

Advocacy and Family Supports

Since the early 1950s, ACHIEVA's disability advocates have been supporting families and advocating for children and adults with disabilities. The staff in ACHIEVA's Advocacy and Family Supports are all parents of children with disabilities. They provide information, referrals and technical assistance via phone or email and one-on-one support and advocacy to ensure that:

- Families have access to information on disability-related topics,
- People with disabilities have access to quality educational, employment, housing and healthcare services,
- Policymakers and legislators are informed about disability issues, and
- Self-determination, inclusion and person-centered planning are the foundation of individual supports

Contact Advocacy and Family Supports by calling:

Allegheny County, 412.995.5000 x486, Toll Free 1.888-272.7229 x486

Beaver County, 724.775.1602 x711, Toll Free 1.888.272.7229 x486

Westmoreland County, 412.995.5000 x486, Toll Free 1.888.272.7229 x486

Employment Supports

Focusing on employment and community participation, Employment Supports provides employment training and opportunities for people with disabilities while matching skills and interests to community partners.

ACHIEVA offers a wide variety of possibilities to help people with disabilities achieve their employment and community participation goals:

- Pathway to Employment ensures a strong foundation for community employment. Focusing on the person's skills and interests, ACHIEVA's Pathway to Employment provides multiple points of entry into different areas of support, leading to community employment outcomes.
- Job Coaching and Support works to reach job performance standards of the employer. Job Coaching and Support can provide worksite orientation, coordination of accommodations, maintenance of appropriate work, interpersonal behaviors on the job, and other supports for the successful employment of the individual and workplace needs of the employer.

- Community Participation engages the community in a variety of activities through volunteerism, recreation and other opportunities to develop the foundation needed to transition into employment opportunities.

To find out what Employment Supports can offer you, contact us at:
employmentfirst@achieva.info.

Home and Community Supports

ACHIEVA provides in-home and community support for people of any age with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our goals and services are designed to build independence and ensure health and safety.

A Home of My Own

Achieve the dream of living independently within your community. ACHIEVA's A Home of My Own provides the supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to live safely in a home they choose and with whom.

Consider A Home of My Own if you are looking for:

- Choices of where to live and with whom
- Supports and Services that are customized based on the person's needs and funding services
- Reduced wait time for supports and services
- Creative blending of government, family, and natural supports
- Life coaches to help ensure health and safety, and improve community living skills
- True person-centered planning focusing on social skills, money management, fostering self-determination, household management, and more

To make a referral or schedule a community living assessment to help in your future independent living goals, please contact Michelle Stockunas at 412.995.5000 x402 or mstockunas@achieva.info.

Home Care

ACHIEVA Home Care provides in-home and community support for people of any age with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Our goals and supports are designed to build

independence and ensure health and safety. Caregiver supports can be provided for a few hours daily, weekly, monthly or on a 24 hour basis that is dependent on an individual's needs.

ACHIEVA Home Care is licensed by the Department of Health and is a member of the Pennsylvania Homecare Association. ACHIEVA Home Care is also regulated and monitored by Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services Office of Developmental Programs and area Administrative Entities (AE).

To inquire about in-home and community supports, please contact Michelle Stockunas at 412.995.5000 x402 or mstockunas@achieva.info.

Special Needs Trusts

Special needs trusts allow you to protect your assets while remaining eligible for Medicaid, Waiver Services and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The Social Security Act allows assets to be held in certain kinds of trusts for the benefit of a person with a disability. Those assets do not count when calculating if a person qualifies for government services. Creating a special needs trust helps a person with a disability remain eligible for government services. Trusts offer some peace of mind to families trying to ensure their loved ones are taken care of in the future.

Families should consider establishing a trust:

- When family members of a person with a disability want to begin saving for the future
- When family members of a person with a disability begin to develop their estate plans
- When a person with a disability has too many assets to remain eligible for government supports
- When a person with a disability receives a financial settlement or inheritance that would affect their eligibility to receive essential government services

ACHIEVA offers three types of special needs trusts (pooled trust; payback trust or third party trust) and each allows you to preserve funds so you are able to pay for necessities - like home modifications, adapted vehicles and specialized treatments or medications - while preserving eligibility for lifelong supports and services.

ACHIEVA is committed to giving every person the opportunity to achieve more. Through experienced trust administration and professional investment management, ACHIEVA is an accessible, one-stop resource for information and education – all to protect futures and enhance the lives of people with disabilities.

For more information on Trust Services, [visit ACHIEVA Family Trust website](#) or contact Michelle Sipple at 412.995.5000 or msipple@achieva.info.

Recreational, Day and Overnight Activities (in Beaver County)

Recreation activities are for people of all ages and all abilities. Parents and caregivers are welcome to stay and socialize with other parents and caregivers during the activities. If an individual needs 1:1 or other specific assistance, an adult caregiver or responsible staff person must stay for the event. All [activities and events](#) are staffed by ACHIEVA employees and volunteers.

[Camp Excursions](#) are offered September through June for people of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Locations vary from month to month and include Camp Fitch on the shores of Lake Erie, Camp Guyasuta in Pittsburgh, Oglebay in West Virginia, Raccoon and Moraine State Parks. Most weekends begin on Friday evening and end on Sunday afternoon. The cost of the two-night weekend excursion is currently \$310. Funding can be made by waiver, family support service (FSS) or private pay.

[Day camp](#) offers a summer full of fun, exciting and challenging activities designed for school-aged children with intellectual disabilities.

For more information on Beaver County activities, please email Karen Vodenichar at kvodenichar@achieva.info, or 724.775.1602 x710 or visit [ACHIEVA's website](#).

Older Adult Protective Services (OAPS)

(60 years of age and older) Funded by the Beaver County Office on Aging

ACHIEVA is under contract with the Beaver County Office on Aging to provide Older Adult Protective Services (OAPS) to people 60 years of age and older. Protective services apply to older adults, who, because of one or more functional limitations, need the assistance of another person to perform or obtain services necessary to maintain physical or mental health. Caseworkers investigate and intervene in cases of abuse, neglect, abandonment and exploitation. This help is available to adults in the community as well as those in licensed facilities. The individual's personal rights are always respected and legal assistance is arranged, when necessary.

Abuse is the infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement or punishment with resulting physical harm, pain or mental anguish, the willful deprivation by a caregiver of goods or services that are necessary to maintain physical or mental health, sexual harassment, rape or

abuse as defined in the Protection from Abuse Act (35 P.S. Section 10181-10190).

The criteria for protective services:

- Must be age 60 or older
- Must live within Beaver County
- Must be incapacitated
- Must have one or more functional limitations
- Must need the assistance of another person to perform or obtain services necessary to maintain physical or mental health
- Must lack a responsible caregiver

Signs of abuse are unexplained broken bones; untreated wounds; welts; signs of being tied up; bruises or burns often in shapes or patterns in various stages of healing; difficulty walking due to unexplained injuries or medical conditions.

Signs of neglect are lack of adequate food, clothing or shelter; lack of necessary medical care; lack of supervision resulting in imminent risk or danger to self (caregiver neglect); lack of hygiene or housekeeping (self-neglect).

Signs of exploitations are unpaid bills and lack of necessities when there is adequate income; unusual withdrawals from bank accounts, bounced checks or forged signatures.

For more information, contact Judy Hamilton at jhamilton@achieva.info, or 724.775.1786 x717 or 1.800.272.0567.

You can anonymously call ACHIEVA in Beaver County at 724.775.1786 or 1.800.272.0567, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week to file a report of abuse, neglect, abandonment or exploitation.

Statewide Elder Abuse Hotline at 1.800.490.8505

Pennsylvania Department of Aging at 717.265.7887

Pennsylvania Department of Health Nursing Home Complaint Line at 1.800.254.5164