

THE UNION

EDGE

PROGRAM

Student Resources 2023-2024

Step 1: File FASFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● File FASFA with students information● This will automatically apply your student for any kind of federal aid they may be able to receive and must be renewed yearly● TN STEP UP Scholarship requires FASFA is filed● https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
Step 2: Apply for TN Step Up Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A program designed to assist students with intellectual disabilities who have completed high school and enroll in an eligible postsecondary education institute● Same amount awarded as the TN Hope Scholarship, \$1600 per semester● Deadline is September 1 and must be a TN resident● https://www.tn.gov/collegetpays/money-for-college/state-of-tennessee-programs/tennessee-step-up-scholarship.html
Step 3: Sign up for Vocational Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Students eligible for this work closely with their VR counselor to receive services, potential scholarships (?) and employment training● https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/ds/vocational-rehabilitation.html● VR Office Locations https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/ds/office-locator-trc-ttap.html
Step 4: Sign up for WIOA from American Job Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Scholarships vary per students but typically \$4,000 a semester offered to students with an intellectual disability undergoing job training in different settings● Need to contact Northwest TN office to start this process: 731-286-3585● https://www.nwtjobs.org/education-training?showall=1
Step 5: Decide if Supplemental Security Income is a good fit for your student	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● This is a program that pays benefits to your student if they meet the requirements for a qualifying disability and have limited income and resources● You may apply online, in a local office, via phone or via mail● https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/#anchor2
Step 6: Decide if ECF Choices is a good fit for your student	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Offered through TennCare and helps individuals with intellectual disabilities become employed and live as independently as possible in the community● Services offered: https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents/MemberBenefitTable.pdf● https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/long-term-services-supports/employment-and-community-first-choices.html
Step 7: Decide if an ABLE Account is a good fit for your student	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Administered by the TN Department of treasury, this is a savings program designed to help Tennesseans with disabilities set aside money to pay for future qualified expenses● Allows you to save above your resource limit without impacting your eligibility for federal benefits such as SSI or Medicaid● https://able.treasury.tn.gov/

