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
**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**

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

85% of students increased knowledge of post secondary education/training opportunities.

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

100% of students indicated they had practiced self-advocacy skills in 2 or more settings.

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

100% Of teachers surveyed stated this program increased awareness and acceptance of individual differences.

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**Trainings**

OnRAMP trainings provide awareness and information, promotes accessibility and belonging, and fulfills professional development training for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Our interactive trainings are available for businesses, community organizations, school districts, centers for independent living, court systems and more. These 90 minute to 2 ½ hour trainings can be facilitated in-person or virtually to meet your needs.

**AVAILABLE TRAININGS:**
- Ableism Awareness
- Disability Awareness
- Inclusive Work Environment for Disabled Employees
- Independent Living Philosophy
- Microaggressions in the Workplace
- Poverty Response
- Service Animal Awareness
- Disability Awareness for the Judicial System
- Talking to Children About Their Disability
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 lays a foundation for youth 14-22 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. RAMP now has dedicated staff in each of our counties to increase youth served.
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.

RAMP 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.

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

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

Youth Education & Advocacy

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.

86% of parents surveyed found RAMP’s self-advocacy training to be effective.

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

228 number of youth advocacy cases.
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.

12
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.

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.

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

43
Number of consumers receiving Traumatic Brain Injury Case Management in the past year.

Fourteen years ago, Adam was in an accident that left him with a TBI and both legs and left arm paralyzed. Having been in hospitals, rehab and a nursing home since 2008, he tried to reintegrate back into the community, unfortunately running into roadblocks. The State asked RAMP to review Adam’s case in November 2021 to determine if he could live on own and if RAMP would assist with his move out and case management. After working with Adam for 6 months, he was reintegrated into the community on May 18, 2022. He has made many friends with his neighbors and is thankful to be out of an institution and is happy to be on his own.
**STAFF**

- **Eric Brown** Education & Advocacy Coordinator
- **Kellie Carrier** Accounting Clerk
- **Daisy Carrillo** Mental Health Advocate
- **Hannah Carter** Marketing Assistant
- **Kelci Cox-Raney** Lead Independent Living Advocate/TBI Case Manager
- **Dana T. Crone** Vocational Rehabilitation Coordinator
- **Nicole Eckstein** Transition Specialist
- **Heather Fouler** Assistant Services Director
- **Abygail Franklin** Project SEARCH Employment Specialist - Embassy Suites
- **Autumn Gabriel** Independent Living Advocate/TBI Case Manager
- **Kimberly Gay** Office Assistant
- **Grace Gerrard** Youth Education Advocate
- **Jane Hendrickson** Transition Coordinator
- **Megan Howard** Stephenson County Manager
- **Jessica Ingenito** Project SEARCH Employment Specialist - Mercyhealth
- **Ron Jackson** Fast Track Specialist
- **Stephanie Jacobs** Independent Living Advocate
- **Macy Kellenberger** Project SEARCH Coordinator
- **Autumn Kubatzke** Special Projects Manager/OVW Coordinator
- **Katie Lee** Services Director
- **Matt Ludolph** Youth Services Specialist/Independent Living Advocate
- **Lisa Lynch** Project SEARCH Employment Specialist - NW Medicine Kish Hospital
- **Wren Medina** Youth Education Advocate
- **Robin Meyer** Executive Assistant
- **Amy Morris** COO/Development Director
- **Elizabeth Moshure** Program Assistant
- **Jana Mueller** Lead Fast Track Specialist
- **Jeremy Munson** Employment Services Manager
- **Alice Nichols** Curriculum & Training Manager
- **Victoria Novorolsky** Youth Services Specialist
- **Teddy Parzynski** Office Assistant
- **Kim Reese** Office Assistant
- **Abbey Riddle** Lead Independent Living Advocate - Stephenson County
- **Deanna Robbins** Winnebago County Manager
- **Hannah Schoenberg** Employment Network Coordinator/CPWIC
- **Mark Spain** Human Resources Manager
- **Jackie Sundquist** CEO/Executive Director
- **Talisa Torres** Development Assistant
- **Jodey Vass** Marketing Coordinator
- **Janet Vrtal** Youth Education Advocate
- **Jessica Wexell** DeKalb & Boone County Manager
- **Justine Whitehouse** Development Associate
- **Xavier Whitford** CFO

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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- Nikki Lynch, Rockford Park District
- Joe Marshall, Retired from Landstar
- Lafakeria Vaught, Winnebago County State’s Attorney’s Office
- John J. Wett, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois