What to do and when to do it — for students with a developmental disability

If my child has a developmental disability, here are some timelines of activities to do.

AGE		
15-16	**Apply for a Washington State I.D. card.** **WHY:** It will be needed to apply for adult services.	• Get an I.D. card at your local Department of Licensing
16	**Apply to become a client of the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA).** **WHY:** You may want these service options when your son/daughter turns 21. Long term job coaching support is based on availability of funding.	• www.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/
17-17½	**Consider if guardianship is necessary and determine the type of guardianship.** **WHY:** Age 18 is the age of majority (becoming a legal adult) and your son/daughter may need support making legal, medical and vocational decisions.	Guardianship
17-19	**Apply for HUD Housing.** **WHY:** The wait list for housing can be very long, so it is important to apply early.	
18	**If your child does not receive Social Security Benefits – apply now!** **WHY:** He or she is now an adult and parents' income is not counted. He/she may be eligible for cash and medical benefits. There are many provisions available, called WORK INCENTIVES, that allow people with disabilities to keep benefits, including Medicare/Medicaid, while working. ***He or she needs to pay rent to the family in order to maximize all benefits.***	
18	**Ask your DDA case manager about Medicaid Personal Care funding** if your son or daughter is a client of DDA and the family provides personal care (help with bathing, grooming, dressing, laundry, etc.).	Medicaid Personal Care Funding
Young Men 18	**Register for Selective Services.** **WHY:** It's the law. Also, if planning to apply for financial aid to attend college, applying for Selective Service is required.	• Apply on line at: http://www.sss.gov • Get a form from your local post office. • Return the form that comes in the mail.
Senior Year	**Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** **WHY:** If seeking aid to attend college, this form must be filled out by March 1 of Senior year for best consideration.	• www.fafsa.ed.gov
19-21 or last year of school	**Apply for services with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).** **WHY:** This agency helps people with disabilities become employed and understands how working will affect people's benefits.	• www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/
Anytime	**Apply for job search assistance with WorkSource Youth Services.** **WHY:** This is the local program that can help self-directed job seekers find part time and/or summer employment to help develop work skills.	• www.go2worksource.com
Anytime	**Call for local transit system bus Travel Training and Paratransit services.** **WHY:** This is free training for people who want to learn to be independent on the bus and flexible alternative public transportation for people with disabilities and the elderly.	Travel Training & Paratransit Services
Anytime	**Apply for services at a local Center for Independent Living (CIL). The State Independent Living Council [SILC] can help you find local resources.** **WHY:** These organizations provide support for independent living skills development, advocacy, and benefits planning.	• www.wasilc.org

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