

Aspire's Mission:

Aspire's mission is to support children and adults with developmental and similar disabilities, helping them to live their lives to the fullest by providing individualized assistance based on personal choices.

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Save the Date

DDAWNY Family
Committee Meeting
7 Community Drive
Cheektowaga, NY
Third Tuesday of the Month
7:00 pm

For event information,
please contact **Peggie Giambra**
at 716-505-5502 or via email at
peggie.giambra@aspirewny.org

Aspire of Western New York

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Getzville, NY 14068

Phone: 716-505-5500

Email: info@aspirewny.org

Web: www.aspirewny.org

Aspire of WNY's Success Through Transition™

Know Your Benefits

In today's world, maintaining much-needed benefits, while still working can be a difficult challenge to navigate. Aspire of WNY is staying on top of Work Incentive Planning in order to help you learn ways to maximize your earnings while maintaining your benefits. Below, we will pass along information about "The Rental Agreement" and how it can positively impact a person receiving SSI benefits.



Patrick is learning job skills to help him pay his bills.

Can Paying Rent affect my SSI?

Yes, it can. If you are over 18, live on your own, and pay your own food and shelter costs, regardless of whether you own or rent, you may be eligible to receive the maximum Supplemental Security Income (SSI) amount payable in New York State.

Does it count if I live with my Parents?

When a family allows their adult child, who is an SSI recipient, to continue residing in their home for free, it is considered in-kind income, which generally reduces an SSI recipient's monthly cash benefit by up to one-third of the Federal Benefit Rate. To avoid an unnecessary reduction in an individual's monthly SSI benefit, and to guarantee an individual receives the maximum monthly benefit, they should be charged room and board via a standard "Rental Agreement."

Things to consider with a Rental Agreement:

A rental agreement requires a contract to be made in writing and should include the payment amount charged rent, food, etc. Rental payments will be counted as income by the parents. This income is typically reported on an annual basis. Once the money is received, it is the parent's choice to use for household expenses, or it can be put into a Special Needs Trust!

For more information about this type of living arrangement for your loved one, visit the Social Security Administrations website for further details: <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-living-ussi.htm>

If you have questions or need advice about this or similar arrangements, feel free to contact Toni Sullivan, Director of Vocational Services at tsullivan@aspirewny.org or call 716.512.6768.

Comments, Suggestions or Ideas?

If you have any comments, suggestions or a subject you would like to see in an upcoming newsletter, please contact Paula Kerber at 716-505-5262, or email paula.kerber@aspirewny.org.

Want an electronic copy of Transition Times?

Send your email to: paula.kerber@aspirewny.org and we'll send you an electronic version of Transition Times. Thanks for your interest!

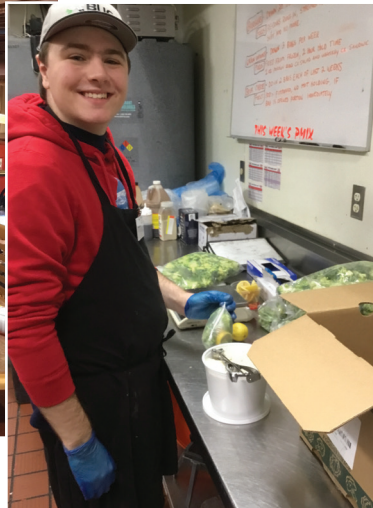
WOW Students in Action!

WORLD OF WORK™

Aspire
OF WNY
WOW



Ms. Rachel and Keionte Purdue at Wegmans



Connor C. portioning broccoli at TGI Fridays



Aliyah Howard wrapping celery at Franco's Pizza



Alexia Woods, Jacob Landers and Ben Franz restocking bathroom soaps at Staybridge Inn & Suites



Richard B. labeling cookies at Wegmans



Robert and Ms. Sue in the Cheese Department at Wegmans

TRANSITION PROCESS: What to Know, What to Do

For students with a Care Coordinator or Care Manager

1. Prepare the following Transition Packet documents:
 - 2018-2019 Transition Survey
 - Current Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan
 - Draft Exit Summary or approved alternative documents
 - Signed consent form
2. The student's Care Coordinator or Care Manager uploads documents to CHOICES and notifies stephanie.e.mclean-beathley@opwdd.ny.gov.
3. Transition Packet is forwarded to the Western Front Door Intake Department. A Front Door facilitator will contact the individual/family/advocate and their

Care Coordinator or Care Manager to begin the Front Door process.

4. All transitioning students and their families/advocates must attend a Front Door Info Session.

For students who don't have a Care Coordinator or Care Manager, call the Front Door at 1-800-487-6310.

Please note there are additional requirements for students graduating with a Regents or local diploma, for students leaving school or exiting prior to age 21 with no credentials or diploma, and for home schooled students with or without a Care Coordinator or Care Manager. Unsure of next steps? Front Door can help you sort it out.