

Monthly tips and resources for young adults, their families, and supporters who are exploring options for life after high school in Indiana.

## Sailing the Acronym Seas

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As you transition from high school and begin exploring resources and agencies, acronyms become so common that you may feel like you are swimming in a bowl of alphabet soup!



To help you navigate these new currents, we have defined a few examples you will encounter.

### Resource Glossary

**ABLE**—[Achieving a Better Life Experience](#) is a special savings program for people who receive Social Security benefits and whose disability was present before age 26.

**APS**—[Adult Protective Services](#) receives and investigates reports about possibly endangered Indiana adults.

**BDS**—[Bureau of Disabilities Services](#), formerly Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services. BDS administers programs that enable children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live their best lives through community supports and residential options.

**CIE**—[Competitive Integrated Employment](#) refers to working in the community alongside nondisabled coworkers while earning a competitive wage.

**CM**—[FSSA Case Management](#) works with eligible clients to support them in employment, education and training, and independent living.

**DDRS**—[The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services](#) manages delivery of programs such as VR, Deaf and Hard of Hearing services, Blind and Visually Impaired services, and services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**FSSA** —[The Family and Social Services Administration](#) funds social services and healthcare. FSSA oversees the Division of Aging, Division of Disability and

Rehabilitation Services, Division of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning, Division of Family Resources, Medicaid, and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction.

**FSW**—[The Family Supports Waiver](#) is one of the Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers available through the BDS. This is the waiver that most people with disabilities receive. Individuals must meet Medicaid eligibility requirements.

**HCBS**—[Home- and Community-Based Services](#) provides limited, non-residential supports to individuals with disabilities who live with their families or in other settings with informal supports.

**MED Works**—[Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities Works](#) is a program designed to allow disabled employees to work without fear of losing Medicaid benefits. If you are receiving Social Security Disability Insurance and no cash benefits and feel able to return to work, MED Works may be the best program for you.

**SSA**—The [Social Security Administration](#) is the federal agency that approves and administers SSDI and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

**SSDI**—[Social Security Disability Insurance](#) is a type of benefit that requires an individual to have both a disability and qualifying work experience. This benefit is paid directly to the individual or to their family member.

**SSI**—[Supplemental Security Income](#) is a financial assistance program. Age, disability, and access to income and resources help determine eligibility.

**VR**—[Vocational Rehabilitation](#) helps individuals with disabilities achieve employment. VR counselors provide services in each county and offer support locally in 25 area offices throughout Indiana.

**WIOA**—The [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#) is landmark legislation designed to strengthen and improve our nation’s public workforce system by getting those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers.

## Resources

Other websites that include acronyms you may find useful:

- [The ARC of Indiana](#)
- [Family and Social Services Administration](#)

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