

 **MY ROAD TO FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE CHECKLIST**

A big part of being more financially independent is having a personal financial file. This file should contain anything you might need to be established as an adult, allowing you to open a bank account, to build credit, and to help you get the services you need to live independently. You will need to create a system that works for you. Here are some suggestions:

- Investigate your eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) [ssa.gov/ssi/](https://ssa.gov/ssi/).
- Explore your eligibility for Home and Community-Based Services waiver programs (“waivers”) at [dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/Home-and-Community-Based%20Services.aspx](https://dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/Home-and-Community-Based%20Services.aspx).
- Register with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) if you’re interested in working or need help keeping your job at [dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/ovr/Pages/default.aspx](https://dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/ovr/Pages/default.aspx).
- Have a copy of your Social Security card.
- Obtain a driver’s license or a non-driver’s identification card.
- Establish a relationship with a bank or credit union (obtain a debit card).
- Register to vote (age 18).
- Register with Selective Service (Ages 18–25). All males (with limited exceptions) must register with Selective Service at [sss.gov/register](https://sss.gov/register) to be eligible for benefits and programs linked to the registration.
- Gather healthcare and community services information onto a USB flash drive and keep it with you. Be sure to include:
  - Personal identification information,
  - Health insurance policy number,
  - Doctors’ and specialists’ contact information,
  - Prescriptions,
  - Durable Medical Equipment (DME) vendor contact information, and
  - Service coordinator/case manager/supports broker contact information.
- Prepare a Power of Attorney and an advanced directive.