

# Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities Southern Illinois Transition Project

## Coleman Tri-County Services, Inc. CTS Creative Transitions

<https://colemantricity.org/>

**Background:** CTS currently supports 287 persons with I/DD with the outcome of transforming sheltered workshops into competitive employment and decreasing use of 14(c) certificate. CTS Creative Transitions provides services at an individual, group and system level to improve life choices for young adults with I/DD and their families.

**CTS Creative Transitions performance target for this project** states that 50 customers ages 14-30 with I/DD and their families from 9 counties will have a clear understanding of post-secondary options to make informed decisions to expand their life choices. CTS Transitions will impact systems by implementing best practices for transitions within each school that will ultimately impact the access for these individuals within the Illinois Supported Employment program (DRS/DD).

### **Key features** of CTF Illinois Southern Illinois Transition Project:

- CTS Creative Transitions provides a whole life, person centered approach for transition age youth by providing training, advocacy, and opportunities to allow for increased life choices.
- CTS and its partners worked closely to identify the need for
  - Job coach training for school personnel
  - Safe, affordable, and accessible transportation in rural Southern Illinois
  - Connecting the dots for different resources available for transition age youth and how to access those resources
- Individual planning is conducted with the customer/family to learn skills to communicate their goals and utilize existing resources within systems; including, local schools, post-secondary educational institutions, DHS Departments of Rehabilitation and Developmental Disabilities. CTS's Employment Specialist attends IEP meetings to advise and assist in implementing self-determinations goals
- Group Process includes monthly sessions to educate customers/families on areas that increase knowledge of transition areas
- Best practice based tools used to assist in the development of plans and post evaluation include:
  - ARC Self-Determination Scale
  - "An Exploration Tool and Guide to My Personal Preferences" workbook from Person Centered Planning: Pathways to Your Future
  - CTS's Discovery Tool
  - Whose Future is it Anyway?