

Project STELLAR

Supporting Transition to Engaged Lives by
Linking Agency Resources



The goal of the STELLAR project is to increase the ability of families to be informed and effective partners in their child's transition from school to adult life and facilitate system change that supports youth with special needs to achieve their postsecondary goals in education, employment, living outcomes and community integration. This goal is achieved through a collaborative partnership between Missouri Parents ACT (MPACT) and the Kansas University Transition Coalition.

Project STELLAR focuses on family involvement during transition planning and across school and adult service community systems. The project provides training and information to enable individuals with disabilities and their families to interact effectively with professionals from educational, vocational, independent living and rehabilitation systems through a partnership between Missouri Parents ACT (MPACT) and the KU Transition Coalition. Increased family involvement is achieved through the following:

1. STELLAR transition mentors are identified across Missouri. The Transition Mentors facilitate ongoing face-to-face training, information and support to individuals with disabilities, their families, centers for independent living, vocational rehabilitation regional staff and other education, employment and disabilities services stakeholders involved in transition planning and outcomes. Outreach and training is provided for families from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds by working with cultural groups and community organizations.
2. Transition mentors are trained using research-based online trainings offered through the KU Transition Coalition. This training focuses on information about transition planning, postsecondary education/training, employment systems, independent living, and other rehabilitation agencies and systems that impact the outcomes of individuals with disabilities. Follow-along support for mentors is provided by face-to-face contact or teleconferencing.
3. Transition mentors will participate on Community Transition Teams and/or Regional Transition Networks to establish ongoing coordination/collaboration among education, employment, independent living, and rehabilitation systems to help youth and families at the regional level. The Missouri Interagency Transition Team facilitates state level coordination among state agencies. MITT includes representatives from education, KU Transition Coalition, vocational rehabilitation, mental health, independent living, MPACT and other agencies. A particular focus is to identify regional training needs, information and systems change related to preparation for postsecondary education, independent living, and employment.
4. STELLAR will provide information and training to understand VR and CIL programs and services through mentoring and the expansion of existing online training targeting Interagency and Community Services (ICS). The website http://transitioncoalition.org/transition/about_us.php is currently designed to provide multiple links and resources to federal systems impacting youth with disabilities (i.e. - U.S. Dept. of Education, Health and Human Services, Social Security, Juvenile Justice, Dept. of Labor, and Rehabilitation Services).