



This publication is sponsored by the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) Program.

What is the PABSS Program?

The PABSS program was established in 1999 when the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act (TWWIIA) was enacted into law. Under this Act, the Social Security Administration funded grants to Protection and Advocacy (P&A) programs to provide advocacy and other services to assist SSA beneficiaries in removing barriers to employment and to secure or regain gainful employment.

Recently, Social Security has asked the P&As in each state to place an emphasis on transition aged students, age 14-21, and services to these students in order to educate students, families, teachers, school administration and service providers about the value of work and the different programs and work incentives available to youth.

The PABSS Advocate at Disability Rights Montana (DRM) is Lori Idland who has 14 years of experience working with DRM and 11 of those years working in the PABSS Program. Along with social security issues, Lori assists with discrimination and handicapped accessibility issues.

How can PABSS help schools and students and their families?

In the area of transition planning, PABSS can:

- ◆ Assist students in working with providers to develop transition plans;
- ◆ Advocate for transitional services for high school age youth with disabilities;
- ◆ Assist students who want to participate in summer work activities;
- ◆ Inform parents, students and others about transition requirements and available assistance for students with disabilities, aged 14-21;
- ◆ Assist youth with disabilities with adult service options and processes;
- ◆ Provide general information about work incentives and benefits counseling;
- ◆ Refer students for benefits counseling.

PABSS can also assist in removing barriers to employment in the following:

- ◆ Assist in obtaining reasonable accommodations, including course materials in alternative formats, in high school, post-secondary education, and employment;
- ◆ Advocate for students and young adults with disabilities who want community based employment;
- ◆ Assist students and young adults who experience discrimination, especially disability-based employment discrimination.

How to contact the PABSS Program:

By email: lori@disabilityrightsmt.org

By phone: (406) 449-2344, Ext. 4828

1-800-245-4743, Ext. 4828 (National toll free)



What is the Client Assistance Program (CAP) and how can CAP help schools and students?

Our guest contributor for this issue is Kathy Hampton. Kathy has been employed at Disability Rights Montana for 19 years and has most recently taken over as the Client Assistant Program (CAP) Advocate.

What is the Client Assistance Program?

CAP is a Disability Rights Montana (DRM) program that helps people with disabilities who have concerns about agencies in Montana that provide vocational rehabilitation or independent living services. The type of help provided may be information, referral, advice, counseling, mediation, negotiation, advocacy, representation in an administrative appeal, or other legal services. When a person has a question or problem with Montana Vocational Rehabilitation or an Independent Living Center, CAP can help.

Transition services mandated in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is mandated to provide services for youth with disabilities to facilitate their transition from school to work or post secondary education. VR is responsible for developing, in conjunction with the clients or client's representative, an IPE that outlines the process, resources, and coordination and delivery of services needed to achieve the goal of the IPE. At age 14, check to see if your high school should begin working with the local Vocational Rehabilitation office and VR services should be included in the student's IEP or 504 plan.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires that schools develop a long range plan to prepare students for life after school. VR can assist with the following 5 activities under its Pre-ETS program:

- ◆ Job exploration and counseling,
- ◆ Work-based learning experiences,
- ◆ Counseling and opportunities for

enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary education,

- ◆ Workplace readiness training,
- ◆ Self-advocacy instruction.

How to contact the CAP Program:

By email: kathy@disabilityrightsmt.org

By phone: (406) 449-2344, Ext. 4814

1-800-245-4743, Ext. 4814
(National toll free)

Questions about what accommodations might be helpful for a particular disability? Need information about how to ask for an accommodation? <http://askjan.org> is an excellent resource for general information. Contact Disability Rights Montana if you need more information or assistance.

Upcoming Events

September 8

Pre-ETS Resources around Interests, Aptitudes and Career Guidance

Free Webinar

For more info: [http://](http://montanayouthtransitions.org)

montanayouthtransitions.org

October 11

Soft Skills Train the Trainer Glendive

For more info: [http://](http://montanayouthtransitions.org)

montanayouthtransitions.org

October 10

Soft Skills Train the Trainer Wolf Point

For more info: [http://](http://montanayouthtransitions.org)

montanayouthtransitions.org

November 14, 15, 16

MYTransitions Conference

Radisson Colonial Hotel

Helena, MT

Registration and draft conference

If you would like to have an event included, please email your information to lori@disabilityrightsmt.org.

Disability Rights Montana protects and advocates for the human, legal, and civil rights of Montanans with disabilities while advancing dignity, equality, and self determination.