

Programs and Services

Allegheny	Armstrong	Beaver	Butler	Greene	Indiana	Lawrence	Mercer	Washington	Westmoreland
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CHILDREN SERVICES – EARLY EDUCATION

Child Care (Integrated)



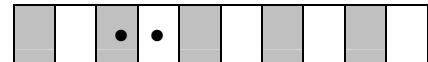
Lifesteps provides quality child care services for children with and without special needs ages six weeks to school-age. Children receive loving care from qualified, committed teachers, aides, and foster grandparents in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere. Children aged three and older participate in an appropriate preschool class. Each child receives a speech/language, hearing, and developmental screening. Three sites are Star 3 facilities and our recently opened Jackson Township site is working on Star 2.

Developmental Learning



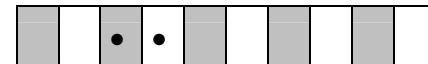
Preschoolers or school-age children may be eligible for developmental therapy. A full developmental evaluation will identify strengths and weaknesses in the fine motor, gross motor, and cognitive areas. Therapy is individualized and treatment plans encompass goals to maximize abilities.

Preschool (Integrated Developmental)



Preschool Programs are for children with and without special needs from 3 to 5 years of age in a small classroom setting. Each class is 2½ hours in length. Each child is assessed in the following areas of development: 1) communication, 2) thinking, 3) visual motor, 4) social, 5) physical, and 6) social emotional.

Pre-K Counts



The Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts program was established by the PA Department of Education in 2007. The 3-hour Pre-K Counts classrooms are designed for children between age 3 and until they are eligible to enter kindergarten, who are at risk of school failure, either because of income level, language barriers, cultural, or special needs issues. Like other Lifesteps' preschool classes, Pre-K Counts classrooms have small class sizes (20 or fewer children), have teachers with expertise in teaching young children, a structured curriculum aligned with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards, and regular assessment of each child's progress and the quality of the program. The program prepares children for reading and math through a structured curriculum, but also teaches children to pay attention, follow directions, and get along with others. This program is FREE to eligible children.

Primary Development Program (PDP)



A program for children from ages 5 to 7 years who have been identified as having a developmental delay requiring specifically designed instruction. Children are taught in a self-contained classroom of 8 to 12 students supervised by a teacher, an aide, and a speech therapist. They receive individual attention and have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Socialization and kindergarten readiness are emphasized, and the children are integrated with preschool for nonacademic activities.

Summer Camp



Summer Camp is a six-week summer program offered to children with and without special needs. The camp strives to improve and maintain developmental, communicative, and social skills, and encourages interaction with peers in a structured social program. (Speech/Language and development therapies may be available.)



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FAMILY SERVICES

“Child Check” Developmental Screening



Child Check is a FREE developmental screening for children from birth to 5 years old. Professionals evaluate a child's development in areas such as talking, seeing, hearing, moving, thinking, and living skills and discuss the results with the parents. The purpose is to identify developmental problems early. Autism screening is also available for children 1 to 3 years of age by request or referral. The earlier a problem is identified and professional support given, the greater the chance the child can be successful in school and life. Outreach/education such as referrals and information on community resources is also provided to parents and/or caregivers, teachers, etc. for support.

Crisis Child Care



In Beaver County, with proper approval, families in crisis may receive child care at no charge to help alleviate stress thus reducing the potential for child abuse. In Butler County, with approval from Children and Youth Services, families in crisis may receive child care services at no charge.

Early Care and Education Council (ECEC)



The Butler County Early Care & Education Council (ECEC) is part of a statewide initiative to address the needs of young children in order to support their future success. The council is a county-wide collaboration of organizations and individuals who are united by their commitment to increase the quality of early care and education for all children in our community. ECEC is supported through a grant from the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and is administered locally by Lifesteps.

Early Identification / Crisis Intervention Program (EICIP)



The Family Resource Specialist offers support to parents through home visits. The primary goal is to reinforce all daily activities emphasizing education and training on child development, health care, appropriate discipline, and parenting skills. During visits, the Family Resource Specialist may assist and observe parents interacting with the child, model, and teach parenting techniques. The child's progress is discussed and suggestions for improving teaching methods and instruction materials are provided.

Families Forever



Families Forever is a program for adults struggling with the challenging changes brought about by divorce, separation, or living in a divided family situation and the pain, frustration, and stress resulting from custody issues. The session will better equip adults with methods for responding in a way that will protect the well-being of the child(ren), help them talk about divorce or separation in a healthy way, learn the behaviors a child may exhibit and how to deal with those behaviors.



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FAMILY SERVICES, CONT.

Family Care Mobile Library



Lifesteps' Family Care Mobile Library is a mobile resource van that travels within a 15-mile radius of the city of Indiana, PA with a focus on low-income areas. It is operated by staff and volunteers and is used as a source of information for parents and residents of Indiana County on topics including self-help, parenting, behavioral health issues, adult literacy, disabilities information, child development, advocacy, and more.

Home-Based Family Resource and Referral



The Home-Based Family Resource and Referral program helps families to find the resources and support they need to work through life's challenges. Services can be provided to families that may benefit from more intensive case management within the home.

Home-Based Family Support Program



Lifesteps' Home-Based Family Support Program offers families a unique opportunity to work toward family stability and reduce the risk of out-of-home placement by providing them with caring, personalized, in-home support. The Home-Based Case Manager meets the "total" needs of the child through guiding and assisting parents or guardians in gaining access to necessary medical, educational, rehabilitative, and social services. Additionally, the program connects families with other community resources and supports.

Pediatric Independent Evaluation Services



Lifesteps' interdisciplinary team for Pediatric Independent Evaluations consists of developmental specialists, speech pathologists, and physical/occupational therapists who work with local county service coordinators and parents/guardians to provide a comprehensive evaluation of their child's needs. Lifesteps' staff is trained to determine the child's specific needs so that the child can receive the care they need in order to grow and reach their fullest potential. A complete evaluation assesses the child's skills such as rolling, sitting, independent walking, seeing, hearing, and thinking. In addition, children will also be assessed in areas of learning skills, physical development, personal/social skills, vocalization, gesturing, and speech.

Stepping Stones



Stepping Stones is an outreach program at Meadowbrook Housing Complex in Butler. Meadowbrook, a 120-unit apartment complex, offers a clean, safe, and respectable housing complex for families who are struggling to get back on their feet due to various family situations such as abuse, low income, divorce, or some other type of crisis. Lifesteps has developed a collaborative relationship with the residents at Meadowbrook and offers a variety of fun and educational activities that encourage the families to spend quality time together, which includes activities such as a Spring Fling, Summer Time Party, Back-to-School Fair, Fall Festival, and Merry Moments with Santa.

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ADULT AND SENIOR SERVICES

Adult Day Health Services



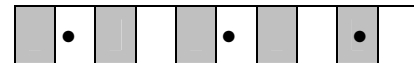
A medically-monitored day program for adults ages 18 or older who may be medically fragile and/or socially isolated, as well as seniors over 60 years of age who may have need for assistance but do not need 24-hour nursing home care. The program provides daily activities, socialization, nutritious meals and snacks, medication management, daily exercise, and transportation. Designed to maintain or improve individual functioning, provide caregiver relief, and prevent or delay nursing home placement.

Adult Training Facility-Basic Education & Socialization Training (BEST)



The BEST program provides learning opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and medical challenges in a supportive environment. The program assesses the individual in the following five areas: vocational, music, sensory integration, art, and academics. The team develops functional support plans based on individual need to help the person develop self-sufficiency in daily living skills, socialization, and pre-vocational skills. The individual, family, friends, and staff focus on the skills needed for community integration as well as the ability to function independently.

Adult Training Facility-Community Outreach Center (COR)



The Community Outreach Program is an Adult Training Facility that focuses on assisting individuals with intellectual disabilities become more active members of their community through volunteerism, participation in community events, and social interaction within the community. A variety of group and individual activities take place while at the center allowing for individualized instruction/assistance in the development of competency in specific skill areas and the enhancement of a positive self-image.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group



Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group is a social group for families as they attempt to handle the challenges presented them after a diagnosis. The Group provides opportunities for social events in a warm, friendly atmosphere, as well as education and information-sharing. Members are referred by the Visiting Nurses Association, local rehabilitation centers, local hospitals, and from other participants.

Family Living



In the Family Living Program, an individual with intellectual disabilities resides in the private home of a host family. The host family will provide food, shelter, personal care, and emotional support for one or two individuals. Usually, the members of the host family and the individuals with mental retardation are not related. The host family treats the individual(s) with mental retardation as a member of the family and helps him/her achieve his/her goals.



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ADULT AND SENIOR SERVICES, CONT.

Positive Possibilities Program

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The Positive Possibilities Program's main focus is to work closely with families as well as extended and foster families or caregivers to understand behavioral support plans and techniques to help individuals achieve their full potential. Lifesteps' professionals offer specialized trainings to direct care, programmatic, and administrative professionals, as well as natural and foster families who support and care for individuals with developmental disabilities. The plan's emphasis is to enhance the adult and child's life so they can achieve their full potential emotionally, socially, and environmentally.

Residential Community Homes

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Lifesteps' Community Homes are for individuals with intellectual disabilities and are located in residential neighborhoods. The homes are staffed to meet the needs of each individual and to support their independence as outlined in the individual's supports plan. Special adaptations may be made to the residences' physical sites to accommodate individuals' special needs and promote their independence.

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SPEECH AND HEARING SERVICES

Hearing Screenings

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Puretone and Typanometry screenings are conducted in both ears for children and adults. If an individual does not pass this battery of screening measures, a recheck may be conducted in two or four weeks, or the individual may be referred for an audiological evaluation and/or a medical examination. Children under the age of 3 are screened using a Hear Kit consisting of a variety of sounds and pitches.

Speech and Language Evaluations / Diagnostics

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This program primarily serves children 2 years 10 months to 5 years of age. Evaluations include a parent/guardian interview and administration of the appropriate tests by a speech pathologist to determine the nature and extent of a potential speech/language problem or delay. Depending on the results of the evaluation, the individual may be referred to another agency. Speech diagnostics consist of the assessment process in the areas of speech, language, hearing, developmental, and social skills. The diagnostic evaluation includes parental interview, behavioral observation, and the administration of a variety of diagnostic tools to determine eligibility for early intervention services. Referrals come from parents, physicians, screening programs, and the Intermediate Units. Upon completion of the assessment, the parents are presented an Evaluation Report (ER) and available services are discussed.

Speech and Language Therapy

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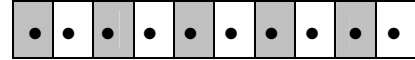
Preschool, school-aged children, and adults may be eligible for speech and language therapy services. Individuals generally have articulation problems, language delays, stuttering, voice disorders, or other speech problems. Using the results from a Speech, Language, and Hearing Screening, the individual's strengths and weaknesses are determined and long- and short-range goals are established. Appropriate techniques are then utilized to maximize their communication abilities.



Support Services for Families and Individuals

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Advocacy



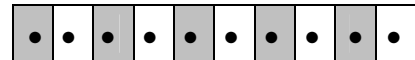
The mission of Lifesteps is to help individuals and families with life's changing needs. On the local level, Lifesteps has been active in making community services accessible to those with special needs.

Health Monitoring



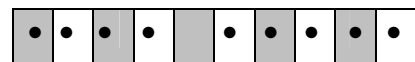
Adult clients enrolled in Adult Day Health Services receive height and weight checks, health education, blood pressure monitoring, and dispensation of medication by a registered nurse.

Information and Referral



Lifesteps provides information about community resources through the Information and Referral program. Lifesteps has extensive listings of the resources available in these areas and works collaboratively with other agencies to ensure individuals are referred to the most appropriate agency/service.

Public Awareness / Professional Education



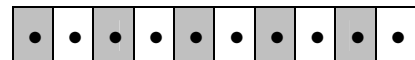
Speakers on a variety of topics, such as child development, issues on aging, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, can be scheduled to talk to groups in the community. A Lifesteps' professional will educate the group on the topic and answer any questions which may arise.

Social Activities



Recreational and Social Activities are initiated through Lifesteps' BEST Program. The BEST Chorus entertains family and friends twice a year, and there are social activities throughout the year for many of the children and adults that attend our programs. Additionally, Lifesteps coordinates a variety of family-oriented activities that take place at a local housing complex (see Stepping Stones).

Special Events



Special events are conducted in various counties for fundraising purposes.