre-Employment Transition Services, West Tn Division	Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to students with disabilities	505 Deaderick Street Nashville, TN, 37243	(615) 350-4064
Ross Innovative Employment Solutions	An employment training program dedicated to serving older youth ages 18-21. They provide work readiness workshops and employment opportunities.	1472 Mississippi Blvd Memphis, TN 38106	(866) 240-4150
Shelby Residential & Vocational Services	Vocational Evaluation, training, job placement, sheltered workshops, adult activity center, and community participation.	3971 Knight Arnold Road Memphis, TN 38118	(901) 869-7787
Disability Group: DD, ID			
Social Security Administration www.ssa.gov	Employment support programs Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program; Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS)	1330 Monroe Avenue, Memphis, TN (866) 336-2212/TTY: (901) 544-0052	Employment Support Programs: 1-800-254-9489
		3602 Austin Peay Hwy, Memphis, TN (855) 420-8557/TTY: (901) 373-8695	General Information 1-800-772-1213 TDD: 1-800-325- 0778
		3461 South Third Street, Memphis, TN (855) 782-9155/TTY: (901) 786-9348	
Step, Inc.	Our mission is to empower parents through information, training, and support to become	2157 Madison Ave., Ste. 204 Memphis, TN 38104	901.726.4334
www.tnstep.org	effective partners with professionals in planning appropriate educational programs for their children.		
Support Solutions of Tennessee	Support Solutions offers supported living, personal assistance, behavioral respites,	5909 Shelby Oaks Drive Suite 100	(901) 383-9193
http://supportsolutionsms.com	community-based day services, supported employment, dual diagnosis specialization, psychological services, behavior analyst services, and nursing services to any eligible wavier enrollees and other individuals with disabilities.	Memphis, TN 38134	
TennCARE Kids www.tennessee.gov/tenncare/tennderca re	If your child is under 21 and has TennCare, they should have a free, yearly health check up. They can also get other health services through the TENNderCARE program. Together, the doctors and the PCP can treat all of your child's health needs.		(800) 342-3145

Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities www.tn.gov/cdd.html		500 James Robertson Pkwy Davy Crockett Tower 1 st floor Nashville, TN 37243	(615) 532-6615
Tennessee Department of Health Children's Special Services	Children's Special Services (CSS) provides services to eligible children with special health care needs.	814 Jefferson Avenue Memphis, TN 38105	(901) 222-9960
<u>www.tn.gov</u> – (Children Special Services)			
Tennessee School for the Blind (TSB) www.tn.gov/tenncare/tenncare-kids.html	TSB is a Tennessee Department of Education state school located in Middle Tennessee (TN). The school for the Blind serves K-12 students and the blind and visually impaired community across the state.	115 Stewarts Ferry Pike Nashville, TN 37214	(615) 231-7300
The Center on Developmental	The Boiling Center for Developmental Disabilities	920 Madison Ave	(901) 448-6511
Disabilities	(BCDD) is an interdisciplinary program that supports children and adults with developmental	Suite 939 Memphis, TN 38103	(888) 572-2249
<u>www.utsc.edu/cdd</u>	disabilities and their families through training, service, applied research, information dissemination, planning, and policy development.		TDD: (901) 448-4677
The University of Memphis Institute on Disability	Transition programs for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities	100 Ball Hall Memphis, TN 38152	(901) 678-4303
www.memphis.edu/umid			
The West Tennessee School of the Deaf (WTSD)	The curriculum at WTSD is designed to meet the individual needs of our students by emphasizing language development, speech, and listening	100 Berryhill Drive Jackson, Tennessee 38301	(731) 423-5705
www.tsdeaf.org	skills.		
University of Tennessee Center for Literacy, Education and Employment	Provides training and technical assistance in delivering a self-determination and career planning curriculum to school systems that are	600 Henley Street Suite 312 Knoxville, TN 37996	(865) 974-4109
http://clee.utk.edu	integrated in empowering students at the point of transition from school to adult life.		
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center/Tennessee Family Pathfinder:	The Tennessee Disability Information and Referral service is a free, statewide, information	110 Magnolia Circle Nashville, TN 37203	(615) 322-8240
www.familypathfinder.org	and referral service for persons with disabilities, family members, and service providers. The		Helpline (800) 640-4636
For disability events calendar www.kc.vanderbilt.edu/pathfinder	scope of information includes all disabilities and individuals of all ages. Service is provided in English and Spanish.		. ,
Workforce Investment Network	Ask to speak with the Disability Program	480 Beale Street	(901) 636-7955
http://workforceinvestmentnet-work.com	Navigator when applying for services.	Memphis, TN 38103	
	WIA Program (Youth): Provides area youth with	3040 Walnut Grove Road	(901) 543-7850
Age Groups: Youth 14-21	year-round training opportunities that are directly linked to academic and occupational learning.	Memphis, TN 38111	

Agency	Services/Training	Address	Phone
Career and Technology Careers	Vocational and technical classes	Southwest: 3746 Horn Lake, Memphis, TN 38109	(901) 416-8186
		Trezevant: 3224 Range Line,	
		Memphis, TN 38127	(901) 416-3800
Christian Brothers University	Offers undergraduate and graduate degrees	650 East Parkway Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 321-3000
Gallaudet University	Offers undergraduate degree programs for deaf and hearing impaired.	800 Florida Ave. NE Washington, DC 20002	TTY/Voice: (800) 995-0550
			Videophone:
			(202) 250-2474
LeMoyne-Owen College	Offers undergraduate and graduate degrees.	807 Walker Ave. Memphis, TN 38126	(901) 435-1500
www.loc.edu			
Northwest Mississippi Community College	Offers technical and associate degrees.	5197 W.E. Ross Parkway Southaven, MS 38671	(662) 342-1570
Rhodes College	Disability Services for Students:	2000 N. Parkway	(901) 843-3000
www.Rhodes.edu	Memphis, TN 38112		
Rochester Institute of Technology	Offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs for deaf and hearing impaired.	1 Lamb Memorial Drive Rochester, NY 14623-5603	(585) 475-2411
Shelby County Schools: Messick Adult Center (Adult Education)	Adult literacy, adult basic education classes and general education development	703 South Greer Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 416-4840
Southwest Tennessee Community College	Offers technical and associate degrees.	737 Union Ave. Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 333-5000
www.southwest.tn.edu			
Tennessee Technology Center at Memphis	Offers technical certifications.	550 Alabama Ave Memphis, TN 38105	(901) 543-6100
www.memphis.tec.tn.us			
The University of Memphis	Offers undergraduate and graduate degrees. Office of Disability Services for Students:	3675 Alumni Ave. Memphis, TN 38152	(901) 678-2000
www.memphis.edu	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
University of Tennessee Health Science Center	Offers undergraduate and graduate degrees.	800 Madison Memphis, TN 38163	(901) 448-5500
William R. Moore College of Technology	Offers technical certifications.	1200 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 726-1977

Living Options			
Agency	Services/Training	Address	Phone
Memphis Center for Independent Living Center	The Memphis Center for Independent Living is a community based non-profit organization dedicated to integrating people with disabilities into community life.	111 S. Highland St. Suite 358 Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 726-6404
www.mcil.org	into community me.		
Memphis Housing Authority www.memphisha.org	Provides Housing, search and information, subsidized housing, Section 8 Rental Assistance Program, homeownership program and house and home grant program administered in Nashville office.	439 Beale Street Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 544-1381
Open Arms Care Corporation	Day programs and residential living	5120 Yale Road Memphis, TN 38134	(901) 371-9774
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Residential Health Associates, Inc. (RHA)	Residential services (employment and vocational) to individuals coming out of state development centers	5050 Poplar Ave Suite 710 Memphis, TN 38157	(901) 767-1455
Shelby Residential & Vocational Services	Family support, residential services, adult activity center, and community participation.	3971 Knight Arnold Road Memphis, TN 38118	(901) 869-7787
Disability Group: DDID www.srvs.org			
SHIELDS www.shieldmidsouth.org	A non-profit organization that serves low-income, disabled, and homeless individuals and families.	2552 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38112	(901) 454-9755

Living Options			
Agency	Services/Training	Address	Phone
Blue Cross Blue Shield-ECF CHOICES Employment and Community First (ECF) CHOICES Providers BlueCare Tennessee (bcbst.com)	ECF CHOICES providers promote, and support integrated, competitive employment and independent living as the first and preferred option for members with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).		(800) 468 - 9698
Brenda Richardson Memorial Care Homes	A supportive living provider and offers community-based day services.	5100 Stage Road Suite 2 Bartlett, TN 38134	(901) 388-3545
Community Service Agency www.shelbycountycsa.org	Assist with utilities (MLGW payment), rent and mortgage assistance.	1188 Minna Pl. Memphis, TN	(901) 222-4200
Freedom Co-op	Personal assistance, community based and respite care for individuals on the state waiver.	1633 Madison Ave. Memphis, TN	(901) 603-5864
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis	Provides families with permanent housing.	7136 Winchester Rd Memphis, TN 38125	(901) 761-4771

www.memphishabitat.com

tawamba Crossroads Ranch	To provide high functioning, special needs adults a safe and loving environment with supervised independence.	716 Airport Rd Fulton, MS 38843 662.585.3334	662.585.3334
Memphis Center for Independent _iving www.mcil.org	The Memphis Center for Independent Living is a community based non-profit organization dedicated to integrating people with disabilities into community life.	111. S. Highland St. Memphis, TN 38104	(901)-726-6404
Memphis Housing Authority	MHA provides eligible families and individuals opportunities to obtain decent, safe, sanitary and affordable rental housing.	700 Adams Ave. Memphis, TN 38105	(901) 544-1100
Meritan, Inc. www.meritan.org	Provides services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as, adult foster care, home, and community-based services, private duty nursing, physical therapy, medical, residential services.	345 Adams Ave. Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 979 - 1660
Quality Support Coordination of Fennessee Quality Support Coordination of Fennessee - Home qualitysupportcoordinationtn.com)	Assist and inform individuals and their families regarding the options and services available. while supporting their needs, desires, and choices for living in their community.	2322 Ascott Place Cordova, TN 38016	(901) 531-7350
Fennessee Rural Development (USDA) vww.rurdev.gov/tn	Rural Development's Single Family Housing Programs give families and individuals the opportunity to buy, build, or repair affordable homes located in <u>rural</u> America.	441 Donelson Pike, Suite 310 Nashville, TN 37214	1-800-342-3149
The Baddour Center	The Baddour Center is dedicated to providing a model residential community for adults with intellectual disabilities and autism.	626 Baddour Blvd. P.O. Box 97 Senatobia, MS 38668	(662) 562-0638
The Omni Family of Services	Omni Community Health is a comprehensive outpatient behavioral health organization providing innovative, quality programs to heal children, families, and adults.	6570 Stage Rd. Suite 120 Memphis, TN 38134	(901) 371-0938
Jnited Seating and Mobility usm.pridedealer.com	Provision of adaptive rehabilitation devices such as walker, custom wheelchairs, standers, etc. for people with disabilities to promote greater independence and to enable people to perform task with less difficulty.	1687 Shelby Oaks #9 Memphis, TN 38134	(901) 379-0096 Ext. 3372
Where the Heart Is, Inc. https://wheretheheartis.net	Provides private duty nursing, home health and CHOICES services specifically oriented for the pediatric and geriatric populations in Shelby, Tipton, and Fayette Counties.	1679 N. Shelby Oaks Ste. 7 Memphis, TN 38134	(901) 249-2837

Agency	Services/Training	Address	Phone
Deaf Connect www.deafconnectmidsouth.org	DeafConnect of the Mid-South is a nonprofit serving Memphis and surrounding communities. We foster inclusive and accessible communities by offering advocacy, education and communication through sign language interpreting.	6045 Shelby Oaks Drive Memphis, TN 38134	(901) 278-9307 Video Phone (901) 620-6062
Tennessee Relay Services www.tennrelay.com	Tennessee Relay Service allows a person who is Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind or who has a Speech Disability to communicate over the telephone.		711 TTY/PC User 800-848-0298 Voice Users 800-848-0299
			Espanol – 866- 50-0263 Speech-to- Speech 866-503-0264 900 Access-900- 476-2727 (TTY) Customer Service 866-503-0262
			(Voice, TTY, ASCII, STS)
Vision Services			(Voice, TTY,
Vision Services Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired	To promote independence and foster the highest quality of life for people with visual impairments, including those with	2693 Union Extended Ste. 101 Memphis TN 38112	(Voice, TTY,
Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired			(Voice, TTY, ASCII, STS)
Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired www.clovernook.org	highest quality of life for people with visual impairments, including those with	Ste. 101	(Voice, TTY, ASCII, STS)
Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired www.clovernook.org Health Services	highest quality of life for people with visual impairments, including those with	Ste. 101	(Voice, TTY, ASCII, STS)
Clovernook Center for the Blind &	highest quality of life for people with visual impairments, including those with multiple disabilities. We provide complete healthcare services to support your physical, mental and	Ste. 101 Memphis, TN 38112 2595 Central Ave.	(Voice, TTY, ASCII, STS) (901) 523-9590
Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired www.clovernook.org Health Services Christ Community Health Services	highest quality of life for people with visual impairments, including those with multiple disabilities. We provide complete healthcare services to support your physical, mental and	Ste. 101 Memphis, TN 38112 2595 Central Ave.	(Voice, TTY, ASCII, STS) (901) 523-9590

Agency	Services/Training	Address	Phone	
Mata Plus www.mataplus.com	MATAplus is a shared ride paratransit service designed to meet the transportation needs of persons with disabilities in the Memphis and Shelby County service area	3033 Airways Blvd. Memphis, TN 38116	(901) 322-4080	
Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) www.matatransit.com	The Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) is the public transportation provider for the Memphis area.	444 N. Main Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 722-7100	
United Access www.braunmobility.com	Stair lifts for home and vehicle modifications	2165 Hillshire Circle Memphis, TN 38133	(901) 888-1010	
Literacy				
Memphis Literacy Council www.memphisliteracycouncil.org	Our mission is to provide literacy resources to learners of all backgrounds and ages.	902 S. Cooper Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 327-6000	
Maxwell Driving School	Driver training program for individuals with specialized instruction.	777 Walnut Grove Agricenter International Wing C, Room C-27 Memphis, TN 38120	(901) 755-6777	

Agency	Services/Training	Address	Phone
Best Buddies www.bestbuddies.org	Best Buddies is a organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships.	340 Seven Springs Way, Suite 750 Brentwood, TN 37027	615.891.2046
Boys & Girls Clubs of Memphis Home - Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis (bgcm.org)	The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis' mission statement is to enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.	44 S. Rembert Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 278-2947
Friends of Faith	Friends of Faith Ministry provide an all-inclusive facility for special needs individuals (of all faiths).	4210 Alturia Road Ste. 5 Memphis, TN 38135	(901) 438-6924
I Am Included Program	The "I AM INCLUDED" Program is for youth between the ages of 14-18; grades 8-12th with specific disabilities.	315 S. Hollywood St. Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 636-6264
Memphis Capernaum Young Life	A Capernamun Club specifically designed for teenagers and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in Shelby County.	658 Colonial Road	(901) 820-0760
Home - Memphis Capernaum TN169 (younglife.org)			

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Memphis Park Commission	Memphis Parks creates positive and safe		
www.memphisparks.com	places to provide community-centered experiences that connect all Memphians, celebrate life, and strengthen mind and body.		
Memphis-Shelby County Public Library	There are 23 library branches throughout	3030 Poplar Ave. Memphis, Tn 38111	(901) 415-2700
www.memphislibrary.org	the city and county.		
Raymond Skinner Center	Raymond Skinner Center offers senior programs, an indoor pool, restrooms, and parking for both the center and Peabody Park.	712 Tanglewood Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 272-2528
Shelby Residential & Vocational Services	Our mission is to provide the services that people with disabilities need to live meaningful lives as members of their communities.	3971 Knight Arnold Rd. Memphis TN 38118	(901) 869-778
Shepherds Haven Day Program	The Shepherd's Haven Day Center offers men and women with special needs daily opportunities for personal growth.	175 Shepherds Haven Way Arlington, TN 38002	(901) 347-5296
Tennessee Special Olympics	The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.	461 Craighead Street Nashville, TN 37204	(901) 683-127 ⁻
www.specialolympics.org			
The Exceptional Foundation	The Exceptional Foundation serves individuals with special needs by	1780 Moriah Woods Blvd. Ste. 4	(901) 387-5002
www.exceptionalfoundation.org	targeting social and recreational objectives .	Memphis, TN 38117	
The Memphis Zoo	Memphis Zoo is home to 4,500+ animals. Find your favorites and discover new species to love!	2000 Prentis Place Memphis, TN 38112	(901) 333-6500
www.memphiszoo.org	your lavorites and discover new species to love:	Memphis, TN 30112	
Thrive Memphis	Enriching the lives of those with	6560 Poplar	(901) 387-5002
www.thrivemem.org	intellectual disabilities by meeting their social, recreational, and continued educational needs.	Avenue Memphis, TN 38138	
YMCA of Memphis & The Midsouth	Through empowering young people, improving individual and community well-being, and inspiring action, we aim to create meaningful change across the country.	245 Madison Ave. Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 527-8622
www.ymcamemphis.org			

YWCA of Greater Memphis

A 24-hour emergency shelter for those impacted by domestic violence in Shelby County.

766 South Highland Memphis, TN 38111

(901) 323-2211

Job training and financial literacy programs which help break the cycle of poverty.

Agency	Web Address	Address	Phone
Ballet Memphis	www.balletmemphis.org	2144 Madison Ave Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 737-7322
Circuit Playhouse	www.playhouseonthesquare.org	51 Cooper St. Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 726-4656
Memphis Symphony Orchestra	www.memphissymphony.org	University of Memphis-Newport Hall 610 Goodman St Memphis, TN 38152	(901) 537-2550
Opera Memphis	www.operamemphis.org	6745 Wolf River Greenway Memphis, TN 38120	(901) 202-4533
Orpheum Theater	www.orpheum.com	203 South Main Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 725-0776
Playhouse on the Square	www.playhouseonthesquare.org	66 S. Cooper St. Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 683-8323
Museums and Art Galleries			
Belz Museum of Asian and Judaic Art at Peabody Place	www.belzmuseum.org	119 South Main Street Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 523-2787
C.H. Nash Museum Chucalissa	www.cas.memphis.edu	1987 Indian Village Drive Memphis, TN 38109	(901) 785-3160
Coon Creek Science Center	www.moshmemphis.com	McNairy County, TN	(901) 320-6320
MAX	www.moshmemphis.com	3050 Central Avenue Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 320-6320
Lichterman Nature Center	www.moshmemphis.com	5992 Quince Road Memphis, TN 38119	(901) 767-7322
Mageveny House	www.moshmemphis.com	198 Adams Avenue Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 526-4464
Mallory-Neely House	www.moshmemphis.com	652 Adams Avenue Memphis, TN 38105	(901) 523-1484
Memphis Brooks Museum of Art Overton Park	www.brooksmuseum.org	1934 Poplar Avenue Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 544-6200
Memphis Museum of Science and History: MoSH	www.moshmemphis.com	3050 Central Ave Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 636-2362
Memphis Rock 'N' Soul Museum	www.memphisrocknsoul.com	191 Beale St. Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 205-2533
National Civil Rights Museum	www.civilrightsmuseum.org	450 Mulberry Street Memphis, TN 381013	(901) 521-9699

Sharpe Planetarium	www.moshmemphis.com	3050 Central Avenue Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 636-2362
Stax Museum of American Soul Music	www.staxmuseum.com	926 East McLemore Avenue Memphis, TN 38106	(901) 261-6338
The Children's Museum	www.cmom.com	2525 Central Avenue Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 458-2678
The Dixon Gallery & Gardens	www.dixon.org	4339 Park Avenue Memphis, TN 38117	(901) 761-5250
Self Advocacy			
ADAPT of Tennessee	Is part of a national grassroots community that organizes disability rights activists to engage in a non- violent direct action to assure the civil and human rights of people with disabilities to live in freedom	1633 Madison Ave. Memphis, TN 38105	(901) 726-6404
Community Services Agency	Learn how to apply for services such as screenings for food stamps, earned benefits, TANF, Medicaid, Habitat for Humanity programs, Safe Link wireless, prescription programs, WIC, and some health insurance programs.	2670 Union Ave Extended Ste. 500 Memphis, TN 38112	(901) 222-4200
Disability Rights TN	Advocates for the rights of Tennesseans with disabilities to ensure they have an equal opportunity to be productive and respected members of our society.	1407 Union Ave. Ste. 1015 Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 458-6013
Just Care Family Network	Provides a coordinated system of care and support for youth and families dealing with mental health issues. Includes family counseling, support and outreach, mental health information and education, wrap around facilitation and community support.	1750 Madison Avenue, Ste. 501 Memphis, TN 38105	(901) 222-4500
Mid-South Access Center for Technology www.memphis.edu/act	Services are provided by experts in the fields of rehabilitation assistive technology and speech language pathology. The Mid-South Access Center for Technology provides resources to loan to individual's with disabilities and to teachers in the greater Memphis area. Teachers should contact Mid-South ACT for tips and strategies to help when differentiating instruction for individuals with disabilities in inclusive	University of Memphis 530 Patterson Street 119 Patterson Hall Memphis, TN 38152	(901) 678-1489
Shelby County Health Department	learning environments.	814 Jefferson	(901) 222-9000

STEP INC. (Support Training for Exceptional Parents)	Information on STEP's transition and training for parents and students.	2157 Madison Ave. Ste. 204 Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 726-4334
www.findhelp.org			
Disability Rights and Advocacy			
Disability Rights of Tennessee	Disability Rights Tennessee (DRT) is a nonprofit legal services organization that provides free legal advocacy services to protect the rights of	2693 Union Ave. Ext Ste. 100 Memphis, TN 38112	(901) 458-6013
www.disabilityrightstn.org	Tennesseans with disabilities.		
Learning Disability Association	LDA's mission is to create opportunities for success for all individuals affected by learning disabilities through support,	4068 Mount Royal Boulevard, Suite 224B, Allison Park, PA 15101	(412) 341-1515
www.ldaamerica.org	education, and advocacy.		
Memphis Area Legal Services	Our mission is to Provide Excellence	200 Jefferson Avenue	(901) 523-8822
	in Legal Advocacy for Those in need.	Suite 1075 Memphis, TN 38103	
www.malsi.org			
Fennessee Counsel on Developmental Disabilities	The TN Council on Developmental Disabilities exists to improve services and supports to make life better for people with developmental disabilities and their families.	500 James Robertson Parkway, Davy Crockett Tower, First Floor Nashville, TN 37243	(615) 532-6615
Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD) (tn.gov)			
Tennessee Disability Coalition	The Tennessee Disability Coalition is an alliance of organizations and individuals joined to promote the full and equal participation of people with	955 Woodland Street Nashville, TN 37206	(615) 383-9442
www.tndisability.org	disabilities in all aspects of life.		
Tennessee Disability Pathfinder	Tennessee Disability Pathfinder offers access to resources, support, and services available to meet their needs.		1-800-640-463
www.tnpathfinder.org	-		

The Mission of Mid-South Access Center for Technology (ACT) is to help people with disabilities use assistive technology to improve the quality of their lives.	The University of Memphis 530 Patterson Street Memphis, Tennessee 38152	(901) 678-1489
A free library program of over		(615) 741-3915
	Center for Technology (ACT) is to help people with disabilities use assistive technology to improve the quality of their lives.	Center for Technology (ACT) is to help people with disabilities use assistive technology to improve the quality of their lives. 530 Patterson Street Memphis, Tennessee 38152

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