

Client Assistance Program

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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- **The Client Assistance Program** advocates for persons with disabilities who are clients or applicants of Vocational Rehabilitation, Commission for the Blind, and other Independent Living Programs funded under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- **CAP can address** questions regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title I, as it relates to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- **CAP can advise** service providers and consumers having questions relating to the above, or other available community resources for person with disabilities.

HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION SERVICES

The Term “transition services” means a coordinated set of activities for a high school student, designed within an outcome-oriented process, that promotes movement from school to adult services. The Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Commission for the Blind is mandated to provide transition services for youths with disabilities to facilitate their transition from school to work, or in some cases transition from high school to post secondary education. Vocational Rehabilitation and the Commission for the Blind are responsible for developing in conjunction with the client or client’s representative an Individualized Plan of Employment (IPE) that outlines the process, resources, and coordination and delivery of services needed to achieve the goal of the IPE.

If you need further information, please refer to Vocational Rehabilitation Department’s website at www.scvrd.net, and the Commission for the Blind’s website at www.sccb.state.sc.us

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

For “**transition**” high school students with disabilities, good self-advocacy skills will be key to your success with post-secondary education. It will be important for you to contact the "Students with Disabilities Department" as soon as you are thinking about attending college, to check out application requirements for any needed accommodations you might need on campus or in the classroom.

Students need to become knowledgeable about their rights and responsibilities in post-secondary education experience.

5 IMPORTANT STEPS FOR COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Step One: Talk with a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) or Commission for the Blind (CB) Transition counselor if you are a high school student with a disability and will be “transitioning” into Post Secondary school or to employment. Also, be sure to talk with your school’s guidance counselor.

Step Two: Research colleges and submit applications. You need to start identifying schools that match the majors and minors of your choice and request information from that college in your junior year of high school.

Step Four: Talk to the college Director of Student’s with Disabilities. Counselors for students with disabilities are available to support and assist students by coordinating efforts between students, faculty, and staff to develop reasonable and appropriate classroom accommodations. Disability documentation must be provided to the representative of students with disabilities prior to any accommodation arrangements. Any post secondary institution, public or private, receiving federal funds (including student loans) is required to have support services for students with disabilities.

Step Five: Apply for Financial Aid & Scholarships. If you wish to apply for financial aid you should request financial aid information from each college to which you apply. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required by all colleges. The FAFSA is a very important first step in the financial aid process. Use it to apply for federal student financial aid, such as Pell grant, student loans, and college work-study. In addition, most states and schools use FAFSA information to award their financial aid.

This is a very important first step for transition students with disabilities who will be seeking post-secondary tuition assistance from Vocational Rehabilitation or the Commission for the Blind. For introductory instructions on how to complete the FAFSA online or on paper go to Completing the FAFSA at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/completefafsa>

Do not hesitate to contact the financial aid office at any school to which you are applying if you need help in filling out the FAFSA , Profile, or individual college forms, or if you want to discuss your particular financial circumstances.



2008 Journalism Contest

Sponsored by the SC Governor’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities

The winner of the **Annual Journalism Essay Contest** will receive a **four-year scholarship to any South Carolina state-supported institution of his or her choice** provided, of course, that the winner is otherwise qualified. The scholarship pays for undergraduate tuition and fees. Each institution has its own definition of tuition and fees, which may or may not include room and board. The scholarship may be cancelled if the recipient does not maintain general scholastic and conduct standards established by the institution. You do **not** have to have a disability to enter.

For more information on the Journalism Essay Contest, call the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department Public Information Office at (803) 896-6833 or 896-6834, or visit the website at

www.scvrd.net/g_journal_contest.html