

Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities Southern Illinois Transition Project (SITP)

Human Support Services Building Futures

Background: Human Support Services (HSS), a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, was founded in 1973 to provide a local source of mental health services in Monroe County, Illinois. Since that time, we have expanded to additionally serve individuals with developmental disabilities and substance use needs.

HSS is now the major provider of behavioral healthcare services in Monroe County. Current services include:

- A full range of outpatient mental health services
- An affordable housing program for persons with disabilities
- An employment training and education program for persons with disabilities needing assistance in acquiring vocational and independent living skills and experience.
- DUI/DWI services, assessments, outpatient counseling and treatment services for adolescents and adults with substance use concerns

SITP Building Futures Mission Statement:

Building Futures helps to build the capacity of school professionals in collaboration with community action partners, individuals, and families to use person centered processes in supporting youth and adults with disabilities in achieving outcomes tied to education/training, employment, and independent living.

SITP Building Futures Vision Statement:

Building Futures has a shared vision with school professionals, and community partners that foresees a community in which all citizens, including citizens with disabilities, participate fully in their communities. Independence, productivity and community inclusion are key components of this vision.

Funding: In 2018, Human Support Services received a grant from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD), the Southern Illinois Transition Project. By September 30, 2021 through outreach and training, youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities of transition and young adult age (14–30) in southern Illinois will expand their life choices through personalized support systems.

Key Features of the Building Futures Southern Illinois Transition Project:

- Self-determination training – Choicemaker Curriculum
- Person centered planning – Collaborative on Discovery, Innovations & Employment
- Advocacy training for families/caregivers of transition age individuals with I/DD
- Transition best-practice training for teachers and school personnel - Vanderbilt University, IRIS Center
- Creating access to Post-secondary education/training options
- Creating access to Post-secondary employment options
- Financial literacy education for families and transition age individuals – *Cents and Sensibility* curriculum
- Creating or increasing access to local transportation options for transition age individuals with I/DD



In partnership with the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

