



TennesseeWorks is a statewide partnership aimed at improving employment outcomes for Tennesseans with disabilities through policy and systems change. The TennesseeWorks website is an online resource for anyone seeking information on transition and employment for people with disabilities. The partnership connects employment efforts across the state among the various state agencies, universities, service providers, community organizations, families and self-advocates working to advance employment for people with disabilities.

What services or resources does this agency provide?

TennesseeWorks does not explicitly provide services, though they have a variety of resources on their website that are helpful to students who are transitioning out of school. Listed below are some of the resources you might find helpful on the site: key practices on improving youth employment outcomes, resource database to find information on a particular topic, videos that can be used in the classroom and in IEP meetings, and resources for educators, employers, families, and self-advocates to find success in employment. In addition to the TennesseeWorks website, the main programming event TennesseeWorks holds includes the annual Think Employment! Summit which focuses on bringing together families, policymakers, service providers, employers, educators, and self-advocates



to attend innovative breakout sessions focused on employment for individuals with disabilities. We also assist the Family Coalition, whose goal is to empower families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to advocate for better services and outcomes regarding integrated and competitive employment.

What areas of Tennessee do they serve?

The website is designed for all areas of Tennessee, and the partner agencies/organizations draw from all regions of the state.

Is there a cost and, if so, who pays?

There is no cost to access the resources on the website. Some of the events or trainings sponsored by TennesseeWorks might incur a fee.

For which students might this agency be appropriate?



All students with disabilities can benefit from accessing the resources on the TennesseeWorks website.

Who is eligible to receive their services/ supports and when?

There are no eligibility requirements to access the information and support from TennesseeWorks.

What is the student's and/or family's responsibility?

The family and/or the student can seek out information and resources from the website and attend events that meet their needs and interests.

What is the responsibility of an educator?

The educator can seek out information and resources available through TennesseeWorks, while also recommending any resources that may be helpful to the individual or family.

How (and when) do you involve them in the transition planning process?

- Have parents explore the TennesseeWorks website early in the transition process to learn about why employment for their son/daughter is important.
- The teacher can pull specific resources and information about the partners from the website to give to parents in the transition meeting.
- Learn about the success stories with students to motivate them to want to achieve employment and a more independent lifestyle in the future.
- If possible, the educator and/or the student can participate in TennesseeWorks events like the Think Employment Summit.

Where can I learn more?

Visit their website at:

www.tennesseeworks.org

What questions should I ask of TennesseeWorks?

- How can organizations join the TennesseeWorks partnership?
- What are some of the ways that educators can improve employment outcomes for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities?
- What are the business benefits of hiring an individual with a disability?

Additional contact information:

- Visit their website at: www.tennesseeworks.org.
- Send them an email at: tennesseeworks@vanderbilt.edu
- Give them a call at: 615-322-4999
- Sign up for the monthly newsletter at: www.tennesseeworks.org/subscribe