

LINKING EMPLOYMENT, ABILITIES AND POTENTIAL (LEAP)

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LEAP's mission is to advance a society of equal opportunity for all people, regardless of disability.

Services

Independent Living Services

LEAP has a broad array of programs that maximize individual choice and assist people with disabilities in remaining active in the community.

- The *Disability Benefits Assistance* program offers information and education about disability determination and benefits eligibility, as well as assistance in applying for benefits.
- The *Independent Living Skills Assessment and Training* program offers a variety of life skills assessments and classes that help people with disabilities improve their ability to live in the community in the most independent and healthful way possible.
- *Quantum LEAP* provides recreational opportunities for people with disabilities who live on Cleveland's east side.
- *Low Vision Services* are offered in Lorain County for residents 55 years and older.
- *Outreach* programs include disability education programs for the community, peer mentoring, and support groups that promote self-help and self-advocacy.

Employment Services

LEAP helps businesses connect to qualified employees who have disabilities.

- *Vocational rehabilitation services* are offered in seven counties to assist people with disabilities in preparing for, obtaining, and retaining employment.
- The *Home Health Aide/Personal Assistant* training program is a training program for people interested in working as home health aides, attendants, and personal assistants.
- The *State Tested Nurses Assistant (STNA)* program is offered to qualified applicants who seek advanced employment skills and who are interested in working in the health care field.
- The *Dining Assistant Training* program is offered to those interested in becoming certified dining assistants.

Youth Services

LEAP offers two programs that help young adults with disabilities master skills needed for success in adulthood.

- *Job Link*, a school-to-work transition program that has been recognized by PEPNet, operates in five Cleveland city schools and helps students make a successful transition from high school to employment and adult community life.

- *High School/High Tech* is a community-based enrichment program designed to expose high school students to a variety of technology-related career opportunities, prepare them for post-secondary education, and encourage them to achieve long-term success.

Community Services

LEAP works for social change and equality for all people, regardless of disability.

- The *Aging and Disability Resource Center* promotes awareness of disability issues and provides assistance in accessing services and resources related to disability.
- The *Public Policy Center* advocates for legislation and policy changes to support the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life.
- The *Assistive Technology Center* provides information and education about available adaptive technologies and holds classes and workshops to educate people on the use of such technology. It also performs individualized assessments and training on assistive technology to enhance an individual's ability to live within the community and, if desired, to maintain employment.
- The *Community Education* program provides speakers who can address a range of disability-related topics to clubs, groups, and associations.
- The *Youth Advocacy Group* is led by a volunteer peer and includes individuals with a variety of disabilities ranging in age from 14 through 24. The group focuses on education and practice in self-advocacy.

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