

DRNM Advocates for Transition-Aged Youth

During our intake process, DRNM screens each case to see if a youth is eligible to receive Transition Services. Transition Services are supports that help young people with disabilities prepare for life after the high school years. These services may be provided by a young person's school, the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR), or the New Mexico Commission for the Blind (NMCFB). Transition services prepare young people for employment by opening pathways to further education, training, or to enter the workforce.

Transition services may include things like:

- A career interest inventory to help you decide upon a professional pathway.
- Helping you to develop an employment goal that includes concrete steps to achieve that goal.
- Assistive technology, such as a tablet, computer, mobility aid, communication device, or accessible software that helps you to achieve your employment goal.
- Costs associated with vocational training or college, such as the costs of tuition, books, transportation, etc.
- Costs required to start a new job, like paying for a uniform, a bus pass, or having a vehicle modified for your transportation needs.
- Benefits counseling, which may help you make informed decisions about your healthcare, Social Security Income, and how your new earnings may impact your other benefits.

Because you are aged between 14-22 years old, DRNM has determined that you may be eligible to receive Transition Services from your school, NMDVR, or NMCFB. When you are contacted by the DRNM staff member assigned to evaluate your case, he or she will ask if you are also interested in pursuing Transition Services. If you are not interested, we will continue to evaluate and assess your case based upon the problem that you first brought to us. If you *are* interested in pursuing Transition Services, your DRNM staff member will open a separate case to advocate for Transition Services in addition to the problem that you first brought to us.

As part of its mission, DRNM is committed to expanding the rights of young people with disabilities. We are privileged to advocate alongside you!