

Testimonials

“The youth program has helped me become more independent. My skills trainer has helped me locate apartments, use the MBTA/RIDE, and access different places.”

*Emanuel Depina
Brockton High School*

“BCIL has been working with our 20 year old daughter who has a learning disability. She is working on her independent living skills from budgeting, to shopping lists, to record keeping.”

Parent of student

“Having a mentor and role model who has had first-hand experience managing and overcoming a multitude of disability issues is very empowering to our students... It has been a pleasure working in conjunction with the skills specialists in the BCIL youth program...” - *former TAP consumer*



Visitors from Japan meeting with BCIL's Youth Department



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BCIL is located at the corner of Temple Place and Washington St., at Downtown Crossing. Our office is open from 8:45 AM to 5PM Monday through Friday. For more information on services provided by BCIL, please contact our Information and Referral Specialists.



Transition to Adulthood Program

***Boston
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Independent
Living***

***60 Temple Place,
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Boston, MA 02111***

The Transition to Adulthood Program

(TAP) assists youth with disabilities, age 14-22, to prepare for the demands and responsibilities of adulthood. At Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL), youth services staff are people with disabilities – they'll share information that is pertinent, up-to-date, and based on personal and professional experience. Through the four core services—peer mentoring, skills training, information and referral, and advocacy—youth become equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve their personal and academic goals.

As a Center for Independent Living, BCIL emphasizes consumer control, working directly with youth both individually and in group sessions. TAP aims to empower youth to make decisions about their lives, no matter what their disability is, so that they can make a smooth transition into adulthood.



TAP Services:

Peer mentoring provides a team approach to address:

- self-esteem & self- confidence building
- defining independence for themselves
- living with a disability

Students learn to understand the varying attitudes that their peers, friends, family, teachers and other people in the public may have about people with disabilities. The unique peer relationships BCIL builds are the foundation of our work with youth.

Skills training specifically helps students to:

- set short-term and long term goals
- learn to access community services and resources
- learn to navigate more easily in a world with unpredictable barriers
- learn to self-advocate for legal rights, benefits, and services

Information & referral connects youth to:

- options for life after high school.
- resources for obtaining services.
- referrals to other agencies.

Advocacy supports youth to:

- speak for themselves
- advocate for needed services and supports, including assistance in the process of developing an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and Transition Plan
- become involved in systemic changes

Services to family members help those who support youth with disabilities to understand benefits and services, post-high school education and employment options, and laws that protect their rights.

Family members can learn to:

- advocate for services
- network with other families
- assist youth towards independence and achievement of their goals

Services to schools and providers help to address various issues that youth with disabilities face in the home, school, and community. Our services can aid providers in:

- maximizing the independence of students with disabilities
- providing positive information on disabilities and disability awareness
- enhancing service coordination

Opposite Page: Former Transition Internship Program participants pose after completion of their program.