

EMPLOYMENT AND/OR CAREER COUNSELING

1) BERKSHIRE COUNTY ARC

www.bcarc.org

*395 South Street 1-800-552-1771
Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-499-4241
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.*

Residential/day services, vocational program, advocacy services, family support groups, and Zip 'N Sort mail services.

2) BERKSHIRE FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL RESOURCES, INC. (BFAIR)

*Administrative Office 413-664-9382
85 Main Street Suite 200
North Adams, MA 01247*

*Satellite Office 413-443-6007
74 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201*

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

BFAIR is an established provider of support services to individuals with developmental disabilities in Northern and Central Berkshire county. Supports include Arcadia Employment Services (vocational assessment, job readiness training, and job placement), a CARF accredited Day Habilitation Center, Community Residential Services (staffed apartments, group residences and shared living arrangements), and Individual and Family Resources (planned and emergency respite, outreach, bilingual services for Spanish-speaking people, educational and advocacy supports and flexible family supports).

3) BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL SERVICES OF MERIDIAN ASSOCIATES

*141 North Street, Suite 7 413-448-5356
Pittsfield, MA 01201
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.*

Prepares workers with disabilities for community job search. Includes interest testing, development of resumes, and training in interviewing techniques. Arranges interviews for various entry-level and semi-skilled openings, provides a skills trainer (job coach) to assist with on-the-job training, long term follow up and advocacy for pay raises, promotions, or job changes.

4) BERKSHIRE WORKS (MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT)

*160 North Street, 3rd floor 413-499-2220
Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-447-7324*

*37 Main Street, 2nd floor 413-663-1111
P.O. Box 937
North Adams, MA 01247*

*Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.*

One-Stop Career Centers of Berkshire County offer employment, education and training counselors, career resource library, on-line job bank, workshops, computer literacy classes, statewide referral network, unemployment insurance, claims and hearings, office of MA Attorney General, Fair Business Practice Division. Training and part-time employment for youth and adults who meet income eligibility criteria. Also some transportation, information, and referral services. Free GED program for pregnant or parenting youth 16-21 receiving TAFDC (Transitional Assistance for Families with Dependent Children).

5) EXPERIENCE WORKS

*215 North Street 413-443-3515
Pittsfield, MA 01201
Hours: Monday- Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

*55 Lake Street (State office for New England) 978-630-1203
Gardner, MA 01440
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

A federally funded program providing training and assistance in finding unsubsidized employment for individuals 55 years or older who are income eligible.

6) FAMILY LIFE SUPPORT CENTER, INC.

*85 Main Street, Suite 228 413-664-8279
North Adams, MA 01247
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(Can leave message evenings and weekends.)*

Housing search assistance and homelessness prevention through apartment listings, landlord/tenant mediation, housing code checklist and limited financial aid. Emergency homeless shelter (Louison House). Employment & budget counseling, assistance in obtaining benefits if eligible (food stamps, WIC, housing subsidies). Information & referral for child care, as well as information about free medical and dental services. Also runs emergency food pantry. Volunteers/interns welcome to help with intake and eventually solve client problems with staff guidance.

7) GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF THE BERKSHIRES INC.

*273 North Street 413-442-1548
440 Merrill Road 413-442-6627
158 Tyler Street 413-442-0061
Pittsfield, MA 01201*

*130 Howland Avenue 413-743-8092
Adams, MA 01220*

*Hours: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (office)
Merrill Road: Administration offices and rehabilitation center.
Donation Center (158 Tyler St.) M-F 8:30am – 4:30pm and 11am-3pm Saturdays.*

Vocational rehabilitation services, education and support to disabled or disadvantaged individuals within Berkshire County. Also operates three thrift stores.

8) HELEN BERUBE TEEN PARENT PROGRAM

*290 South Street 413-443-2530
P.O. Box 1036 (Must use P.O. Box for mailing)
Pittsfield, MA 01202
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.*

Alternative educational site for pregnant and parenting teens with licensed and accredited day care center on site. Five-day school week with transportation for mothers and children, high school diploma program, GED preparation, parenting classes and career planning.

9) MERIDIAN ASSOCIATES

*141 North Street 413-448-5353
Pittsfield, MA 01201
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

Provides 24-hour residential care for people with mental retardation and mental illness. Services include day program with psychosocial rehabilitation for people with mental illness, adult outreach program through Department of Mental Health, and cooperative employment service through Department of Mental Retardation and Massachusetts Rehabilitation.

10) RAILROAD STREET YOUTH PROJECT

www.rsyp.org

*70 Railroad Street - Rear 413-528-2475
Great Barrington, MA 01230*

The mission of this group is to empower young people by creating youth-generated activities that build intergenerational communication, responsibility and self worth. Provides youth advocacy. Connects people ages 14-25 with resources within the community, such as mentoring, help in finding a job, etc. People of all ages are encouraged to submit ideas to the program.