

# Upcoming

## Ripple Effect: Practice Makes Progress

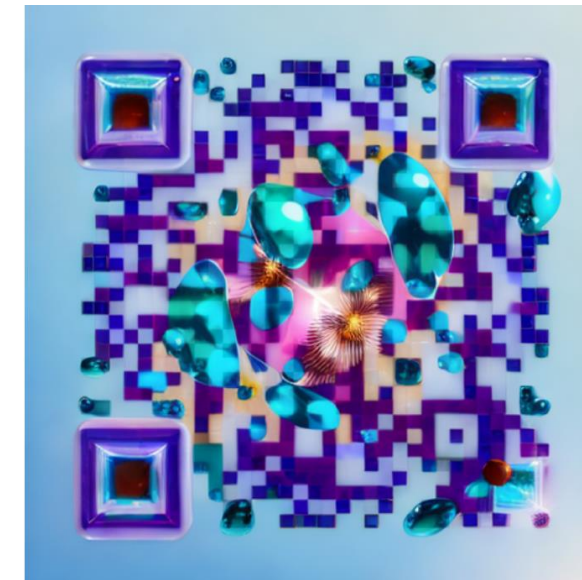
- Water strategies for all ages and abilities
- Drowning Prevention
- Personalized and inclusive swimming



Our guest speaker, Christy Baca is the owner and head coach of Texoma Swim Academy. She has a degree in education and multiple swimming certifications.



Register with the QR below.



My next webinar will be in partnership with  
Christy Baca from Texoma Swim Academy

April 16, 2025  
10:00 AM CST



Workforce Solutions Texoma is an equal opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call 711 for assistance. 100% Federally Funded.

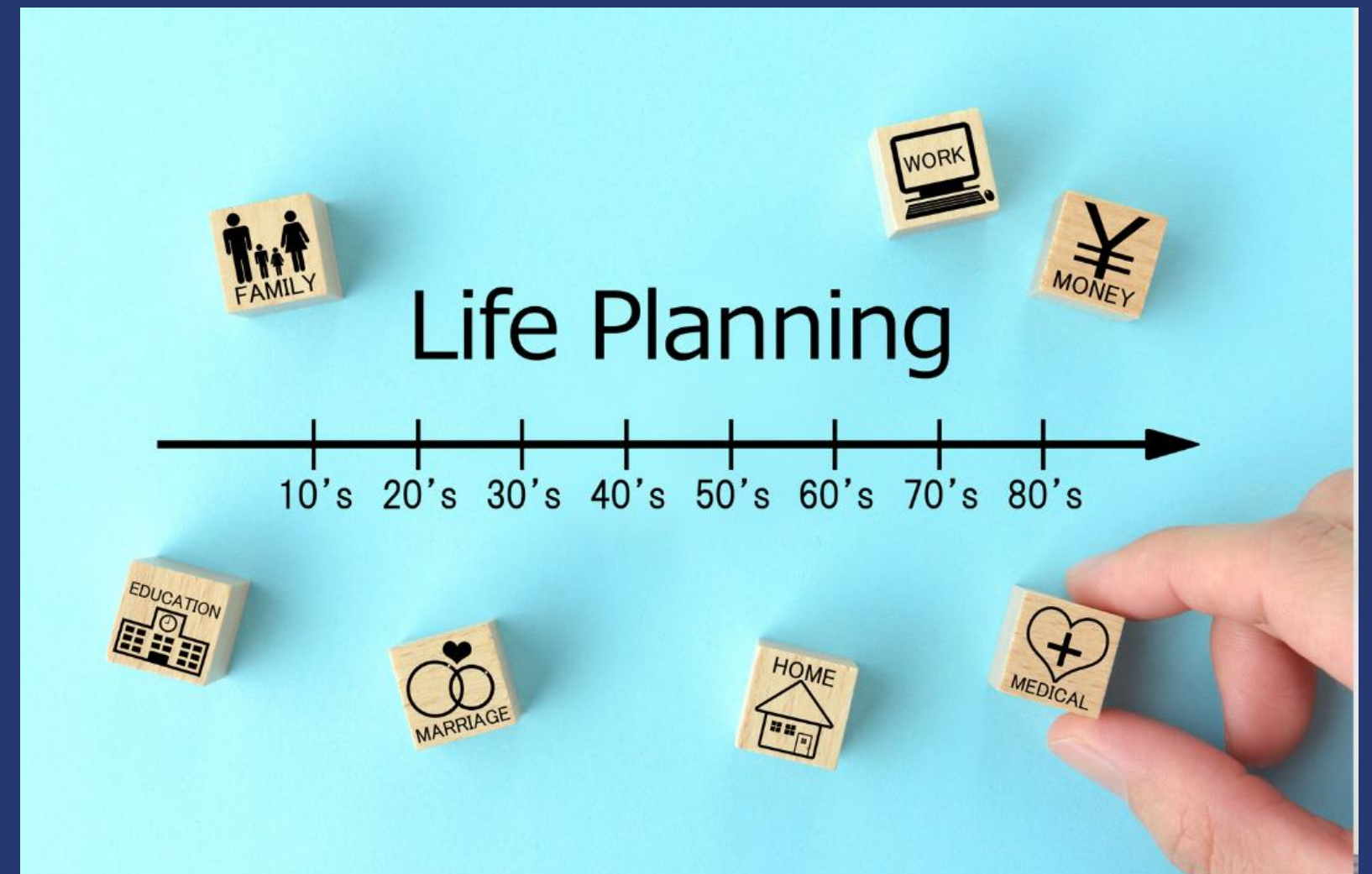
# Webinars for Families

Workforce Solution Partner Webinars  
are Recorded and Housed at:

Click the area above each  
webinar for pdf and slide  
deck resources.



# What does your best life plan look like for your clients?





# VR Services Across the Lifespan

- Vocational Rehabilitation Services-is a partner within the Texas Workforce System that supports eligible adults and students with cognitive, medical, physical or visual conditions prepare for, find, retain or advance in employment
- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselors work closely with job seekers to determine an employment goal, and then identify and arrange services that lead to employment.
- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services are available to eligible individuals across Texas and some VR staff are co-located within many Workforce Solutions Offices.

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# Example of Services

- Medical and Psychological Assessment
- Vocational Evaluation and Planning
- Career Counseling and Guidance
- Training and Education After High School
- Job-Site Assessment and Accommodations
- Job Placement
- Job Coaching
- On-the-Job Training
- Supported Employment
- Assistive Technology and Devices
- Time-limited Medical and/or Psychological Treatment
- Work readiness training

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# Vocational Rehabilitation Supports

## Students Goal:

Students –establish plan to obtain, maintain or advance in meaningful employment.

School- Partner to establish IPE Plan and goals that are concrete, measurable, and portable.

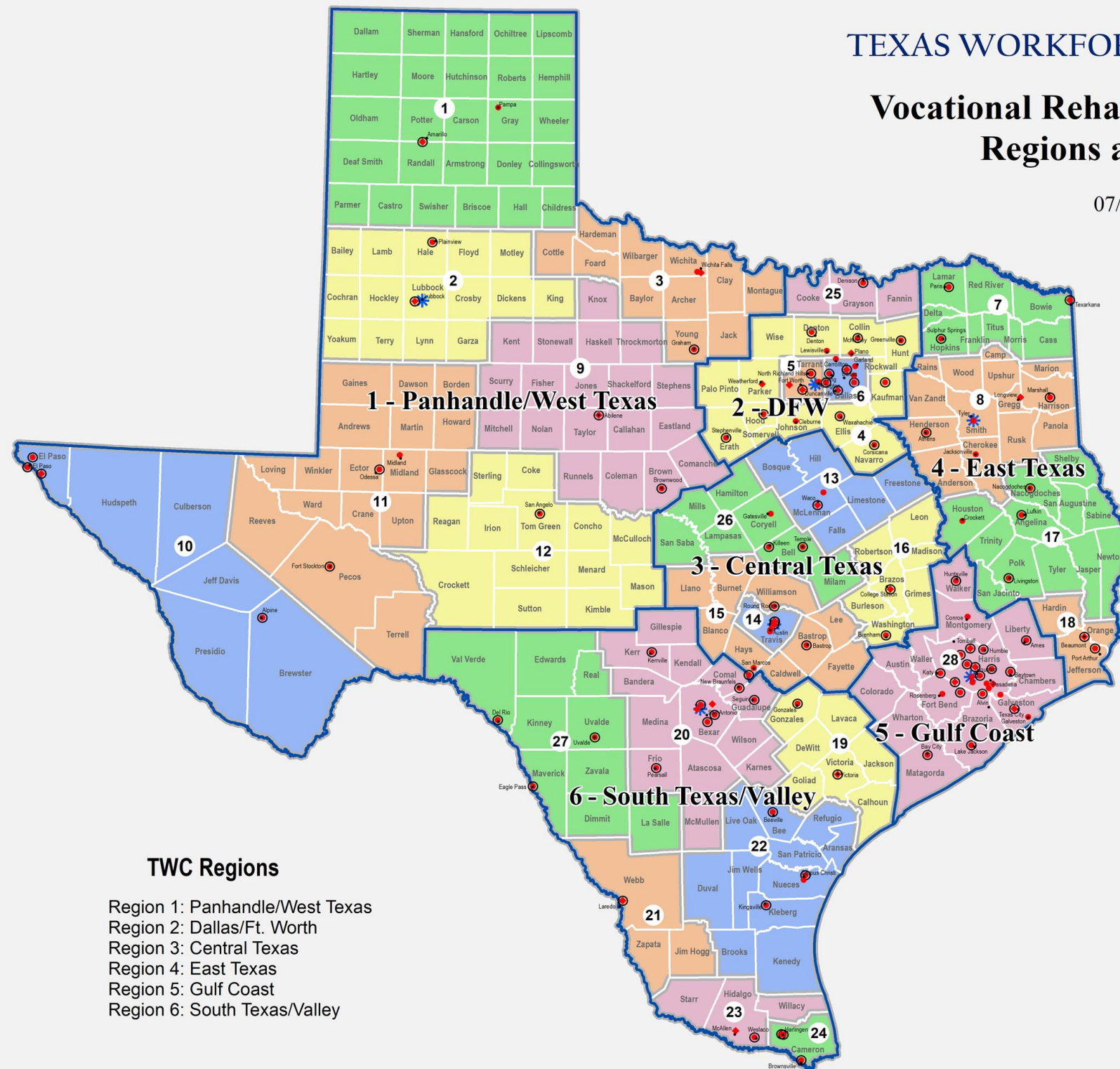
Families- Continuous partner to coordinate activities high school to college.

# VR & Workforce Offices

## TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

### Vocational Rehabilitation Division Regions and Offices

07/29/2021



#### TWC Regions

Region 1: Panhandle/West Texas  
Region 2: Dallas/Ft. Worth  
Region 3: Central Texas  
Region 4: East Texas  
Region 5: Gulf Coast  
Region 6: South Texas/Valley

- City
- ♦ VR Field Headquarters
- VR Field Office
- Integrated with WFS
- \* VR Regional Office
- County
- TWC Region
- LWDA (with color)

#### Local Workforce Development Areas

- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Panhandle           | 15 Rural Capital           |
| 2 South Plains        | 16 Brazos Valley           |
| 3 North Texas         | 17 Deep East Texas         |
| 4 North Central Texas | 18 Southeast Texas         |
| 5 Tarrant County      | 19 Golden Crescent         |
| 6 Greater Dallas      | 20 Alamo                   |
| 7 Northeast Texas     | 21 South Texas             |
| 8 East Texas          | 22 Coastal Bend            |
| 9 West Central Texas  | 23 Lower Rio Grande Valley |
| 10 Borderplex         | 24 Cameron County          |
| 11 Permian Basin      | 25 Texoma                  |
| 12 Concho Valley      | 26 Central Texas           |
| 13 Heart of Texas     | 27 Middle Rio Grande       |
| 14 Capital Area       | 28 Gulf Coast              |

TWC VR  
Locator



Workforce  
Solutions  
Board  
Websites





# Vocational Rehabilitation

## How do I contact VR?

- Contact local VR office (See previous slide.)
- Call the TWS-VRS statewide contact center at 512-936-6400
- Online self-referral “Start My VR” located: [Bit.ly/StartMyVR](https://bit.ly/StartMyVR)
- Find your local VR Office at:  
<https://stats.twc.texas.gov/views/VRProviderLocator/ProviderbyZipCode?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y>
- Email us at: [VR.office.locator@twc.texas.gov](mailto:VR.office.locator@twc.texas.gov)





# Texoma Workforce Centers

## Cooke, Fannin, & Grayson Counties

Employment  
Specialist

Board Target  
Occupations List

Childcare  
Assistance

**Career Planning & Job Services**

Resume  
Assistance

Accessible  
Workstations  
and Printers

Training  
Scholarship  
Assistance

## General Services

- Job Leads & Career Resources
- Help with WorkInTexas.com
  - statewide database to look for a job
- Resume Assistance
- Interviewing Assistance
- Target Occupations List - jobs that are most in demand in each Workforce area.
- Job Fairs & Hiring Events
- Labor & Market Information
- Video Resources:
  - <https://www.workforcesolutionstexoma.com/video-resources-english>
  - <https://www.workforcesolutionstexoma.com/video-resources-spanish>
- Employer Assistance:
  - <https://www.workforcesolutionstexoma.com/employer-services>
  - Recruiting, screening, referring candidates
  - Interview and Meeting Space
  - Tax Credits and Incentives
  - Labor Market Information
  - Layoff and Layoff Aversion Services

## Partner and Specialized Services

- Childcare Assistance
- Veteran's Services
- Job Search and Scholarship Assistance through WIOA-Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services provided by the Texas Workforce Commission
  - VR helps people prepare for, find or retain employment and youth to prepare for post-secondary and employment options.
  - VR also helps employers and businesses recruit, retain, and accommodate employees with disabilities.
  - Disability Video Resource Library
    - <https://www.workforcesolutionstexoma.com/disability-videos/>
- Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) Services provided by Grayson College
  - High School Equivalency Assistance / GED
  - Refresher (Reading, Writing, Language and Math)
  - ESL (English as a Second Language)
  - Citizenship
  - TSI Prep ([Texas Success Initiative Assessment](#))
  - ASVAB Prep ([Armed Services Aptitude Battery](#))

# Target Occupation List

List that identifies  
fast growing  
occupations in  
your area.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS TEXOMA  
TARGET OCCUPATIONS LIST  
Revised 05/17/2023



Workforce Center  
Information & Locations:  
<https://www.workforcesolutionstexoma.com>

#	O*NET/ SOC Code*	Occupational Title	Average Wages	Annual Demand	
				Texoma WDA	State of Texas
1	13-2011	Accountants and Auditors	\$38.46	53	14,156
2	49-3011	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians {NEW Emerging Occupation Added 5.18.22}	\$33.89	2^	1,626
3	43-3031	Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	\$20.87	96	21,323
4	39-9011	Childcare Workers	\$11.15	72	14,598
5	31-9091	Dental Assisting/Assistants	\$18.61	54	5,665
6	17-3023	Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technologists & Technicians {NEW Emerging Occupation Added 5.17.23}	\$33.37	8^	1,186
7	47-2111	Electricians	\$25.19	49	8,839
8	25-2021	Elementary Teachers, Ex. Special Education	\$27.45	98	12,270
9	11-1021	General and Operations Managers	\$44.42	172	40,516
10	49-9021	Heating/Air Conditioning/Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	\$23.41	29	4,250
11	53-3032	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$24.09	160	32,096
12	49-9041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics-including Programmable Logic Controller Technician	\$28.41	36	5,326
13	29-2061	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses (LPN / LVN)	\$24.62	46	6,387
14	51-4041	Machinists	\$23.61	35	3,148
15	31-9092	Medical Assistants	\$17.16	65	12,465
16	43-6013	Medical Secretaries	\$18.46	55	8,897
17	25-2022	Middle School Teachers, Ex. Special & Career/Technical Education	\$28.85	46	5,787
18	31-1131	Nursing Assistants-including Patient Care Technician & Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	\$14.57	124	13,443
19	29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	\$18.41	23	3,895
20	47-2152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$24.38	41	5,712
21	29-1141	Registered Nurses (RN) {including LVN to RN Bridge & RN to BSN}	\$36.88	130	17,269
22	25-2031	Secondary School Teachers, Ex. Special & Career/Technical Education	\$29.42	68	8,793
23	51-9141	Semiconductor Processing Technicians {NEW Emerging Occupation Added 5.18.22}	\$17.21	16^	621
24	29-2055	Surgical Technologists	\$27.26	7	856
25	51-2092	Team Assemblers	\$17.88	83	9,825
26	51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$23.51	52	6,453
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# What if I am not in Texoma?

Find your local Workforce Solutions Center by:

There are hundreds of Workforce Solutions Centers throughout Texas. You can locate your nearest office by entering your zip code in the locator on the Texas Workforce Commission's website – see below.

Home > Find Locations

## Find Locations

We have hundreds of Workforce Solutions offices across Texas. Locate your nearest office by ZIP Code.

Enter ZIP Code

Workforce Solutions offices offer free one-on-one services to workers and employers such as:

- Job search resources.
- Career exploration, training and development resources.
- Resume and application preparation.
- Job posting and placement.
- Recruiting, retention and job training.
- Labor market information.
- Information on tax and hiring incentives.
- Assistance with locating child care providers.
- Child care support for parents who work, attend school or are in job training.
- Assistance to child care providers.



# Follow Up Resources

**VR for Students & Families**  
Vocational Rehabilitation Services Resources for students and their families.

**Speakers** | **Vocational Rehabilitation Services Transition Students** | **Adult VR** | **Webinars & Resources** | **Endorsements**

**Speakers**

April Martin Student HireAbility Navigator Workforce Solutions Texoma (Grayson, Cooke, Fannin Counties)  
Phone: 903.957.7408  
Web: [workforcesolutionstexoma.com](http://workforcesolutionstexoma.com)  
Email: [april.martin@wfstexoma.org](mailto:april.martin@wfstexoma.org)

**Vocational Rehabilitation Services Transition Students**

TEXAS WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS - VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES  
PDF  
transition-services-twc

WHAT COMES AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?  
Are you a parent of a student with disabilities between 14 and 22 years of age?  
Do you and your young adult have a plan for what they'll do after high school?  
Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services (TWSVR) and Student Transition Services can help you prepare a plan for life after high school.  
PDF  
flyer-vr-pre-ets-students-english-twc (1)

TEXAS WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS - VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES  
Creating opportunities for your abilities  
Start My VR

**Adult VR**

TEXAS WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS - VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES  
PDF  
vocational-rehabilitation-services-twc

SERVICIOS DE REHABILITACIÓN - VOCACIONAL SOLUCIONES DE LA FUERZA LABORAL DE TEXAS  
PDF  
vocational-rehabilitation-services-spanish-twc

**Webinars & Resources**

STEP BY STEP  
SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING STEPS TO TRANSITION SUCCESS  
PDF  
Key Steps to Tran. 9.4.24 CPG

What happens when I'm gone?  
We'll examine:  
• Government Benefits  
• Social Security  
Join us as we partner with Cody Sutton, Special needs financial planner.  
Learn about the basic financial steps and tools to the best possible future for your loved one with special needs. Careful planning for the needs of your loved one and  
PDF  
10 Basic Steps 9.19.24 (3)

Partner Webinars Disability Video Resources  
• Educational Options After High School  
• Communication Skills  
• Overview of Programs & Services for the Center on Disability at Texas A&M  
• Government Benefits 101 for Special Needs  
• Essential Financial Steps to Consider  
• QIP Contents  
• Hiring, Retaining, Supporting  
• Should I open an ABLE Account?  
• Why Do I Need a Special Needs Attorney and Special Needs Planner?  
• Letter of Intent  
• Accessing Supportive College  
• Top 5 Legal Documents Needed for Special Needs

**Endorsements**

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math  
Can you imagine YOURSELF here?  
Explore your future with THE FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM  
PDF  
STEM Endorsement

Public Service  
Can you imagine YOURSELF here?  
Explore your future with THE FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM  
PDF  
PubService Endorsement

Multidisciplinary Studies  
Can you imagine YOURSELF here?

Padlet



<https://padlet.com/aprilmartin3/vr-for-students-families-jf21i7wdt4zvie9o>

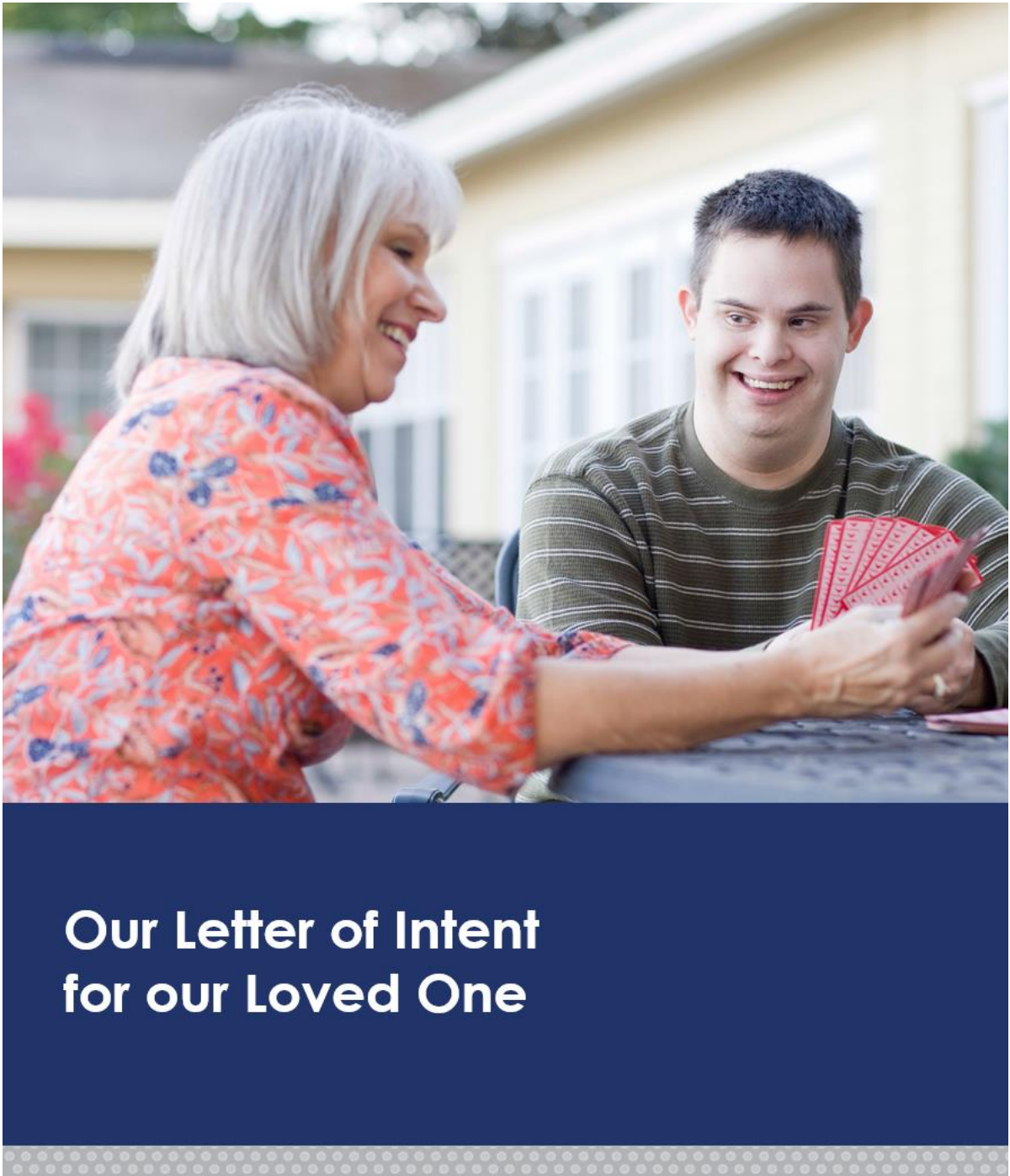




## 10 Basic Financial Steps For Special Needs Caregivers



# Important Documents



## Texas Medicaid Waiver Programs

Texas Medicaid waivers are a gateway to getting services for your child. We don't want to tell you what to do, but we strongly suggest that you consider adding your child to the waiver interest list(s), which many parents call "waiting lists," if you haven't already done so.

Even if you hope your child will never need those services, it is important that they be added to the interest list for any program(s) that might meet their needs. Your child might have to wait a long time to get services through the waiver. You can always decline the services once your child moves to the top of the list.

Many parents say they wish they had signed up for the waiver interest lists when their child was born or first diagnosed. Some of the interest lists have more than a 15-year wait time.

We know this page has a lot of information for you to take in. It's okay if you don't absorb everything here in one visit. Take a deep breath and come back as much as you want or need to.

### What Are Waivers and How Do They Work?

- Waivers let states use Medicaid funds for long-term home and community-based services for people with disabilities or special health-care needs to help them live in the community.
- Before the creation of waiver programs, people had to live in hospitals, nursing homes, or other institutions like State Supported Living Centers or Residential Treatment Centers so Medicaid would pay for long-term services.
- Some of the services you can get with a waiver are:
  - Personal care for help with things like bathing or dressing
  - Nursing care
  - Home modifications like ramps
  - Car modifications
  - Respite care
  - Certain therapies
- They are named "waivers" because certain Medicaid requirements are waived (meaning they don't apply). For example, family income. All but one waiver is based on just the child's income alone. Your child's income means any money that they personally have earned or are paid—not your whole family's income.
- Besides getting these additional services, people who receive waiver long-term services and supports also get full Medicaid health-care benefits. This is a huge help for children and adults who have complicated medical needs and no other health insurance.

*This information is provided as a courtesy of SpecialCare Planning. Contact us with any questions!*  
*972-348-6355 | [specialcare@stonewaterplanning.com](mailto:specialcare@stonewaterplanning.com)*

# What's Important To You As A Caregiver?

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As the caretaker of a dependent with special needs, you're the one who is looking out for their best interests.



**What happens when you're not around?**



# Step 1: What is your Vision

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## Plan for the future needs of your dependent

- Medical treatments
- Transportation
- Education
- Employment
- Housing





## Step 2: Build A Team

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### Variety of Guidance Needs

- Financial Professional
- Special Needs Attorney
- Health Professional
- Guidance Counselor



## Step 3: Government Benefits

### Public Assistance vs. Entitlement Benefits

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#### Public Assistance

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid
- Public Supports:
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

#### Entitlement

- Social Security Retirement Income
- Family Benefits
- Medicare
- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Survivor Benefit
- Disabled Adult Child Benefit (DAC)

***Government benefits may help provide medical treatments, supplies, equipment, financial assistance, etc.***

For more information regarding benefits provided Medicaid (Medi-CAL in California) visit [www.medicaid.gov](http://www.medicaid.gov). Medicaid guidelines vary by state. Contact your local Medicaid office for details. For more information on SSI visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

## Step 4: Get Additional Resource Support

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- Local non-profits
- Government agencies
- Advocacy Groups



## Step 5: Legal Structure and Considerations

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- Prepare Letter of Intent
- Guardianship and Alternatives
  - Choose Successor Caregivers, Guardian(s) & Trustee(s)
- Wills
- Advanced Medical Directives
- Durable General Powers of Attorney
- Estate Planning
- Trusts
- Titling – Ownership, Beneficiaries, TOD and POD
- Special Needs Trusts (SNTs)
- Remember to review and update periodically
- Use a Special Needs Attorney

**National Special Needs Attorney Groups:  
The Academy of Special Needs Planners  
The Special Needs Alliance**

## Step 6: Special Needs Trust

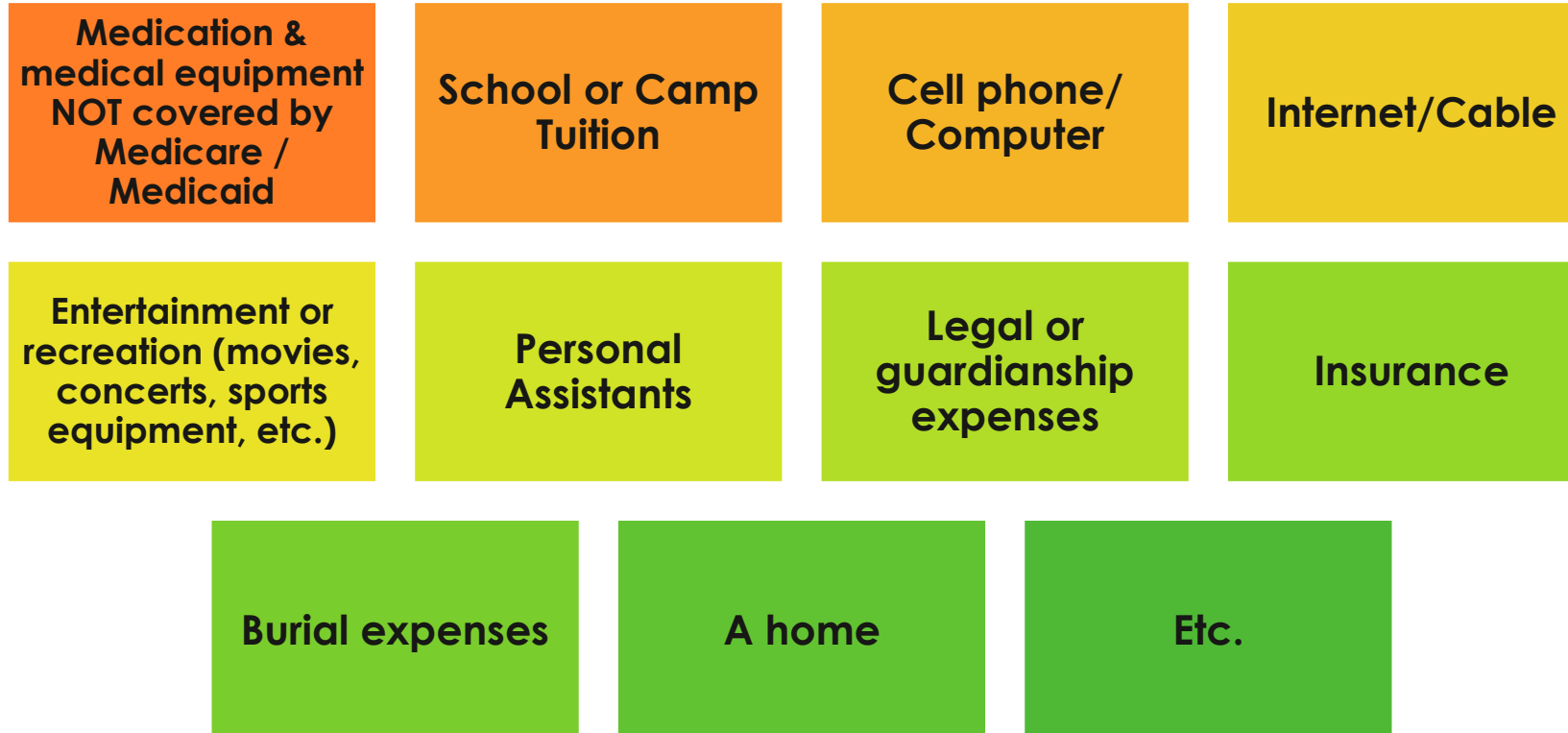
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- How does it protect my dependent's government benefit eligibility?
- What can it provide?
- Are there restrictions?
- SNT v. ABLE Account



# Expenses Special Needs Trusts Can Cover

**SNTs can be used for expenses not already covered by government benefits, such as:**





## Step 7: Review Beneficiaries

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### Review beneficiary designations with family and close friends

- Assets (cash, art, jewelry, etc.) worth more than \$2,000
- Inheritance
- Insurance benefits
- Not all assets are directed by the Will



## Step 8: Guardianship and Alternatives

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- Full Guardianship
- Limited Guardianship
- Financial
- Healthcare
- If my dependent is over 18, what changes?
- Supported Decision Making
- Power of Attorney

# YES, I Have a Plan!

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- Once you have your plan in place, you need to communicate that plan with everyone involved.
- How do you ensure the kind of care you would personally give your dependent?





## Step 9: The Letter of Intent

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- What is it?
- Why does my dependent need one?
- How do I create one?



## Step 10: Family Meeting

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- Have a family meeting to discuss future needs
- Discuss concerns and future care options





## How to Start the Planning Process?

### With Special Needs Professionals:

- **Legal Estate & Special Needs Attorneys**  
(Special Needs Alliance, The Academy of Special Needs Planners, and National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys)
- **Financial Professional with a focus on Special Needs**  
(Special Care Planner or ChSNC® designation)





# Make Your Dependent's Future More Secure

Please complete the survey  
to help us improve our  
presentations for families like  
yours!

Contact Us  
972-348-6385

[Specialcare@stonewaterplanning.com](mailto:Specialcare@stonewaterplanning.com)

## SpecialCare Planning

