

## Desktop Resource Guide for Job Seekers with Disabilities

Agency	Services	Contact	Phone Number	Partner Agency
<b>VESID</b> (Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities)	VESID services may include vocational assessment, vocational counseling, assistance with transition from school to the world of work, job training and placement, job follow-up, and other services to support the individual's employment objectives.	Karen Edwards, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor  Dinah Bingham, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor  Both Counselors serve Tompkins County residents	At Workforce (607) 272-7570 Ext. 124  Please Email: dbingham@mail.nysed.gov Or call Elmira Office Elmira Office (800) 888-5020 <a href="http://www.vesid.nysed.gov">www.vesid.nysed.gov</a>	<b>Y</b>
<b>DSS</b> (Tompkins County Department of Social Services)	DSS provides a variety of services for low-income and disabled individuals. Some services may include: Medicaid, Temporary Cash Assistance (PA), Rent Assistance, Food Stamps, HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) and the Medicaid Buy-In program. There are many rules specific to individuals with disabilities that allow for expanded financial eligibility guidelines.	Cindy Stilwell (Medicaid Appts.) Lee Spencer (PA & Food Stamp Appts.)  Sarah Goss, Medicaid Supervisor (for questions & concerns)	Medicaid / MBI – 274-5359 PA – 274-5348 Food Stamps – 274-5348 HEAP (607) 274-5264 (607) 274-5638 <a href="http://owasco.co.tompkins.ny.us/departments/detail.php?DeptID=41">http://owasco.co.tompkins.ny.us/departments/detail.php?DeptID=41</a>	<b>Y</b>
<b>SSA</b> (Social Security Administration)	SSA administers a variety of programs from retirement to long-term disability. Individuals with disabilities who have had an impairment that has lasted, or is expected to last at least 12 months <b>may</b> be eligible for benefits. For individuals already receiving benefits that want to go back to work, there are many Work Incentives available through SSA that can assist individuals in returning to work and maintaining benefits. Questions about these incentives can be directed to the Work Incentive Liaison at SSA.	Main Office  Ms. Kilpatrick, Work Incentive Liaison	(607) 256-3651  (607) 256-3651 Ext. 202  <a href="http://www.ssa.gov">www.ssa.gov</a>	<b>N</b>
<b>TtW</b> (Ticket to Work program)	The Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program is an employment program for people with disabilities who are interested in returning to F/T employment. Employment Networks (EN) in this process can assist individual in obtaining employment.	Challenge – Local EN  VESID – State EN Maximus – TtW Program Manager	(607) 272-8990 <a href="http://www.aboutchallenge.org">www.aboutchallenge.org</a> (800) 888-5020 <a href="http://www.yourtickettowork.com">http://www.yourtickettowork.com</a>	<b>Y</b>
<b>IHA</b> (Ithaca Housing Authority)	IHA offers a subsidized housing program (Section 8) for low income individuals. Ideally, individuals should get on the Section 8 waiting list with both IHA and TCA. IHA also administers a Family Self-Sufficiency program: For individuals on Section 8 (employed or seeking employment) to provide personal / financial assistance and support with long or short-term goals.	Karen Strickland  Marian Deets	(607) 273-8629 Ext. 245  (607) 273-8629 Ext. 247  <a href="http://www.ithacaha.com">www.ithacaha.com</a>	<b>N</b>
<b>TCA</b> (Tompkins Community Action)	TCA has a variety of resources for low income and individuals with disabilities. Some of the services available are: Food Pantry, Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP. Also known as Section 8), Family Self-Sufficiency program, Supportive Permanent Housing (Corn Street Apartments) and more. There are also incentives for individuals with disabilities through HUD (Housing and Urban Development) to encourage the return to work without substantially increasing ones rent through HCVP.	Brad King (to sign up for Section 8) Danielle Harrington Supervisor HCVP (Section 8 program) Mike LaDue Deputy Directory, HCVP Merri Nickerson Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator	(607) 273-8816 Ext. 121 (607) 273-8816 Ext. 146  (607) 273-8816 Ext. 111  (607) 273-8816 Ext. 144 <a href="http://www.tcaction.org">www.tcaction.org</a>	<b>Y</b>
<b>BOCES</b> Adult Learning Center	For assistance in completing a GED High School Diploma (General Educational Development for students 18 and older)	Cindy Wing (GED Testing and Information)	(607) 257-1555 ext 282 <a href="http://www.tstboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=1202">www.tstboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=1202</a>	<b>Y</b>

<b>Legal Aide of Western New York Inc.</b> (Formerly NLS - Neighborhood Legal Services)	Legal Aide of Western New York Inc. (NLS) provides free legal services to persons with low-income and persons with disabilities. It also provides a wide range of technical assistance and support services.	Gregg Thomas – Managing Attorney	(607) 273-3666 <a href="http://www.nls.org">www.nls.org</a>	N
<b>PABSS</b> (Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security)	Legal Services of Central New York, Inc. covers Tompkins County, and can assist beneficiaries with legal matters that create a barrier to employment.	General information number	(315) 475-3127 <a href="http://www.lsnny.org">www.lsnny.org</a>	N
<b>Cornell Northeast ADA &amp; IT Center</b>	This program provides training, technical assistance and materials on the Americans with Disabilities Act and Accessible Information Technology throughout New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.	General information number Hannah Rudstam (Training Director) Shammi Carr (Technical Assistance Manager) Andrea Haenlin-Mott (Project Director)	1-800-949-4232 Voice/TTY (607) 255-2768 (607) 255-6690  (607) 255-8348 <a href="http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/ped/northeastada">www.ilr.cornell.edu/ped/northeastada</a>	N
<b>JAN</b> (Job Accommodation Network)	A free consulting service designed to increase the employability of people with disabilities by: 1) providing individualized worksite accommodations solutions, 2) providing technical assistance regarding the ADA and other disability related legislation, and 3) educating callers about self-employment options.	General information number	1-800-526-7234 (V/TTY)  <a href="http://www.jan.wvu.edu">www.jan.wvu.edu</a>	N
<b>New York Relay Service</b>	This service allows a hearing individual to speak, through a relay operator, to a deaf individual who is using a TTY device. There is also the option for someone calling directly from a TTY to call in to the relay service, and again, through an operator, speak to someone who is hearing. Other options include Voice-Carry-Over which allows individuals who can speak, but not hear, to have text displayed on our Uniphone (separate number) or Speech to Speech which allows individuals with a speech impediment to have relay operator assistance (separate number).	<b>TTY</b> (for deaf individual with TTY to access relay services) <b>VOICE</b> (for hearing person to speak through relay to TTY user) <b>Voice Carry-Over</b> (for person who cannot hear, but can speak) <b>Hearing Carry-Over</b> (for person who can hear but cannot speak) <b>Speech-to-Speech</b> (for individual who have speech impediment)	711 or 1-800-662-1220  711 OR 1-800-421-1220  711 OR 1-877-826-6977  711 OR 1-800-662-1220  711 OR 1-877-662-4234 <a href="http://www.nyrelay.com">www.nyrelay.com</a>	N
<b>ADA Paratransit Service</b> (Through TCAT)	TCAT ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Paratransit Services provides door-to-door, demand-responsive transportation for people with disabilities.	Jamie Pletter, ADA Transit Coordinator	(607) 277-9388 x450 <a href="http://www.tcatbus.com/paratransit.shtml">www.tcatbus.com/paratransit.shtml</a>	N
<b>Gadabout</b>	Gadabout is a nonprofit, door-to-door, demand-responsive service for people aged sixty or older and for disabled residents of Tompkins County.	General information number	(607) 273-1878 <a href="http://www.tcatbus.com/paratransit.shtml">www.tcatbus.com/paratransit.shtml</a>	N
<b>Tompkins Workforce New York</b>	The Workforce New York system offers services for every job seeker. One-Stop Career Centers offer many services from resume writing and interview techniques, to job referrals. The Disability Program Navigator can assist individuals with disabilities in accessing community resources and understanding the impact of work earnings on their benefits.	General information number  Kevin Nickerson Disability Program Navigator	(607) 272-7570  (607) 272-7570 Ext. 136  <a href="http://www.tompkinsworkforceny.org">www.tompkinsworkforceny.org</a>	Y
<b>FLIC</b> (Finger Lakes Independence Center)	Finger Lakes Independence Center assists people with disabilities to promote independence and make informed decisions in pursuit of their goals.	General information number	(607) 272-2433  <a href="http://www.fliconline.org">www.fliconline.org</a>	N
<b>CBVH</b> (Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped)	CBVH Mission: To enhance employability, to maximize independence, and to assist in the development of the capacities and strengths of people who are blind and visually impaired.	General information number (will help you locate office that covers your area)	(866) 871-3000  <a href="http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/cbvh">www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/cbvh</a>	N
<b>MHA</b> (The Mental Health Association in Tompkins County)	Provides information, referral, advocacy and support to individuals and strives to empower them and enhance their mental health.	General information number	(607) 273-9250 <a href="http://www.mhaedu.org">www.mhaedu.org</a>	N