**RESOURCES**

*Steps to Getting the Best Transition Program for Your Child*

**Parent Training and Resource Centers**

**The Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership Center (PEAL)**

The Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership Center (PEAL) was established in October 2005 as an organization of parents of children with disabilities reaching out to assist other parents of children with disabilities and special health care needs, and professionals. The PEAL Center began as the parent training and information center (PTI) serving 43 counties in central and western Pennsylvania with a focus on education and community supports. The staff of the PEAL Center PTI provides two services to parents, youth and professionals: individual assistance and referral to parents and professionals to help identify needed resources and assistance to parents to resolve disputes with schools; and, training to ensure parents understand and can navigate the special education process and have knowledge of best practices. The PEAL Center offers training on education issues in the 43 counties covered by the parent training and information center, and training on health care issues and home and community supports statewide. Visit PEAL at [http://www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org) or call 866-950-1040.

**Parent Education Network (PEN)**

PEN is part of a national system of Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs), serving North Central, South Central, Northeast, Southeast and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We are funded by the US Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. 2009 marks our 25 year anniversary of service to parents of children with disabilities. PEN is a coalition of professionals and parents of children representing a range of disabilities and ages. We are committed to serving parents of all special needs children--birth to adulthood; including parents of children in pre-school, regular education classes, educational/residential placement, adult systems and those children not yet identified as needing service. PEN provides technical assistance, information, skill development trainings, workshops and referral services to parents to help children reach their full potential in educational, vocational and community settings. Much of the information included in this site is designed to support Pennsylvania parents of children with special needs, but information and links are included on Federal Special Education, National Disability Issues and Resources and Special Education Legal links that will also pertain to parents and individuals with disabilities in other states. We hope you find the following information helpful. Since our primary objective is to support parents, please feel free to call us for further information or assistance. Visit PEN at [http://www.parentednet.org](http://www.parentednet.org) or call 1-800-522-5827.
Hispanos Unidos para Niños Excepcionales (HUNE)

Hispanos Unidos para Niños Excepcionales (HUNE) is a not for profit organization established in 1998. We provide free bilingual English and Spanish training, technical assistance and individual assistance to parents of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and to professionals who work with children. HUNE empowers parents of exceptional children to obtain a free and appropriate quality education for their children and other children with disabilities. We provide training programs on all aspects of Special Education and Support, including Transition Services. HUNE provides training, supports and limited individual assistance for parents of exceptional children. HUNE serves, but is not limited to, Hispanic parents. Visit HUNE at [http://huneinc.org](http://huneinc.org) or call 215-425-6203.

The Mentor Parent Program Inc.

The Mentor Parent Program is a community-based parent project created in 1989 by parents of children with special needs to support, assist and provide expertise to parents in rural northwest Pennsylvania. The Mentor Parent Program exists to provide support and services to parents of children with disabilities through a coalition of united efforts of parents, educators, service providers, and professionals to effectively meet the needs of children with disabilities in the rural Appalachian region of Pennsylvania. If you are a parent or professional who needs information or support, the Mentor Parent Program can help you. The program is operated by parents who understand your questions and concerns. Visit the Mentor Parent Program at [http://www.mentorparent.org](http://www.mentorparent.org) or call 888-447-1431.

Special Education Consult Line

The Special Education Consult Line is a program of the Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, for use by parents or parent support organizations to answer questions about school-related concerns, special education, and the complaint system. It is designed to be a one-stop service for parents concerning special education services and programs. Please call 1-800-879-2301.
Community Agency Contacts and Services

To contact any of the offices below via TTY, please call the Pennsylvania Relay Center at 800-654-5984.

Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

The mission of the OVR is to assist Pennsylvanians with disabilities to obtain or keep a job. OVR is an eligibility-based program. VR services are provided by vocational rehabilitation counselors located in 21 local district offices across the state. Visit OVR at www.dli.state.pa.us, click on disability services or call 800-442-6351, (TTY) 866-830-7327.

Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Bureau of Workforce Development Partnership

The Bureau oversees the coordination of employment and training services for the Commonwealth under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Services are provided to adults and youth through 23 Local Workforce Investment Areas comprised of 80 CareerLink Centers located throughout the state. Visit CareerLink at www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us or call 717-783-8945.

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Bureau of County, Children & Youth Programs

Pennsylvania’s child welfare system is county administered and state supervised. Child welfare and juvenile justice services are organized, managed, and delivered by County Children and Youth agencies and County Juvenile Probation offices, respectively. Visit the Bureau of County Children & Youth Programs at www.dpw.state.pa.us/About/OCYF/ or call 717-783-0629.

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)

ODP provides individuals with mental retardation and autism, and their families, the services and supports they need to participate fully in community life. Visit ODP at www.dpw.state.pa.us/About/ODP/ or call 717-787-3700.

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS)

OMHSAS maintains a comprehensive, community-based mental health system of care for every county in the Commonwealth based on the Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP). OMHSAS provides positive outcomes for children/adolescents and their families with, or at risk of, mental health problems. Visit OMHSAS at www.dpw.state.pa.us/About/OMHSAS/ or call 877-356-5355).
**Pennsylvania Department of Public, Welfare, Medical Assistance (MA)**

Medical Assistance is a federal/state financed health insurance program. This agency provides medical assistance to low-income persons who are 65 or older, blind, disabled, or are members of families with dependent children, or are qualified pregnant women. Contact the County Board of Assistance Office in your county or at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/About/OMAP](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/About/OMAP/) or call 717-787-1870.

**Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Family Health**

The Bureau facilitates access to health and rehabilitative services for eligible children. For a list of services and eligibility requirements visit [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us). In addition, the Special Kids Network, System of Care Program, 877-986-4550, can assist communities in creating and improving services for children and youth with special health care needs. Information and referral services for individuals with special health care needs are provided through the Health and Human Services Call Center, [www.helpinpa.state.pa.us](http://www.helpinpa.state.pa.us) or call 717-346-3000.

**Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs (BDAP)**

The Department of Health provides licensed drug and alcohol services for adolescents. Service delivery is based on the intervention need of the individual. Information on accessing services is available through each Single County Authority (SCA) or the county Drug & Alcohol Office. Visit BDAP’s website at [www.dcf.health.state.pa.us](http://www.dcf.health.state.pa.us) or call 717-783-8200.

**Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC)**

The Commission is responsible for advising juvenile courts concerning the proper care and maintenance of delinquent children; establishing standards governing administrative practices and judicial procedures used in juvenile courts; establishing personnel practices and employment standards for probation offices; collecting, compiling, and publishing juvenile court statistics; and administering a Grant-in-Aid Program to improve county juvenile probation services. Visit the JCJC website at [www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us) or 717-787-6910.

**Social Security Administration (SSA)**

SSA facilitates the payment of social security benefits to eligible individuals with disabilities. There are two major categories: (1) Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) for eligible individuals who meet insured status by nature of disability including medical requirements and adult children with disabilities; and (2) Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for eligible children and adults that meet specific medical and income criteria. Visit the SSA website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or call 800-772-1213.