



People with disabilities have many talents and skills that are often overlooked. These include the motivation and ability to work. Work is an important part of everyone's life and should be available to anyone who desires to work.

Employment Brief

Many people with disabilities find it difficult to find a meaningful job. Competitive jobs based on personal preferences and abilities are difficult to find and maintain. Supported employment may be of benefit when considering becoming employed.

There are usually six principles of supported employment. The six are: (a) Eligibility is based on your choice. (b) Employment is aligned with other needs. Employment specialist's work with other people involved with providing guidance and assistance to coordinate plans. (c) Competitive employment is a goal. This means that the focus is toward a job in the community that pays at least minimum wage and is a job that anyone can apply for.; (d) Job search starts immediately and you do not have to complete any prevocational work units, transitional employment or a sheltered workshop. (e) Follow up supports are continuous. Individual supports to maintain employment continues as long as you want assistance. (f) Individual preferences are important. Choices and decisions about work and support are individualized based on your preferences, strengths and experiences.

If you desire to become self employed and work for yourself, a micro-enterprise may be something you want to consider. A micro-enterprise will allow you to start your own business with little capital (money) for start-up and will give you flexibility to work at your own pace and on your own schedule. Planning for Achieving Self Support (PASS) is a program offered by the United States Social Security Administration (or SSA) to encourage persons that are Supplemental Security (or SSI) eligible who are disabled to set aside moneys for various reasons: Training, Schooling and including funding Micro-enterprise as Work Goals. This is an excellent way to work for yourself and to plan for becoming independent and self sufficient. If you are interested in learning more about the PASS Plans visit <http://www.ssa.gov> or call (800) 772-1213 for more information.

If interested in learning more about employment contact the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation at (800) 372-7172 or visit <http://www.dvr.ky.gov>. The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation has many services available including resources for adaptive equipment, work clothes and limited transportation to work, and programs directly related to preparing, securing and keeping a job in the community.

To speak to an advocate or for more information contact The Arc of Kentucky at 502-875-5225 or e-mail to arcofky@aol.com. The Arc of Kentucky's Administrative Office is located at 706 East Main Street, Suite A, Frankfort, KY.



You have a Choice...Choose the job that is right for you!