



**T**ennessee Disability Pathfinder (Pathfinder) provides free resources, trainings, outreach, and information about supports, community resources, and programs to Tennesseans with disabilities and their families.

### **What services or resources does this agency provide?**

Pathfinder does not provide services, rather it provides information and resources through three main components of its program that include: information and referrals, education and training, and multicultural outreach. Information and referrals include individualized assistance via phone or email and an online database that provides disability-related services and resources across the state of Tennessee. Education and training encompasses trainings and presentations the Pathfinder staff give at different workshops and conferences. Some of the topics addressed include disability etiquette and people first language, in addition to working with multicultural populations. Pathfinder staff also work with agencies in the Pathfinder Services Database to provide education to the public on specific topics and to familiarize them with resources. Finally, Pathfinder has a strong multicultural outreach program that includes: information and referral assistance, Camino Seguro, parent support group, and training presentations. The phone helpline is open to all individuals, regardless of nationality or language



spoken. Camino Seguro is an online, statewide database of Spanish-speaking providers who offer disability, mental health, and social services. The parent support group meetings are educational and networking opportunities that are open to Spanish-speaking parents of children with disabilities. Finally, to bring a greater understanding of cultural diversity and the specific needs required by people with disabilities, Pathfinder provides education and training workshops to area groups and agencies.

### **What areas of Tennessee do they serve?**

Pathfinder serves the entire state. It provides information and referrals to resources that are available throughout the state of TN.

### **Is there a cost and, if so, who pays?**

There is no cost to receive information and referral assistance, support, or training presentations from Pathfinder.



### **For which students might this agency be appropriate?**

This organization is appropriate for families and their children with disabilities. Families and persons with disabilities can contact Pathfinder staff for assistance in identifying and accessing available services or use the website to find information about services available for them in Tennessee.

### **Who is eligible to receive their services/ supports and when?**

Pathfinder offers information on available supports for persons with disabilities across their lifespan.

### **What is the referral process?**

#### **What documents are needed?**

There is not referral process, but Pathfinder includes information about the referral process for specific organizations or service providers.

### **What is the family's responsibility?**

The family's responsibility is to contact Pathfinder or explore the website to learn about the many different ways that Pathfinder can help the individual with a disability and their family connect with organizations and agencies across the state. Additionally, families will find helpful resources and tip sheets.

### **What is the student's responsibility?**

The student can also contact Pathfinder or use the website to research any supports or resources that they would like to connect with.

### **Where can I learn more?**

Visit the Pathfinder website at: [www.familypathfinder.org](http://www.familypathfinder.org)

### **What is the responsibility of an educator?**

The educator should inform parents about this resource as soon as possible. If parents are aware of Pathfinder, they can find resources and service providers that might benefit their student throughout the transition process and well beyond their schooling.

### **How (and when) do you involve them in the transition planning process?**

Pathfinder is a great way to find resources about transition and more information about agencies and organizations that provide transition assistance.

- Call the Pathfinder helpline to ask about transition resources in your part of the state.
- Use the Pathfinder online database to search for specific topics that might be related to transition goals.
- Parents can search Pathfinder's calendar for local Tennessee events that might be related to transition planning.

### **What questions should I ask of Pathfinder?**

- If I do not speak English or Spanish, how can I receive help?
- How does Pathfinder verify the authenticity of the agencies listed in the database?



- Can I request a Pathfinder staff member to give a presentation at a conference or meeting?

**Additional contact information:**

- Give them a call at: 1-800-640-4636
- Email them at: [tnpathfinder@vumc.org](mailto:tnpathfinder@vumc.org)