

Career Transition Program Consent

I understand that:

- The Career Transition Program (CTP) is a program that helps youth in Montgomery County make a successful transition from high school to college, vocational training, the workforce or other post secondary goals. Teachers or counselors at my school think that I might be eligible to get services from CTP. I have also been asked to be in a research study about CTP.
- The purpose of the study is to learn how youth with disabilities can improve their educational and employment outcomes and become more independent adults.
- CTP is designed to make it easier for me to become independent. Up to 800 youth in Montgomery County, MD will be in the study.
- Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) is doing the study. The Social Security Administration (SSA) is paying for the study.
- There is no cost to me for CTP services or to be in the study.
- I (or my parent or guardian) will answer the questions on the enclosed form as well as questions asked during a telephone interview.
- All the answers that I give now or give in the future will:
 - (1) be kept confidential. Confidential means that the data will be kept as private as possible. MPR, CTP, and Social Security will share the information they collect about me with each other to evaluate the program and to help me transition into adult life and be as self sufficient as I can be.
 - (2) be protected by the Privacy Act. Information about the Privacy Act is at the end of this form.
 - (3) be used for research purposes. If I receive SSA benefits, I still have to report my earnings directly to SSA just as if I were not part of the study. This is so SSA can determine my benefits.
- If I agree to be in the study, these things will happen:
 - (1) I (or my parent or guardian) will complete an interview by telephone with Mathematica Policy Research. The questions will be about my education, jobs, and how I get along day to day. If I cannot complete this interview by telephone, a representative of CTP or MPR may visit me to complete the interview in person. CTP will give me a \$10 Target gift card as a “thank you” for completing the interview.

(2) After this interview is complete, I will have a chance to take part in the Career Transition Program. For most youth, this program will last 18 months, but may be longer or shorter according to my needs. This program includes:

- Exploring career and educational opportunities
- Helping me find and keep a job that matches my abilities and goals in life
- Helping me find services that I need in my community or at school

(3) MPR will randomly select youth to see who gets to participate in CTP. Selecting randomly is like a lottery or tossing a coin. It is a fair way to make sure that everyone who wants to has a fair chance of participating.

(4) If I am selected and enroll in CTP, and if I receive benefits from Social Security, I will also be able to use special waiver rules. These rules are listed at the end of this form.

(5) MPR will ask me to answer questionnaires two more times—one year from now, and three years from now. Even if I agree to be in the study today, I do not have to answer questions in the future.

(6) MPR will send me a \$10 Target gift card to say “thank you” every time I answer their questions in the future. This gift will not change the benefits I may receive from Social Security now or in the future.

(7) If I am selected to participate in CTP, from time to time staff will ask me or my parents questions about my experience or observe me or my parents to evaluate the program.

(8) The researchers will look at records they get from Social Security and other places such as my school, Unemployment Insurance, Food Stamps, and TANF. They may look at records through 2014.

- I do not have to take part in this project and there is no penalty for dropping out whenever I choose.
- If I have any questions about this study, I can call Karen CyBulski at MPR. Her number is 609-936-2797 or 800-951-7357. If I am deaf or hard of hearing, I can call 877-542-6734 (TTY).
- I can keep a blank copy of this form.

To complete the phone interview at your convenience you may call toll free:

YTD 800 number is 800-298-3383.

Hours of Operation

Monday through Thursday - 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

About the Privacy Act:

The Social Security Administration is allowed to collect the information asked for while you participate in the Youth Transition Demonstration Project under section 1110 of the Social Security Act. We use the information to decide what services would best help you. You do not have to give us this information. However, if you do not, we will be unable to offer you services.

There are certain situations authorized by Federal law in which Social Security may release the information you give us through this project. For example, we will release the information to a congressional office in response to an inquiry that office may make at your request or to an evaluation contractor hired by Social Security to evaluate the project.

Explanations about these and other reasons why information you provide us may be used or given out are available in Social Security Offices. If you want to learn more about this, contact any Social Security Office.

YTDP Waivers from SSA:

- If I receive benefits from Social Security and a continuing disability review or age-18 medical redetermination finds that I am no longer entitled to benefits, Social Security will continue to pay benefits to me.
- If I receive benefits from Social Security or become eligible for such benefits while participating in the Youth Transition Demonstration Project, Social Security also will apply the following special rules in determining my eligibility and benefit amount:
 - In determining Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility and payment amount, Social Security will apply the student earned income exclusion to earnings regardless of my age.
 - In determining SSI eligibility and payment amount, Social Security will disregard the first \$65 plus three-fourths (instead of one-half) of any earnings over \$65 if those earnings are not covered by the student earned income exclusion.
 - Social Security will apply the SSI rules for individual development accounts (IDAs) that involve Federal funds to IDAs that do not involve Federal funds. That is, any earnings I deposit to the account will not count as income, matching deposits will not count as income, and the IDA will not count toward the SSI resources limit.
 - Ordinarily, a plan for achieving self-support (PASS) must specify an occupational goal at the outset. For participants in the Youth Transition Demonstration Project, Social Security will approve an otherwise satisfactory PASS that specifies either career exploration or post-secondary education as its goal. If the goal is post-secondary education, an occupational goal must be specified at least one year before completion of course requirements.

SIGNATURE PAGE

YOUTH

Please check (✓) one of the following boxes and sign the form:

IF YOU WANT TO BE IN THE STUDY, CHECK (✓) THIS BOX

YES, I agree to be in the CTP study and to be contacted by CTP staff.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE IN THE STUDY, CHECK (✓) THIS BOX

NO, I do not want to be in the CTP study and will not be contacted by CTP staff.

Sign your name here: _____

Print your name here: _____

Date: _____

Write your Social Security Number in the boxes: |_|_|_|_|-|_|_|_|-|_|_|_|_|_|

PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Please check (✓) one of the following boxes and sign the form:

Note: To be in the study and be contacted by the Career Transition Program, both the youth and parent or guardian must say "yes".

IF YOU WANT YOUR YOUTH TO BE IN THE STUDY, CHECK (✓) THIS BOX

YES, I agree that [NAME] may be in the CTP study and can be contacted by CTP staff.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR YOUTH TO BE IN THE STUDY, CHECK (✓) THIS BOX

NO, [NAME] may NOT be in the CTP study and can not be contacted by CTP staff.

Sign your name here: _____

Print your name here: _____

Relationship to youth: _____

Date: _____

NOTE: DO NOT INCLUDE THIS BOX FOR YOUTH WITHOUT LEGAL GUARDIANS.

Please return this form to:
THE CAREER TRANSITION PROGRAM
A program of St. Luke's House, Inc.
6040 Southport Drive, N. Bethesda, MD 20814
301-493-4200 x303
Fax 301-208-2538

