



**The HSC Foundation**

# National Youth Transitions Center

A COLLABORATIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY TO BENEFIT  
YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES AND RETURNING VETERANS



**Young people with disabilities— civilian and military— face severe obstacles as they transition from adolescence to adulthood, from military to civilian life, and from school to work.**

Supportive services and timely interventions are critical to ensure that what is often a period of extreme challenge for young people with disabilities is in fact a moment of great opportunity.

The National Youth Transitions Center, developed by The HSC Foundation, will bring together the resources of multiple organizations to provide much-needed transitions-related services, research, public policy, best practices, pilot projects, and evaluation so that youth with disabilities can achieve their greatest level of independence.

The Center will create a forum to enhance the ability of young people and veterans with disabilities to enter and re-enter the workforce, participate in and contribute to community life, and become productive members of society.



# A Collaborative Learning Community to Benefit Youth with Disabilities

**The transition from youth to adulthood is a pivotal moment in the lives of people with disabilities.**

**It can set the stage for productive and fulfilling lives or put them on a path that leads to unemployment, poverty, and life-long government support.**

- Youth with disabilities are more than twice as likely as their peers to drop out of school and face much higher unemployment rates.
- The adjudication rate of youth with disabilities is four times higher than for youth without disabilities.
- Youth with disabilities are three times more likely to live in poverty as adults than their peers without disabilities.

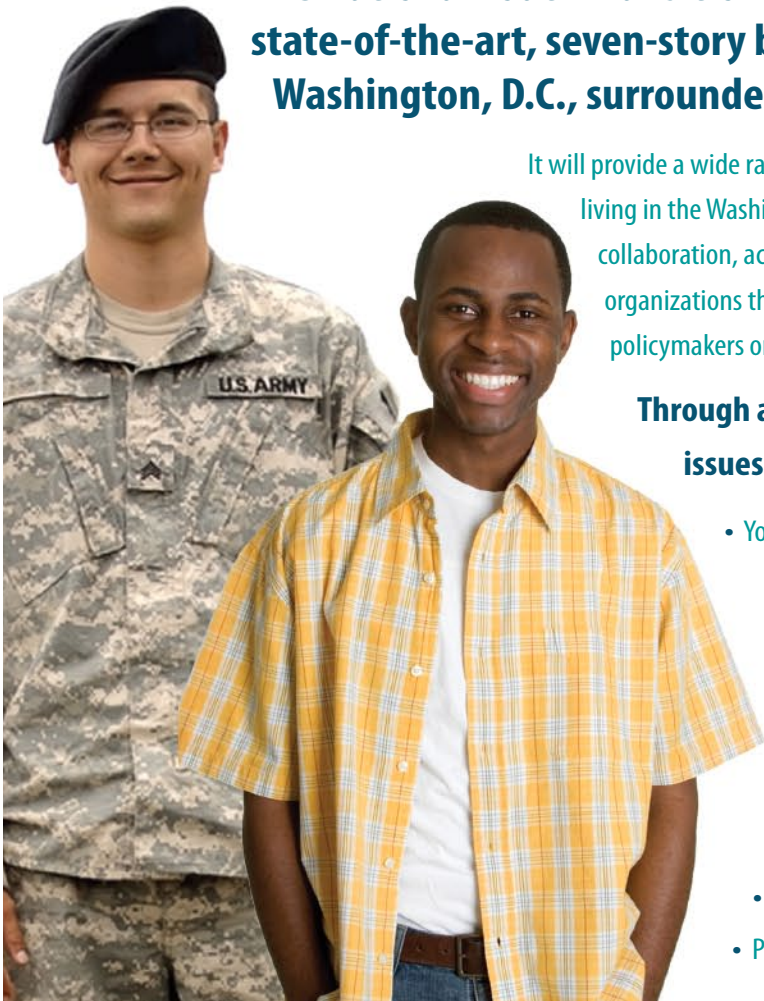
Creative and timely interventions can make the difference between a young person becoming a life-long consumer of government subsidies versus being a productive tax-paying member of the community.

**The National Youth Transitions Center will be housed in a new, state-of-the-art, seven-story building located in Northwest Washington, D.C., surrounded by a university campus.**

It will provide a wide range of direct services for young people with disabilities living in the Washington metropolitan area and will be a unique place for national collaboration, active learning, debate, and capacity building among professional organizations that serve youth. Additionally, it will be a vehicle for informing policymakers on how best to assist the transition process.

**Through an innovative and comprehensive approach to the issues of transition, the Center will serve:**

- Young people, ages 14-26 with a variety of physical, sensory, intellectual, and emotional disabilities
- Young veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who have acquired a life-long disability
- Civilian and military families who have a young person with a disability
- Organizations that serve youth with disabilities
- Government agencies
- Universities and researchers
- Policy makers



# and Returning Veterans



## For the first time in a single location, organizations will provide direct services including:

- Career counseling and exploration
- School-to-work readiness training
- Work-based learning (mentoring and internships)
- Personal development and leadership training
- Family education and support

The Center will also serve as a national clearinghouse for research, advocacy, and evaluation of support systems for youth with disabilities in transition. Ultimately, the Center's partners will bring their expertise and resources to create successful programs that serve as models for communities across the country.

## The National Youth Transitions Center will focus on the programmatic areas that research has demonstrated are critical to youth in transition and their providers:

- Career exploration and development
- Youth development and leadership
- Family supports and advocacy
- Research and evaluation
- Capacity building and collaboration

## Multiple nonprofit organizations, universities, and government agencies will collaborate in the Center's programming. The partners envision a multitude of benefits including:

- *For youth and veterans with disabilities* – readiness for jobs or college, eased reentry into their communities as well as confidence and skills
- *For employers* – outstanding, capable employees ready to help reach goals and fulfill missions
- *For the disabilities and transitions fields* – new thinking and learning from research, evaluation, advocacy, and models of service
- *For the Washington metropolitan area* – a state-of-the-art center for regional youth with disabilities and their families to receive cutting-edge services and support
- *For the nation* – a valuable human resource for the future





**THE HSC HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

**The HSC Foundation**

The HSC Health Care System has served Washington metropolitan area children and youth with disabilities and chronic illness for over 120 years. The HSC Foundation launched its Youth Transitions Initiative in 2006, after convening a 200-person youth transitions summit to examine education, career preparation, independent living, social and attitudinal barriers to successful transitions, and to recommend initiatives that increase positive transitions for youth with disabilities. In 2008, the Foundation was nationally recognized for its Youth Transitions Initiative when it was awarded the U.S. Secretary of Labor's New Freedom Initiative Award. The National Youth Transitions Center is the natural next step for The HSC Foundation in developing successful programs and services to benefit families and youth with disabilities and transition needs in the Washington region and across the country.

For more information on the National Youth Transitions Center and The HSC Foundation's Youth Transitions Initiative, visit our website or contact us.

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