

Resources for Families with Children with Disabilities

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DDA-Funded Family Support Services – Waiting List

Getting on the Waiting List

- Complete form and mail to regional office
- Make a copy for your records
- Within 30 days, you should receive an acknowledgement letter—if not, call 410-902-4500 (eligibility unit)
- DDA will call to complete an eligibility and access interview—if not, call
- Call and call and call and call
- Ask about one-time-only funds

DDA-Funded Family Support Services – Rolling Access

Rolling Access Funds

- Services up to \$2000
- Call family support service providers
- Can ask provider to act as “fiscal intermediary”
- Quick turn-around if funds available

DDA Definition of a Developmental Disability

A severe chronic disability that:

1. Is attributable to a physical or mental impairment, other than the sole diagnosis of mental illness, or to a combination of mental and physical impairments;
2. Is manifested before the individual attains the age of 22;
3. Is likely to continue indefinitely
4. Results in the inability to live independently without external support or continuing and regular assistance; and reflects the need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services that are planned and coordinated for that individual.

Behavioral Support Services

DDA funds behavioral support services for families in every region of the State

- Child must have a developmental disability
- No cost to family
- In Central Region, BSS provided by Humanin (formerly DSG)
- Call DDA Regional Office to find out provider in your region.

New autism waiver and regular Medical Assistance can cover in-home behavioral supports.

Jill Fox Memorial Fund, Inc.

- Funding for items that are medically or mental health necessity
- Application must be filled out by a healthcare or social work professional.

Knights of Columbus Community Integration Scholarship Fund

- Inclusive Activities for children with MR
 - Conferences
 - Classes or after school programs
 - Scouting dues
 - Recreation activities
 - Other...

MDDC Small Grants

- Conference registration and travel
- Self-advocacy programs
- Speaker honorariums
- Transportation and supports (personal assistance or respite/child care)

Legislative Advocacy Support Fund

- Funded by the Developmental Disabilities Council
- Supports people with developmental disabilities and their family members to participate in legislative and policymaking events
- Transportation, childcare, support staff

Respite Care

- Can be funded by DDA-funds
- New autism waiver will cover some respite care
- Provider may send staff to family home
- Can use fiscal intermediary to hire your own
- Some providers have respite homes
- Some providers have weekend respite camps

Respite Care Resources

- Maryland Respite Care Coalition maintains list of respite care providers (410) 767-7323. Most of list is available on www.family-networks.org
- Caring Communities maintains database of trained individual respite care providers who have had background checks (410) 549-5707.
- Partners Plus trains families and respite care providers (410) 974-6139.

Education Resources

Parents' Place of Maryland provides training and parent educators to attend IEP meetings www.ppmmd.org

Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education provides advocacy and legal aid for families seeking less restrictive educational placements www.mcie.org

Maryland Disability Law Center provides legal information and takes on certain cases www.mdlcbalto.org

The Arc of Maryland and the **Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council** provide information, training, & advocacy www.thearcmd.org, www.family-networks.org, www.md-council.org

Local chapter of **ASA** provide useful information about their own school systems/autism programs www.autism-society.org

Leadership and Advocacy Training

- Partners in Policymaking, cosponsored by MDDC, the Arc of Maryland, & Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program Family Support Network
- Is an intensive leadership training course on best practices in education, services, etc
- For self-advocates and parents of children with developmental disabilities

Assistive Technology

- **Maryland Assistive Technology Co-op**, serves families schools in Maryland with assistive technology loans, purchases, services and training. (410) 554-9230 www.matcoop.org
- **Assistive Technology Guaranteed Loan Program (ATGLP)** Maryland Technology Assistance Program, 800-832-4827
- **Learning Independence through Computers (LINC)** provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities and their families to explore adaptive technology, computer systems, software and the Internet. (410) 659-5462 www.linc.org
- **Center for Technology in Education (CTE)** The Johns Hopkins University/Maryland State Department of Education Center for Technology in Education provides information, workshops, and useful information for families concerning assistive technology in Maryland. (410) 254-8466 www.cte.jhu.edu

Autism Waiver

- Families must apply through IFSP or IEP Team
- Waives family income
- Child must be financially eligible, have a diagnosis of autism/PDD, and meet level of care criteria
- 500 slots for this year, 750 next year, and 900 year after that
- Covers respite, family training, in-home supports, therapeutic integration (after school), some transition services, environmental modifications, etc.
- More info about the waiver on www.howard-autism.org
- Call Marjorie Shulbank or Boyd Pusey at MSDE for more info.
- Very short on providers at the moment

Medicaid: Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment (EPSDT)

Federal Law requires the state to provide screening, diagnosis and all "medically necessary" treatment services, including mental health services, to all Medicaid recipients under 21.

EPSDT is a way to obtain the individualized wrap-around treatment and support services necessary to allow children to remain at home and in their community, or to return there after a hospitalization or other out-of-home placement.

Select EPSDT Services

- Diagnostic evaluation and intervention
Individual therapy; Group therapy
 - Family counseling
 - Case management
 - Wrap-around mental health services
 - Therapeutic behavioral intervention (including in-home behavior therapy provided by a one-on-one behavioral aid to carry out a treatment plan designed by a behavior specialist)
 - Enhanced support (such as in-home one-on-one support and supervision)
 - Intensive family preservation
 - Supportive family intervention
 - Professional consultation
 - Inpatient hospitalization and residential treatment
 - Personal care services (such as assistance with hygiene, toileting and eating)
 - Transportation assistance for the child and parents to any service
 - "practitioner of the healing arts," within the scope of his or her practice under State law.
- All services must be provided in the setting deemed most beneficial to the child, with preference for the child's "natural environment," such as home or school.**

Private Insurance

- **Gateways to Health Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs** by Therese McIntyre-Evans and William Sciarillo, ScD, MSN is guide to understanding your health plan and accessing the health care your child needs in Maryland. Can be downloaded from: <http://www.family-networks.org/health.cfm>
- **Baltimore HealthCare Access:** No cost-information, resources, and services that families, providers, policy-makers and advocates can use to access *HealthChoice* (Maryland's Medical Managed Care Program; Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP); Navigating managed care organizations (MCOs) and Resources for children with special health care needs, the uninsured, and other special needs populations. 410-649-0521 x 3007
- **Children's Medical Services:** Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, (800) 456-8900, (800) 638-8864, or (410) 767-6749.
- Most local health departments have advocates to assist families with health insurance disputes.
- Under Maryland law, HMO's must cover the same number of habilitative as rehabilitative visits (speech, OT, PT)

Financial/Future Planning

- Special Needs Trusts
- *Planning Now*, available from MDDC
- List of attorneys from The Arc of Frederick County

Overnight Camps

- Kamp A-Kom-Plish: wonderful inclusive camp in Southern Maryland (also does respite weekends). www.kampakomplish.org
- Camp Greentop. Camp for kids and adults with disabilities. www.campgreentop.org
- Camp Fairlee Manor. Camp for kids and adults with disabilities (also does respite weekends). www.fairleemanor.org

Child Care

- LOCATE Child Care, a statewide, computerized childcare resource and counseling system. This system is a free service that provides referrals and has an enhanced service for families of children with special needs. (800) 999-0120 www.mdchildcare.org
- Project ACT (All Children Together) a project of Abilities Network, is dedicated to facilitating inclusive childcare for children with special needs throughout the state of Maryland. They provide assessment and referral, on site consultation and support, training for staff and parents, as well as liaison services between childcare providers, families and school personnel. (410) 828-7700 or (800) 492-2523 www.abilitiesnetwork.org/projectact.htm

Autism Resources

- Pathfinders for Autism, working to develop a State Autism Resource Center
www.pathfindersforautism.org
- Autism Society of America www.autism-society.org

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