DeKalb County
115 N. First Street
DeKalb, IL 60115
815-756-3202 Phone

Stephenson County
2155 W. Galena Avenue
Freeport, IL 61032
815-233-1128 Phone

Winnebago & Boone Counties
202 Market Street
Rockford, IL 61107
815-968-7467 Phone

www.RAMPcil.org
Summary of Services

What is RAMP?

RAMP’s mission is to build an inclusive community that encourages individuals with disabilities to reach their full potential. RAMP takes a creative approach to find resources and opportunities available to team up with individuals with disabilities to access the community where we live, work and play. We have this knowledge because the majority of our staff and board of directors have disabilities. RAMP staff meets those we serve where they’re at and together as a team we take them where they want to go.

Individuals Served

RAMP assists people of any age with any disabilities (cognitive, social/emotional, physical and/or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities), facing a barrier to control and direct their own lives and goals.

Individual Services

- Information & Referral
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Individual & Systemic Advocacy
- Peer Support/Peer Mentoring
- Community Reintegration – assisting individuals from moving out of institutions back into the community
- Bus Training
- Employment/Job Placement
- Pre-Employment Transition Services for Youth
- Personal Assistant Referral
- Youth Education & Advocacy

Community Services

- Disability Awareness/Sensitivity Training
- Technical Assistance
- Accessibility Assessments
- Curriculums - for grades pre-school through high school covering topics related to disabilities and every day life beyond school.
Mental Health/Illness Services

RAMP is now providing mental health/mental illness Independent Living Services, Youth Education and Advocacy, Technical and Accessibility Audits, educational programming and alternative therapies with funding provided by the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (WCCMHB). The purpose of the WCCMHB is to plan, implement, and monitor a system of mental health and addiction services for Winnebago County residents suffering from serious mental illness and addictions.

We have partnered with the Tommy Corral Memorial Foundation (TCMF) to provide a variety of educational programming and alternative therapies in Winnebago County. TCMF is a non-profit organization established by the family of Tomas (Tommy) Corral III, a 19-year-old who lost his battle with depression to suicide. TCMF works in the community to increase education on the factors that lead to suicide, actively developing resources, and providing financial support to help those struggling with mental illness and suicidal thoughts.

Winnebago County Coalition for Barrier-Free Survivor Services

This is a 3-year grant funded by the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The purpose of this grant is to pioneer the work towards creating sustainable, systemic change within each of our agencies to provide full accessibility and support for individuals who have experienced domestic and sexual violence who are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing or have Hearing Loss and/or are living with Disabilities. The Collaboration known as the Winnebago County Coalition for Barrier-Free Survivor Services was formed in October 2020, and include: RAMP, Adult Protective Services, Remedies Renewing Lives, Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling and the Mayor’s Office of Domestic and Community Violence Prevention.

The Vision: Winnebago County Coalition for Barrier-Free Survivor Services envisions a community free of domestic and sexual violence and other forms of abuse. All agencies and systems are inclusive, accessible, and collaborative, and (so that) survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors live safely, with dignity and respect.

The Mission: Our mission is to create partner services that eliminate barriers, including stigmas and myths, that interfere with the recovery process for survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Winnebago County.
Curriculum

**IGNITE**
Middle school students learn how to become active participants in their Individualized Education Plan.

**TNT**
High school students gain skills in order to prepare students to live independently, obtain employment, and choose post-secondary education and training goals.

**1BELONG**
A disability awareness curriculum that focuses on acceptance, believing in oneself, and how actions and attitudes affect others.

Everyone has the right to achieve their full potential and this starts with a solid education. RAMP works with students and their families to learn the laws that protect the rights of a student with a disability, how to navigate the maze of community services, and to learn the skills required to achieve their goals.

**Youth Education & Advocacy**

100% of parents surveyed stated a better understanding of the special education process, law, and their rights.

**SERVICES INCLUDE:**
- Educational rights training
- Self-Advocacy skills training
- Transition planning guidance
- Assistant with letter writing (to request services)
- Attendance at IEP, 504 or other related school meetings

170 number of youth advocacy cases.
**Employment Services**

RAMP’s Employment Services mission is to assist individuals with disabilities in identifying their own vocational goals while helping them to obtain the necessary tools to turn those goals into a reality. By reaching those vocational goals they will increase their independence, move towards self-sufficiency and a better quality of life.

**Benefits of Hiring Individuals with Disabilities**

- Receive federal tax credits such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, the Disabled Access Credit, or the Barrier Removal Tax Deduction.
- Minimal turnover rate, only 8% among individuals with disabilities - the average cost of turnover is 21% of annual salary.
- 87% of all U.S. adults spend money at businesses that hire individuals with disabilities.
- Insurance rates are not impacted by hiring an individual with a disability.

**Fast Track**

Fast Track, RAMP’s newest training program, lays a foundation for youth ages 14-21 with disabilities to reach their full potential by encouraging enrollment in college, preparing for employment or career opportunities, and preparing for independent living. These services can be provided in a group setting or via individual instruction. The goal is to leave students with the tools needed for a successful transition to further their education and/or employment desires.

- **64.5%** average # of Employment consumers surveyed after 12 month milestone reduced dependence on government assistance.
- **50%** average of consumers received a job as a result of working with RAMP.
- **92%** of youth served stated their desired career and/or education path.
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Fast Track student, Gracie, found her self-confidence and earned a full college scholarship.
Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a unique, business-led school-to-work program that takes place entirely at a healthcare, government or business. Selected students work in three internships over the course of the year in combination with classroom instruction, goal setting, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations. Each student works with a team that include their family, an instructor, a department mentor, rehabilitation counselor and skills trainers to create their employment goal and to support the student during their transition from school to work.

Benefits of Project SEARCH to the Host Business

• Access to a new, diverse, talent stream with skills that match labor needs
• Gain interns/employees with disabilities who serve as a role model for customers
• Access to a demographic of the economy with intense buying power; people with disabilities represent one of the fastest growing market segments in the United States
• Experience increased regional and national recognition through marketing of this unique program
• Increased performance and retention in high-turnover, entry-level positions

100% Of those working are earning minimum wage or higher.

RAMP now has three Project SEARCH locations, two in Rockford, MercyHealth at Rockton Ave. and Embassy Suites downtown as well as one in DeKalb at Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital.
Community Reintegration Program

The purpose of the Community Reintegration Program (CRP) is to transition individuals from an institution back into the community with home-based supports. CRP is funded by the State of Illinois.

18
Number of RAMP consumers reintegrated into the community in the past year.

100%
Number of RAMP consumers that moved out of a nursing home and remained in the community more than 90 days.

Robert is in his 50’s, had a stroke 2 years ago and was living in a nursing home. Waiting over a year for an apartment to become available so he could transition was worth the wait because Robert is excited to be living on his own, enjoying sports, making his own decisions as to when to get up or go to bed, what to eat and even what he wants to do each day.

Traumatic Brain Injury Program

The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program is funded by the State of Illinois with the purpose of providing intensive case management to consumers who have a TBI to ensure they are able to remain living independently in the home versus an institution.

47
Number of RAMP consumers receiving Traumatic Brain Injury case management in the past year.

$32,213
On average, the amount RAMP saves the State of Illinois per case managed individual every 12 months.

Bill Haynes, RAMP Board Member and former Traumatic Brain Injury consumer, teaches the iBelong curriculum to a classroom.
STAFF

Eric Brown Education & Advocacy Coordinator
Tayanna Clark: Marketing & Outreach Coordinator
Kelci Cox-Raney Lead Independent Living Advocate
Dana Crone VR Coordinator
Nicole Eckstein Transitions Specialist
Taryn Finley Independent Living Advocate
Heather Foulker Quality Assurance Manager
Abyggail Franklin Project SEARCH Employment Specialist
Autumn Gabriel Project SEARCH Employment Specialist
Kimberly Gay Office Assistant/Information & Referral Specialist
Abbey Greenfield Lead Independent Living Advocate
Jane Hendrickson Transition Coordinator
Megan Howard Youth Services Specialist
Tiffany Hughes Youth Education Advocate
Jessica Ingenito Project SEARCH Employment Specialist
Ron Jackson Employment Specialist
Stephanie Jacobs Independent Living Advocate
Macy Kellenberger Project SEARCH Coordinator
Katie Lee Assistant Services Director
Matt Ludolph Program Services Assistant
Amber Maurer Program Services Assistant
Robin Meyer Executive Assistant
Amy Morris Development Director
Elizabeth Moshure Employment Specialist
Jana Mueller Fast Track Specialist
Jeremy Munson Employment Services Manager
Alice Nichols Curriculum Development & Training Manager
Renea Noordhoff Stephenson County Manager
Victoria Novorolsky Project SEARCH Employment Specialist
Deanna Robbins Winnebago County Manager
Brett Santiago OVW Coordinator
Hannah Schoenberg Employment Network Coordinator
Mark Spain Human Resources Generalist
Jackie Sundquist CEO/Executive Director
Jodey Vass Development Associate
Justine Whitehouse Development Associate
Jessica Zimmerman DeKalb & Boone County Manager

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