



TRANSITION SERVICES
EDUCATION. EMPLOYMENT. INDEPENDENCE.

2025-2026
Independent Living



Community Resource Guide

2025-2026 Independent Living Community Resource Guide

What You'll Find Inside

The 2025–2026 Independent Living Community Resource Guide connects families with local and statewide supports that help young adults with disabilities live as independently as possible.

- **Independent & Supported Living Options and Assistance**

- Community-based living options for adults with developmental disabilities, including supported apartments, group homes, and shared living arrangements.
- Local housing authorities and organizations providing affordable and supported living options.
- Programs providing housing, daily living support, and spiritual care in inclusive settings.

- **Services to Aid Independence**

- Assistive technology tools and devices to support communication and independence.
- Nonprofits offering trained service animals to promote safety, mobility, and emotional well-being.

- **Specialized Educational and Life Skills Programs**

- Transition programs that build life, job, and social skills tailored to individual needs.

- **Cobb County School District Transition Guides**

- NOW/Comp Medicaid Waiver Guide
- SSI and Benefits Navigation Guide

To use the active links in this guide, please access a digital copy of this Community Resource Guide on the Cobb County Transition Services webpage or through the QR code.

Resources found within the Cobb County School District Community Resource Guides are for informational purposes only. The resources contained here are not associated with, affiliated with or sponsored by the Cobb County School District. CCSD makes no recommendations about the validity or usefulness of any agencies listed herein. The resources contained in this guide may change after publication. Please contact the resources for the most up to date information on services provided.



Independent Living

AbleNet provides assistive technology, support, and knowledge about using assistive technology. The mission of AbleNet is to challenge the existing model of how speech devices are funded and to make communication a fundamental human right.



Phone: 1-800-322-0956
www.ablenetinc.com/



All In is a community-based independent living program serving adults with mild to moderate intellectual and developmental disabilities or acquired brain injuries in the metro Atlanta area. Participants live in their own apartments or homes with support tailored to foster independence, safety, and connection. The program emphasizes real-life living in the community rather than in congregate settings.



Metro Atlanta (residences vary by participant)
Phone: 770-945-8381
www.liveallin.org



Amber Grace is a nonprofit organization that will provide faith-centered residential, respite, and community-based services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Amber Grace aims to create supportive, loving environments that foster dignity, belonging, and purpose for each individual served. Amber Grace Community is slated to open in 2026 in Rome, Georgia.



Rome, Georgia
Phone: 706-842-2110
www.ambergrace.com



Annandale Village is dedicated solely to providing progressive life assistance to adults 18 years or older with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries to maximize their abilities and maintain their independence in the least restrictive environment. They provide assisted living, day program, community access, residential services, as well as skilled nursing.



3500 Annandale Lane
Suwanee, GA 30024-2150
Phone: 770-945-8381
www.annandale.org





Independent Living

Canine Companions is a nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing expertly trained assistance dogs free of charge. These dogs help increase independence by performing tasks such as opening doors, retrieving items, and providing social and emotional support. The Greater Atlanta Chapter supports outreach, volunteerism, and recipient connections in Georgia and surrounding areas.



Southeast Region Office
8150 Clarcona Ocoee Road
Orlando, FL 32818
Phone: 407-522-3300
www.canine.org/locations/southeast



Champions Place is an inclusive independent living community designed for young adults with physical disabilities. The shared living model supports residents with varying levels of need—some requiring personal assistance and others living independently. Through Medicaid-funded Shared Community Support Services, eligible roommates can share the cost of personal staff. Residents are encouraged to pursue employment or volunteer opportunities, and participate in a vibrant schedule of social and recreational activities that foster connection and independence.



9460 Nesbit Ferry Road
Alpharetta, GA 30022
www.championscommunityfoundation.org/champions-place



The Chanan Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in that provides residential and community-based services for adults with developmental disabilities. Their programs promote independence, community engagement, and personal growth. Services include small group homes, individualized support for those living with family or independently, and access to social, vocational, and recreational activities.



Douglasville Program
8741 Hospital Drive
Douglasville, GA 30134
Hiram Program
52 Greenfield Road
Hiram, GA 30141
Phone: 678-715-8891
www.chananfoundation.org





Independent Living

Developmental Disabilities Ministries is a nonprofit organization that provides residential services for adults with developmental disabilities in a supportive, faith-based environment. DDM owns and operates 18 group homes across Georgia, offering housing and care for approximately 70 residents. Their mission is to help individuals live as independently and meaningfully as possible within their communities.



Phone: 770-623-4899
www.ddmga.org



disABILITY LINK is a Center for Independent Living (CIL) that supports people with disabilities in 12 Metro Atlanta counties, including Cobb. Led by individuals with disabilities, disABILITY LINK empowers people to live independently and participate fully in their communities. Services include peer support, advocacy, skills training, transition assistance, and information and referral for individuals with disabilities and their families.



1901 Montreal Rd., Suite 102
Tucker, GA 30084
Phone: 404-687-8890
www.disabilitylink.org



Eaton Academy – LEAP Program. The LEAP (Life Enrichment and Achievement Program) at Eaton Academy helps young adults build the life, social, and job readiness skills needed for greater independence. Through individualized instruction and real-world practice, participants strengthen communication, emotional regulation, and workplace behaviors to prepare for successful adult living and employment.



1000 Old Roswell Lakes Parkway
Roswell, GA 30076
Phone: 770-645-2673
www.eatonacademy.org/leap-program/





Independent Living

Georgia MENTOR's Host Home Program offers adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to live in a safe, supportive family-style home with a trained Host Home provider, called a Mentor. Mentors provide personalized support to help individuals grow in independence, build relationships, and participate meaningfully in their communities. Services are often funded through Georgia's NOW/COMP Medicaid waivers.

Phone: 770-916-7810

www.ga-mentor.com/who-we-serve/adults-with-disabilities/host-home-program/

InCommunity is a nonprofit organization based in Atlanta that provides a wide range of services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Supports include day programs, residential services, supported employment, in-home and family support, respite care, and host home placements. InCommunity helps individuals thrive through person-centered services, with many programs funded by Georgia's NOW and COMP Medicaid waivers.



3301 Buckeye Road, Suite 700

Atlanta, GA 30341

Phone: 404-634-4222

www.incommunityga.org



Inspiritus Atlanta delivers programs and services to help individuals and families progress in four measurable markers of a thriving life: basic needs, stability/safety, community integration and self-sufficiency/self-determination. Inspiritus empowers those who face challenges and disruptions: children who have been abused or neglected, people with developmental disabilities, refugees and immigrants, individuals affected by natural disaster, and people in low-income communities.

Atlanta Location

731 Peachtree Street NE, Suite B

Atlanta, GA 30308

Phone: 404-875-0201 | 1-800-875-5645

Rome Location

202 East 3rd Avenue

Rome, GA 30161

Phone: 404-875-0201

www.weinspirit.org/atlanta





Independent Living

Jewish Family & Career Services (JF&CS) of Atlanta provides day programs, residential support, and employment services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their IndependenceWORKS program offers community-based day activities, while the Zimmerman-Horowitz Independent Living Program supports individuals in shared or independent housing. JF&CS also offers supported employment services to help individuals find and maintain meaningful jobs. Services are available to individuals of all faiths and may be funded through the Georgia NOW and COMP waivers.



4549 Chamblee Dunwoody Road
Atlanta, GA 30338
Phone: 770-677-9300
www.jfcsatl.org



Just People is a nonprofit organization that supports adults with developmental disabilities through a range of services that promote independence and community involvement. They offer independent living support, supported employment, social and day programs, and Special Olympics–accredited sports activities. Their goal is to help individuals build life skills, form friendships, and participate fully in community life.



1412 Oakbrook Drive
Norcross, GA 30093
Phone: 770-441-1188
www.justpeople.org



The Marietta Housing Authority offers affordable housing opportunities for individuals and families, including those with disabilities. Its mission is to provide safe, quality housing while promoting economic independence and responsible use of public resources. Housing options may include public housing units and Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8).



95 Cole Street NE
Marietta, GA 30060
Phone: 770-419-3200
www.mariettahousingauthority.org



Independent Living

People Making Progress, Inc. (PMP) is a nonprofit organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. PMP provides supported employment, independent living assistance, community volunteering, and social engagement opportunities tailored to individual goals. Their mission is to help participants reach their fullest potential through person-centered support and skills development. PMP tailors its programs to each individual's goals and accepts NOW/COMP waiver funding.



2345 Fourth St., Suite 100
Tucker, GA 30084
Phone: 770-723-1848
www.peoplemakingprogressinc.org

Saint Mary's Independent Living Extensions (SMILE) is a nonprofit based in Lawrenceville, Georgia, dedicated to supporting adults with developmental disabilities. Through trained caregivers, SMILE assists individuals in setting up and maintaining independent living in their own homes or shared residences, offering personalized consultation, daily living assistance, and 24-hour on-call support. Their programs emphasize community access and enriched living through compassionate, person-centered care.

85 Gloster Rd. NW
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
Phone: 770-279-5115
www.smile4.info

Special Needs Cobb is the largest and original special needs organization in Cobb County with 24 current group homes and parental educational workshops (waivers, financial, emotional, informational) that focus on the support of the entire special needs family unit. Special Needs Cobb help families navigate the aging-out-of-high-school issue and life-planning support throughout the remainder of the lifespan of the disabled individual. From helping with the daunting paperwork, to providing the number of a local doctor, Special Needs Cobb is your developmental disabilities resource right in the community for life.



550 Kennesaw Ave., Suite 900
Marietta, GA 30060
770-427-8401
www.specialneedscobb.org



Independent Living

The **Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia (SILC)** is a nonprofit organization led by people with disabilities from across the state. SILC works to identify and address barriers to independent living by collaborating with Centers for Independent Living, state agencies, and other partners. Their mission is to expand opportunities and supports that help individuals with disabilities live independently in their communities.



315 West Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 660
Decatur, GA 30030
Phone: 770-270-6860
www.silcga.org

Tails of Hope is a nonprofit based in Gay, GA that transforms abandoned and surrendered dogs into trained service animals. They provide flexible service dog training and ongoing support to individuals such as veterans, first responders, adults with disabilities, and special-needs children—often working with clients' dogs or dogs they select from the organization's evaluated pool program adapts to each handler's needs and budget, and includes weekly sessions, workshops, and public-access training that can last 6 months to a year.



22599 Hwy 85
Gay, GA 30218
Phone: 678-804-8765
www.tailsofhope.com

Tobii Dynavox offers communication solutions for individuals with disabilities, including speech-generating devices, communication apps, and eye-tracking technology. Their products support individuals with complex communication needs, helping them express themselves, interact socially, and participate more fully in daily life. Tobii Dynavox also provides training, funding guidance, and customer support for families and professionals.



2100 Wharton Street, Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
Phone: 1-800-344-1778
www.us.tobiidynavox.com





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NOW/COMP Medicaid Waiver

The New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) offer home- and community-based services for individuals with intellectual disabilities or other closely related conditions, such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or neurological problems.



Eligibility Criteria:

- Eligible for Medicaid.
- Have a diagnosis of an intellectual disability and/or a closely related condition.

Required Documentation to Apply:

- Application
- Psychological Report (Including IQ scores, adaptive scores, and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder assessments if applicable)
- Proof of Citizenship
- Copy of Social Security Card (or number)
- Copy of Medicaid and/or Medicare card
- Copy of Social Security benefit information
- Copy of guardianship documents (if applicable)
- Most recent IEP
- Signed Notice of Privacy Practices

NOW/COMP Waiver Program Services:

- Adult Dental Services
- Adult Nursing Services
- Adult PT and/or OT
- Adult Speech Therapy
- Behavioral Supports
- Community Access Services
- Community Living Support Services
- Community Residential Alternative Services
- Financial Supports
- Pre-Vocational Services
- Respite Services
- Specialized Medical Supplies
- Support Coordination
- Transportation Services

Additional services may be provided



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NOW/COMP Medicaid Waiver



Websites

- DBHDD's Intellectual & Developmental Disability Services
- Parent to Parent of Georgia



QR Code

To access an electronic version of this document, scan the QR code below.

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ME!** >>



If you would like to connect with the Transition Resource Specialist that supports your school, please consult the Locations list on the Transition Services website:
<https://www.cobbk12.org/page/38587/special-education-transition-services>

More Information

- DBHDD NOW/Comp Waiver Fact Sheet
- Constructing a Good Life Through Understanding the NOW and Comp Waivers



Application

Online NOW/Comp Waiver Application

NOW/Comp Waiver Application

NOW/Comp Waiver Release of Information



Support

These agencies can provide help for families completing the NOW/Comp Waiver Application.

- Special Needs Cobb
- Parent to Parent of Georgia

It may be necessary to request records to be submitted with your application. Go to the Cobb County School District Special Education webpage and scroll to "Records and Transcripts" for instructions on accessing records.



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Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a benefits program that provides monthly payments to children and adults with disabilities and limited or no resources.

Apply for Benefits



Call 1-800-772-1213 for an appointment.



Visit Cobb County Social Security Administration Office



Apply at www.ssa.gov/apply/ssi

Eligibility Requirements

- The adult must have a physical or mental disability that:
 - Is severe and creates functional limitations.
 - Prevents gainful employment.
 - Has lasted for more than 12 months and is expected to continue.
- Adult income is limited to less than \$1500. .

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How long does the process take?**
 - Depending on the need for appeals, the process can take anywhere from three months to two years.
- **What kind of documentation do I need?**
 - If you make an appointment or apply online, you will receive a list of documents.
- **Can anyone help me manage my benefits?**
 - Check out the information on Benefits Navigation on the next page.

The QR code will allow electronic access to the active links on the page..

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Benefits Navigation

Benefits Navigators are free and helpful to families to make sure benefits aren't lost.

What is the Benefits Navigator Program?

- The Benefits Navigator Program helps individuals and families understand how earned income will impact SSI benefits (and other State and Federal benefits).
- Benefits Navigators can help determine how to maximize earnings and keep benefits.

Who is the Benefits Navigator for Cobb County?



Bobby Dodd Institute
2120 Marietta Blvd. NW
Atlanta, GA 30318
679-365-0071

Questions a Benefits Navigator Can Answer

- How much can someone make before losing their SSI payment?
- How will savings/working affect the SSI payment?
- What work incentives are available?
- If my child has SSI, what should I expect when they turn 18?
- Who do I contact if I think the SSI amount is not correct?
- Who do I contact if I need to update information for SSI?

*If you would like to connect with the Transition Resource Specialist that supports your school, please consult the Locations list on the Transition Services website:
<https://www.cobbk12.org/page/38587/special-education-transition-services>*