

TRANSITION YOUTH SERVICES

“Laura (Elliott) and Eddie (Edwards) have excellent skills when working with students with special needs. They show a sincere concern for the academic achievement, job readiness, and individual needs of students through creative classroom activities.”

—Teresa McGurr, Principal, Alum Crest High School, describing her experience with COVA's youth service team

By the numbers

20,012

Number of Ohio children in foster care

1 in 5

Number of youth affected by mental health problems at any given time

90%

Percent of COVA youth participants who are satisfied with our services

For more information

on COVA Youth Services, contact Program Manager Jill Jones at 614-291-0498 or jjones@cova.org.

Business Hours

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Columbus Orientation

Mondays, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.

Fridays, 11 a.m. - noon

No appointment is needed.



Center of Vocational Alternatives

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www.cova.org

COVA's Mission

COVA is the central Ohio region's leader in vocational rehabilitation services for people with mental illnesses and other disabilities that pose a barrier to employment. We serve nearly 3,000 clients and 200 employers each year.

A private, nonprofit agency founded in 1983, COVA's mission is to assist and support the community in overcoming mental, emotional and other challenges to a productive life, focusing on employment, economic stability and life skills.

Transitioning youth to independence

COVA's experienced professionals work with youth ages 16 to 22 to achieve independent living. Program participants come to us via many avenues – public schools, child welfare, juvenile justice, school counselors and families. Our programs include:

Aftercare

COVA works with young people who must become totally self-supporting once they age out of the child welfare system and are leaving foster care or group home settings.

COVA counselors assist participants with securing housing, developing a plan for furthering their education and creating a career plan. Additionally, COVA works with participants to navigate the daily aspects of living on their own, including setting up bank accounts, managing their finances, eating healthy, using community support networks and securing employment.

Independent Living Skills Assessment

COVA's vocational specialists and counselors can provide families, schools and agencies with detailed assessments of a participant's independent living capabilities. Counselors complete a thorough evaluation of all major life domains for a participant, including health and safety, employment, financial well-being, community knowledge and continuing education.

Along with the assessment, COVA creates a service plan for the participant to achieve independence.

CHOICE

COVA vocational specialists work with participants within their school to provide vocational training and career development activities for high school students with emotional and social barriers to transition from school to work.

Students learn about different types of jobs, work expectations and required skills to create the best career plan for their situation. Students have operated their own class businesses, such as a pet bakery, to explore career options, understand how companies operate and learn new job skills.