

MANSEF Transition Toolkit



Time for Transition? We Can Help!



Maryland Association
of Non-Public Special
Education Facilities

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Introduction

The Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF) is an association of 85 nonpublic special education facilities approved by the Maryland State Department of Education. These facilities, located throughout Maryland, promote quality services for children and youth with disabilities. They serve more than 4,000 students between the ages of 2 and 21.

MANSEF unites a diverse community of educators, professionals and parents to advocate for the full continuum of services for children and adolescents with disabilities. MANSEF works in partnership with nonpublic special education facilities, families, parent groups, state and local education agencies, government officials, and related service professionals.

The Friends of MANSEF (FOM) is a group of parents who serve in an advisory capacity to the MANSEF Board of Directors. The parents represent counties across Maryland and have children of varying ages with special needs. Members of the FOM advocate on behalf of MANSEF by educating government leaders, policy-makers and members of the public about the educational needs of children with special needs.

While information is available for families who have children with special needs, there are fewer resources for families once their children enter adulthood. In an effort to assist parents like themselves, the FOM created this toolkit to help families navigate their child's transition to adulthood.

For more information on MANSEF, Friends of MANSEF or questions about this toolkit, please contact:

Dorie Flynn
Executive Director
MANSEF
P.O. Box 6815
Baltimore, MD 21285
www.mansef.org
(410) 938-4413
mansef@aol.com

Disclaimer:

*MANSEF makes no endorsement of any of the organizations or individuals included in this toolkit. Content in the kit is for informational and educational purposes only. No information in this guide should be taken as legal advice. MANSEF takes no responsibility and assumes no liability for any information relied upon from this guide. This is not an all-inclusive listing. This is the first edition with the expectation to add additional resources as time permits. The intent is to be a guide for families.
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An Overview

Life is all about transitions. Throughout the day, we transition from one activity to another or one location to another. We also transition from one stage of life to another.

For your child with special needs, daily transitions can be daunting and life stage transitions can be overwhelming. To ensure a more successful and less stressful transition from school to adult pursuits, you and your child will begin the process of transition planning when your child reaches age 14.

The Transition Plan that your child, you and your child's IEP team develop will become the driving force of your child's IEP. It will be updated annually to reflect your child's career plans and includes employment, postsecondary education or training goals as well as independent living goals.

Another aspect of transition planning includes linking your child to state agencies that may provide supports and services to your child after he/she exits the school system. It is important to note that your child will be moving from an entitlement-based education system to an eligibility-based "adult" services system. Transition planning also includes identifying and linking your child with recreational and social opportunities in your home community.

Transition planning should be as self-directed as possible, with your child's wishes at the forefront. It is an opportunity to explore career areas of interest as well as postsecondary education and training programs.

To obtain further information about the transition process, visit www.MDTransition.org, the state-sponsored website that features tabs on transition planning, college and secondary educational options, employment services, health care, transportation and additional resources; each tab contains expanded information on related topics. The website, established by the Governor's Interagency Transition Council (IATC), also features planning guides from a variety of sources, such as the [Maryland State Department of Education](#) (MSDE), the [Maryland Coalition of Families](#) and MSDE's [Division of Rehabilitation Services](#). Finally, the website offers a variety of [fact sheets](#) covering such topics as assistive technology, employment and career options, tips for parents, travel training and educational issues.

There are many other resources available to students with challenges and their families on a local, regional and state level; this toolkit seeks to provide information and resources on most aspects of postsecondary life to help guide the transition process. Topics to be discussed include Supplemental Security Income (SSI), medical/health care, mental health needs, employment, education, recreational and community opportunities, transportation, legal issues and many others.

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One key item to look for when a youth exits the school system is the appropriately named Maryland Summary of Performance, a companion document to the Maryland High School Diploma and Maryland High School Certificate of Completion. All students receiving special education services through an IEP receive a Maryland Summary of Performance Document, which summarizes the student's skills, strengths and interests while also providing information that may be useful as the student transitions from school to postsecondary activities, including employment, education or independent living.

The question of disability disclosure is an important consideration. Many youth with challenges may display symptoms of their disability(ies) that are obvious to others in their community. Others, however, may have "silent" or "hidden" disabilities that impact their ability to successfully navigate day-to-day situations. Individuals **must** disclose disabilities to receive accommodations in postsecondary education settings and in work settings, but when and how to disclose is a highly personal decision. Part of transition planning should include a [review of disability disclosure information](#) to help youth make informed decisions that may affect their educational, employment and social lives.

There are other transition-related items to consider. If the youth is not getting a driver's license, the local Motor Vehicle Administration can issue a Maryland ID card—which will be needed for ID purposes when flying, for example, and in other instances when a state-issued photo ID will be requested. Males must register with the Selective Service upon reaching age 18, regardless of disability. Youth may register to vote upon reaching age 18 as well. Finally, some thought should be given to matters of health care and health insurance—will the youth be able to maintain current insurance? What about current providers? Many times, the youth will need to transition to an adult provider from a pediatric provider.

Legal issues also can come to the forefront for a transitioning youth, as the age of majority in Maryland is 18—meaning all rights to make life-related decisions transfer to the student from their parents or guardians, including decisions related to health situations and mental health care.

In summary, this is a time of change and movement; it can be fraught with uncertainty and potential roadblocks. It also can be an exciting time of growth and skill development as your child prepares to enter the adult world.

It is our intention, as parents of children with special needs, to make you aware of the resources we have discovered through our children's journey to adulthood. It is our hope this guide will help you and your children avoid the roadblocks and successfully navigate the road from school to postsecondary pursuits.

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Transition Glossary

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I. State Agencies

A. Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

<http://dda.dhmh.maryland.gov>

(410) 767-5600

1-877-4MD-DHMH

201 W. Preston St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201

webmaster.dda@maryland.gov

The DDA provides funding for a variety of services for people with disabilities. While DDA funding generally is associated with services for adults (age 21 and older) related to meeting their needs for training, employment and housing, DDA also can fund services for children and their families through **Family Support Services**. The intent of DDA funding for children younger than age 21 is to provide necessary supports to prevent and resolve crises.

DDA-funded services for transitioning youth are provided through the Community Pathways Waiver. **To be served by DDA under this waiver, your child must have Medical Assistance (MA number)**. The Community Pathways Waiver has two options: the traditional option, in which services and supports are provided to the individual by a provider organization, and the self-directed option, in which services and supports are provided to the individual by staff that are hired and managed by the individual recipient, assisted by a support broker and fiscal manager.

In addition, the Governor's Transitioning Youth Initiative (GTYI) is a collaboration funded through a partnership between the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and DDA. The purpose of this initiative is to show that all students with disabilities can work and contribute to Maryland's future after leaving school.

For a listing of licensed DDA providers, please go to the DDA website and click on the Provider Listing for your region.

For a list of the email addresses for the Regional Offices, go to <http://dda.dhmh.maryland.gov/pages/Regional Offices.aspx>.

Regional Offices:

Central Maryland Regional Office

(Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Harford and Howard Counties)

(410) 234-8200

1401 Severn St., Baltimore, MD 21230

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Eastern Shore Regional Office

(Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties)

(410) 572-5920; 1-888-219-0478

TDD Line: 1-800-735-2258

926 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804

Southern Maryland Regional Office

(Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties)

(301) 362-5100; 1-888-207-2479

TDD: (301) 363-5131

312 Marshall Ave., 7th Floor, Laurel, MD 20707

Western Maryland Regional Office

(Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett and Washington Counties)

(301) 791-4670; 1-800-735-2258; 1-888-791-0193

1360 Marshall St., Hagerstown, MD 21740

B. Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)

<http://dors.maryland.gov>

(410) 554-9442; 888-554-0334

2301 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218

ddors@maryland.gov

The Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) offers programs and services that help people with disabilities go to work. DORS is an agency of the Maryland State Department of Education. DORS programs include:

- The Office of Field Services, which prepares people with disabilities to go to work or helps them to stay on the job. Rehabilitation counselors provide or arrange for services that may include career counseling, assistive technology, vocational training and/or job placement assistance.
- The Office for Blindness & Vision Services (OBVS), which specializes in helping people whose primary disability is blindness or vision loss go to work and stay independent.
- The Workforce & Technology Center (WTC), a comprehensive rehabilitation facility that offers career assessment services, career and skills training, job placement assistance, assistive technology services and other medical and support services.

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Regional Offices:

Baltimore City and Eastern Baltimore County Regional Office
410-333-6119
TTY or VP: 410-333-5288
1010 Park Ave., Suite 110, Baltimore, MD 21201
region3.dors@maryland.gov

Central Maryland and Upper Shore Regional Office
(Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Howard and Kent Counties)
410-998-2040
TTY or VP: 410-321-4035
10461 Mill Run Circle, Suite LL1, Owings Mills, MD 21117
region5.dors@maryland.gov

D.C. Suburbs Regional Office
(Montgomery and Prince George's Counties)
301-306-3600
TTY or VP: 301-200-8084
4451-Z Parliament Place, Lanham, MD 20706
region6.dors@maryland.gov

Southern Maryland and Lower Shore Regional Office
(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Carolina, Charles, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties)
410-974-7604
2525 Riva Road, Suite 101
Annapolis, MD 21401
region2.dors@maryland.gov

Western Maryland Regional Office
(Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett and Washington Counties)
301-733-1341
TTY or VP 301-200-8082
16 W. Washington St., Hagerstown, MD 21740
region1.dors@maryland.gov

C. Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)

<http://bha.dhmh.maryland.gov/Pages/index.aspx>
(410) 402-8300; 410-402-8600
Dix, Mitchell and Vocational Rehabilitation Buildings
55 Wade Ave., Catonsville, MD 21228

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The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Behavioral Health provides an integrated process for planning, policy and services to ensure that a coordinated quality system of care is available to individuals with behavioral health conditions. The Behavioral Health Administration, through publicly funded services and supports, promotes recovery, resiliency, health and wellness for individuals who have emotional, substance use, addictive and/or psychiatric disorders.

Statewide Advocacy

The Parents' Place of Maryland

801 Cromwell Park Drive, Suite 103, Glen Burnie, MD 21061

1-800-394-5694 or 410-768-9100

info@ppmd.org

www.ppmd.org

Parent-led organization to empower families as advocates and partners in improving education and health outcomes for their children with disabilities and special health care needs.

Maryland State Department of Education

Parent Resource Centers

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/divisions/earlyinterv/infant_toddlers/about/family_support_services.htm

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II. Benefits

A. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI)

Supplemental Security Income

www.SocialSecurity.gov/disabilityssi/ssi

SSI is a federal assistance program designed to provide income to older, blind or disabled people who have limited assets with which to support themselves. The SSI program is managed by the Social Security Administration (SSA), but financed by the general tax fund. Because the program is not financed by Social Security taxes, there are no work requirements necessary to qualify for SSI.

When a person age 18 or older applies for SSI, the Social Security Administration also will determine whether they are eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), which is based on the individual's own earnings history. Since the vast majority of individuals with a disability turning 18 years old have not had any gainful/paid employment, they will be deemed not eligible for SSDI. However, the Social Security Administration automatically reviews their eligibility for SSDI when they apply for SSI, and sends a letter stating their eligibility status.

Apply Online: www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability

A person age 18 or older with a qualifying disability can apply for monthly benefits as soon as they turn 18 years old. There are restrictions in terms of the amount of income (both earned and unearned) they can have, as well as the amount of assets they can have.

Social Security Administration

www.ssa.gov

Social Security Office Locator
(800) 772-1213

The application for SSI begins by contact the Social Security office closest to the person's home to request an interview. The application form can be completed and submitted online prior to the interview. It is helpful to bring to the interview a copy of the completed application and copies of all relevant documents.

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Maryland PROMISE Project

<http://mdpromise.org>

(888) 232-8554

mdpromise@transcen.org

The Maryland PROMISE Project is a new statewide program to assist children ages 14–16 who are receiving SSI in transitioning successfully from school to adulthood. The program offers career-related services to help participants achieve better outcomes, including graduating from high school ready for college and a career, enrolling in postsecondary education and job training, and obtaining competitive employment in an integrated setting. Services also are offered to eligible family members.

B. Medical Assistance (MA)

Maryland Medical Assistance Program

(855) 642-8572

www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details

<https://mmcp.dhmf.maryland.gov/SitePages/Home>

Medicaid, also called Medical Assistance, is a program that pays the medical bills of certain needy and low-income individuals. It is administered by the state and pays medical bills with federal and state funds.

Medicaid coverage automatically is granted to individuals receiving other public assistance, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) and Foster Care.

Low-income families, children, pregnant women, and aged, blind or disabled adults also may qualify for Medicaid. You can have private health insurance and be eligible for Medicaid.

You must file an application to find out whether you are eligible for Medicaid. To do this, you can apply online at www.marylandhealthconnection.gov, or apply by telephone, or request a paper application by calling the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange Consolidated Service Center at (855) 642-8572 or TTY (855) 642-8573. You also may go to the local Department of Social Services where you live.

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C. Food Stamps

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Department of Human Resources (DHR)
311 West Saratoga St., Baltimore, MD 21201
(800) 332-6347
www.dhr.state.md.us/blog/?page_id=5514

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), called the Food Supplement Program (FSP) in Maryland, formerly known as Food Stamps, helps low-income households buy the food they need for good health.

Applicants must file an application, be interviewed, and meet all financial and technical eligibility factors prior to issuance of FSP benefits. Some people who have little or no money may qualify for Expedited Food Supplement benefits right away.

File an application with your local Department of Social Services. You also may file an application by mail, fax or go to <https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us/dashboardclient/#/home> to apply online.

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III. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Maryland Association of Community Colleges

www.mdacc.org

Provides information about Maryland's 16 community colleges that have credit programs, and continuing education and workforce development courses.

College Living Experience

www.experiencecle.com

401 North Washington Street, Suite 420

Rockville, Maryland 20850

800-486-5058

College Living Experience (CLE) has been providing post-secondary supports to students with autism, Asperger's Syndrome, ADHD, and other varying exceptionalities. Dedicated to providing the highest quality of individualized services in the areas of academics, independent living, social skills, and career development, CLE supports are tailored to each young adult we serve. It is through personalized services, our team celebrates the uniqueness of students in such a way that we are able to make a lasting impact in their lives and in their communities.

George Mason University

Mason LIFE Program

www.masonlife.gmu.edu

(703) 993-3905

Helen A. Kellar Institute for Human Disabilities

Graduate School of Education

4400 University Drive, MSN 1F2

Fairfax, VA 22030

Fairfax, VA

The Mason LIFE (Learning Into Future Environments) Program is a supportive academic university experience offering a four-year curriculum of study to post-secondary students, ages 18–23, with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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Online Resources

www.thinkcollege.net

<http://Studentaid.ed.gov/Eligibility/Intellectual-Disabilities>

www.MDtransition.org

Federal Student Aid

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/ifap/index.jsp>

Postsecondary Prep Programs

Best Buddies

www.bestbuddies.org

(410) 327-9812

1-877-MY-BUDDY

Enables students with intellectual and other disabilities to participate in a mutual friendship with general education peers.

Project Access Summer Institute

www.howardcc.edu/services-support/academic-support/disability-support-services/project-access/

Howard County Community College, Columbia, MD

(410) 772-4625

Intensive, four-week program of instruction in academics, college success skills and career counseling. Designed to facilitate the transition of high school students with disabilities into postsecondary education.

Project College Bound Adolescent and Employment Readiness Center

Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC

Informational workshops on a quarterly basis for parents and students and summer institute for students with disabilities grades 10–12 who plan to transition to postsecondary education setting.

Community College of Baltimore County - Single Step

www.ccbcmd.edu/Programs-and-Courses/Adults-with-Disabilities.aspx

Single Step provides students with academic, pre-vocational, social and independent living skills.

Education and Training

Adventist Community Services

(301) 585-6556

Silver Spring, MD

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Offers courses twice a year in GED and life skills.

The George Washington University Health Resource Center

<https://heath.gwu.edu>

Operates the national clearinghouse on postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities.

Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education (GITE)

(240) 567-7905

Montgomery College, Rockville, MD

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/department2.aspx?id=21388>

State-of-the-art technical education and training facility offering instructional programs in automotive, building and construction, and computer publishing and printing

Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program

(410) 767-2246

Baltimore, MD

www.dllr.state.md.us/

Registration and certification agency for skilled trade programs in the state.

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IV. EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Maryland Work Incentives Network

www.innow.org/md-win/md-win

www.md-win.org

(301) 277-2839

TDD: Use Maryland Relay: 711

12301 Old Columbia Pike, Suite 101, Silver Spring, MD 20904

401 Hungerford Drive, 3rd Floor, Rockville, MD 20850

1300 Caraway Court, Suite 200, Largo, MD 20774

6420 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20748

DORS

<http://dors.maryland.gov/crps/Pages/resources.aspx>

PETS – Pre-employment Training Services

Maryland Transitioning Youth Website

www.mdtransition.org

Transition Planning Guide: Preparing Children with Disabilities to Move from School to Appropriate Postsecondary Outcomes

Choose Work

www.choosework.net

Get answers to your questions, access information and resources, and receive expert advice on work incentives and the Ticket to Work Program.

Independent Living Experience

www.independentlivingexperience.org

Independent Living Experience (ILE) is a customized support service for adults with disabilities desiring a life of independence. The client receives personalized supports to assist in the process of creating meaningful and valuable circles of support. A circle of support provides assistance, guidance, relationships, safety, and community to our clients. ILE will provide job coaching for clients both in and outside the workplace to remain a productive employee.

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V. Mental Health Resources

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/dhmh/>

(410) 767-6500

1-877-4MD-DHMH (1-877-463-3464)

dhmh.healthmd@maryland.gov

201 W. Preston St., Baltimore, MD 21201

dhmh.healthmd@maryland.gov

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is tasked with ensuring that a comprehensive system of mental health services and supports are available and accessible for adults from age 18 throughout the lifespan. Mental health programs administered through the Mental Hygiene Administration include a variety of services, such as group homes, vocational programs, mobile treatment services, outpatient mental health centers, psychiatric rehabilitation programs, psychiatric day treatment services, residential rehabilitation programs, residential crisis services and respite care.

Resources/Supports

Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF)

www.mdcoalition.org

(410) 730-8267

10632 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 234, Columbia, MD 21044

(888) 607-3637

info@mdcoalition.org

Information and resources specifically targeting the needs of transition-age youth with mental health challenges. This includes having on staff a transition-age youth specialist to assist families of individuals ages 16–24 years, and having a handbook titled “Navigating the Transition Years” as well as a workshop for families that covers the information in the handbook.

Maryland Transitioning Youth

www.mdtransition.org/Health_Care.htm

This comprehensive website full of assistance for transition-age youth in Maryland includes a section devoted to information and resources about mental health services.

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On Our Own Maryland

www.onourownmd.org

7310 Esquire Court, 3rd Floor, Elkridge, MD 21075

(410) 540-9020

ooomd@onourownmd.org

Statewide mental health consumer education and advocacy group that promotes equality in all aspects of society for people who receive mental health services and develops alternative, recovery-based mental health initiatives.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Maryland

www.namimd.org

10630 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 475, Columbia, MD 21044

(410) 884-8691

Provides educational resources and events, statewide outreach, advocacy and affiliate organizational support. Local NAMI Maryland affiliates offer free peer support, education and outreach programs, and engage mental health advocates in their communities.

Transition Year

www.transitionyear.org

Online resource center to help parents and students focus on emotional health before, during and after the transition to college. The site provides resources to help address emotional issues that are most likely to interfere with success at college.

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VI. Health

All youth with disabilities and special health care needs eventually will move from a pediatric to an adult health care system. There are a number of resources available to help this transition be successful.

**The Maryland Department of Mental Health and Hygiene (DHMH)'s
Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs
Youth to Young Adult Health Care Transition**

<http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics>

(410) 767-5602

Provides information about helping young people with special health care needs plan their move from the child-centered health care system to the adult-centered health care system.

Maryland Transitioning Youth

www.mdtransition.org

Got Transition

www.gottransition.org

Website dedicated to improving health care transition supports for youth moving into the adult health care system. It includes information about a variety of resources for youth, families and providers.

Healthy Transitions

<http://healthytransitionsny.org>

This website was developed by the New York State Developmental Disabilities Council and focuses on helping youth with developmental disabilities, ages 14 to 25, to foster self-determination through new skills, videos and tools.

Resources

“A Youth Guide to Transition from Pediatric to Adult Health Care” and Toolkit

<http://mahec.net/innovation-and-research/special-initiatives/chat-project>

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“Transition to Adulthood: A Health Care Guide for Youth and Families”
<http://autisticadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/ASAN-healthcare-toolkit-final.pdf>. Developed by the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN), this toolkit provides information for people with disabilities and their families about how to choose a source of health care coverage, create a health care support network, integrate health care transition goals into their educational plans and manage their health care. It includes useful guides and worksheets for keeping track of health care records, making doctor’s appointments and talking to doctors about health concerns.

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VII. Transportation Options

Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)

<http://mta.maryland.gov>

(6 St. Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21202

410) 539-5000

Toll Free: 1-866-RIDE-MTA (1-866-743-3682)

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is a division of the Maryland Department of Transportation. MTA operates local and commuter buses, light rail, Metro subway, Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) train service and a comprehensive Paratransit (Mobility) system. MTA also manages the Taxi Access system.

<http://mta.maryland.gov/Mobility>

Mobility/Paratransit service is for citizens who are unable to use local bus, Metro/subway or light rail service. Mobility/Paratransit service is provided by the MTA via contracts with Veolia Transportation, MV Transportation and First Transit Inc.

Taxi Access

www.taxiaccess.org

(410) 664-2030

The MTA Call-a-Ride Service is available to MTA-certified Mobility customers who meet eligibility requirements. Call-a-Ride Service is not part of MTA Mobility Service, but rather a separate and distinct MTA service provided under contract by participating area taxicab and sedan companies. Customers deal directly with the companies.

Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration

www.mva.maryland.gov

Includes information on how to apply for a driver's license (Rookie Driver program, driver's education opportunities with accommodations, reporting medical conditions) and how to apply for a disability license plate or placard.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

www.wmata.com/accessibility

(202) 962-1100

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) was created by an interstate compact in 1967 to plan, develop, build, finance and operate a balanced regional transportation system in the national capital area.

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Metro Access

www.wmata.com

8405 Colesville Road, Building 3, 4th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 562-5360

[www.wmata.com/accessibility/doc/Accessible Transportation Options](http://www.wmata.com/accessibility/doc/Accessible_Transportation_Options)

Will help people with disabilities and senior citizens coordinate their transportation needs. It includes a comprehensive listing of public transportation options available in Maryland (the counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, Anne Arundel and Baltimore, and Baltimore City and Central Maryland), as well as in DC and Northern Virginia.

[www.wmata.com/accessibility/doc/sd tips brochure](http://www.wmata.com/accessibility/doc/sd_tips_brochure)

Provides a lot of useful information about riding Metro for people with disabilities and senior citizens. It includes information on reduced fares for people with disabilities and senior citizens, customer assistance telephone numbers, tips for riding Metrobus and Metrorail, and answers to frequently asked questions.

[www.wmata.com/accessibility/doc/Reduced Fare Application](http://www.wmata.com/accessibility/doc/Reduced_Fare_Application)

Includes information about program qualifications, explains how to obtain a reduced fare Metro Disability ID card, and describes the eligibility and certification process.

Travel Training

Travel training is designed to teach individuals with disabilities how to travel safely and independently on accessible, fixed-route public transportation, such as bus, subway and light rail. Specifically trained personnel provide the travel training in a group or on a one-to-one basis. Travel training is provided by both the [Maryland Transit Administration](#) (MTA) and the [Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority](#) (WMATA).

DORS Driver Evaluations — The Workforce and Technology Center Division of Rehabilitation Services accepts only DORS clients. The listed providers are known to the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to be able to complete driving assessments/evaluations for medical fitness to drive.

www.mva.maryland.gov/resources/docs/ot-driving-rehabList.pdf

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VIII. Recreation and Community Opportunities

Anne Arundel County

*Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks
Adaptive Recreation Programs (Annapolis)*

www.aacounty.org/RecParks/recreation/adaptive

(410) 222-7313 ext. 3554

Offer a variety of programs year-round, including sports activities and social activities.

Best Buddies

www.bestbuddiesmaryland.org

(410) 327-9812

Offer programs designed to foster one-to-one friendships between students with and without disabilities in middle school, high school and college. Also offers a “Citizens” program to foster friendships between adults with and without disabilities in corporate and civic communities and “e-Buddies,” a safe online forum to develop one-to-one friendships between people with and without disabilities.

Challenger Baseball

Marley Area Little League

(410) 987-1937

Baseball program for children 5 and older with disabilities.

Mane Event Equestrian Program

Andover Equestrian Center (Linthicum Heights)

www.ManeEventRide.org

(410) 662-7858

Equestrian program serves riders of all ages, abilities, and skill levels. Program focuses on special needs and physical therapy, including therapeutic riding.

Maryland Therapeutic Riding (Crownsville)

www.horsethatheal.org

(410) 923-6800

Offer horseback riding programs for children and adults with a wide range of physical, mental and emotional challenges. Programs include therapeutic riding, hippo therapy and horsemanship lessons.

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Special Olympics of Anne Arundel County

www.soaamd.org

(410) 923-0383

Offers a variety of programs year-round, including sports activities and social activities.

Baltimore City

Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks

Therapeutic Recreation

Farring Baybrook Recreation Center

<http://bcrp.baltimorecity.gov/recreation/therapeuticrecreation>

(410) 396-1550

Offers a variety of programs year-round, including sports activities and social activities.

Downtown Sailing Center (Baltimore City)

www.downtownsailing.org/accessible

Accessible sailing opportunities in downtown Baltimore.

Jewish Community Services

www.jcsbaltimore.org

(410) 466-9200

CS residences enable adults with developmental disabilities to live as independently as possible and participate fully in community life. Currently, JCS provides residential services in nine professionally staffed homes—Alternative Living Units (ALUs)—in Northwest Baltimore City/Baltimore County communities. Each ALU is home to three adults with developmental disabilities.

Baltimore County

Allied Sports

www.bcps.org/offices/athletics/alliedSports

(410) 887-2328

6901 North Charles St., Towson, MD 21204

Interscholastic inclusive program that affords students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in high school sports alongside their nondisabled peers.

Baltimore Adapted Recreation and Sports

www.barsinfo.org

(410) 771-4606

Community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing year-round recreational opportunities to both children and adults with disabilities.

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

*Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks
Office of Therapeutic Recreation Services*

www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/recreation/programdivision/therapeutic

Loch Raven Center
1801 Glen Keith Blvd., Parkville, MD
(410) 887-5370

Provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities and services for individuals with disabilities countywide.

Baltimore Saints Hockey

www.baltimoresaintshockey.org

(410) 370-1818
P.O. Box 42793, Towson, MD 21284

Hockey program for both children and adults with traumatic brain injury or intellectual disability such as autism or Down syndrome.

IMAGE Center

300 East Joppa Road, Suite 312
Towson Maryland 21286

Phone: 410-982-6311

Fax: 410-372-4037

info@imagemd.org

Offers independent living skills training, advocacy, peer mentoring and community outreach.

Maryland Danceability Special Needs Performing Arts

Specialneedkids@gmail.com

www.danceability.webs.com

1711 Poplar Place, Dundalk, MD 21222

Founded with the vision that people of all abilities have the right to dance, move and shake. Classes open to all ages.

Rebounders

www.rebounders.com

(410) 252-3374

7 W. Aylesbury Road, Timonium, MD 21093

Sensory/motor/gymnastics program for children of all ages with any minimal to severe physical, mental, emotional, social, language or sensory challenges.

Special Olympics Maryland, Baltimore County

www.somdba.org

info@somdba.org

Offers a variety of sports training and competition programs year round.

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Charles County

Melwood Access Adventures (Nanjemoy)

(301) 870-3226

www.melwood.com

Fun, friendships and vacations for adults and children with developmental and physical disabilities.

Special Olympics Charles County

www.charlescountymd.gov/cs/recreation/special-olympics-charles-county

(301) 934-9305

Special Olympics Maryland, in partnership with the Charles County Department of Community Services, offers year-round programs for athletic conditioning, training and competition.

Frederick County

Boys and Girls Clubs of Frederick County (Frederick)

<http://bgcfc.org>

(301) 600-1875

413 Burck St., Frederick MD, 21701

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Frederick County provide a safe place for Frederick-area children ages 6–18 to go after school and during the summer. Programs are offered in six core areas: character and leadership; education and career; health and life skills; the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; and computer technology.

Camp Journey Adolescent Respite Program (Frederick)

www.waystationinc.org

(301) 682-3446 or 1-888-878-5066 ext. 6149

Located near the scenic Catoctin Mountains, Camp Journey Adolescent Respite Program serves families with adolescents who are currently active in therapy to deal with emotional and behavioral challenges. A program where adolescents from the ages of 11 to 17 can have regularly scheduled visits of a few hours a week, a day or two a week, or a couple weekends a month, while participating in a variety of activities, such as hiking, fishing, swimming and trips.

Challenger Little League

Fred Laliberte (301) 694-8673

Guy Berry (301) 471-9701

geberry@comcast.net

Any child with disabilities who wants to have lots of fun can play in this Little League. Previous experience is not necessary to be part of this wonderful program, just a willingness to play and wear a real baseball uniform.

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Frederick County 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program (Lewistown)

www.fc4htrp.org

(301) 898-3587

Successful and experienced horseback riding program for children with all types of disabilities.

Frederick County Parks and Recreation — Friday Night Rec. (Frederick)

www.recreator.com

301-600-2936

A program designed for persons with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities, ages 14 years and older.

Special Olympics

www.somdfrederick.org

Anne MacDonald (301) 694-7779

amacdonald@somd.org

Providing year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for all children and adults with intellectual and other disabilities. Check the website to see all the different activities.

YMCA Kids Unlimited Programs

www.frederickymca.org

Kelly Presnell (301) 663-5131, ext. 1248

kpresnell@frederickymca.org

1000 North Market St., Frederick, MD 21701

Programs for children and young adults with special needs—Respite care, parents' night out (evening and weekend hours), unified summer camps. In addition, children may attend a variety of general camp programs, with staff accommodations provided whenever possible. Will try to accommodate all students with special needs on a case-by-case basis.

Howard County

Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts

6655 Dobbin Road, #4, Columbia, MD

(410) 381-0700

www.cctarts.com

Programs include musical theatre for individuals with special needs.

Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks

Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusion Services

www.howardcountymd.gov/TREC

Susan Potts, (410) 313-4628, spotts@howardcountymd.gov

Ruth Coleman, (410) 313-4708, rucoleman@howardcountymd.gov

Offer a wide variety of activities for individuals with disabilities of all ages.

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Kinetics Dance Theatre School of Contemporary Dance
3280 Pine Orchard Lane, Ellicott City, MD
(410) 480-1686

www.kineticsdance.org

Programs include classes for individuals with special needs.

MarTar Swim School
6801-B Douglas Legume Drive, Elkridge, MD 21075
(410) 799-8887

martarswimming@comcast.net

Teach individuals with disabilities to swim.

Special Olympics Maryland, Howard County

www.somdhc.org

(410) 740-0500

Provide year-round training and competitive sports program for children and adults with disabilities.

Therapeutic Recreational Riding Center

3750 Shady Lane, Glenwood, MD

(410) 489-5100

info@trrcmd.org

www.trrcmd.org

Provide physical and occupational therapy on horseback; work with individuals with a range of disabilities.

Montgomery County

Adventist Health Care (Silver Spring)

(301) 439-1401

Adult program operates weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to serve recreational (and other) needs.

American Red Cross (Silver Spring)

(301) 588-2515

www.redcross.org

Offers health and safety classes on first aid and lifeguarding.

Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts Bapa's Imagination Stage (Bethesda)

(301) 961-6060

www.imaginationstage.org

Theater program offered for people with disabilities.

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

B’Nai B’rith Youth Organization (Rockville)

(301) 984-6073

Offers a social group for persons with disabilities ages 13–21; one parent must be Jewish.

Chi Centers (Silver Spring)

(301) 439-4330

www.chicenters.org

Organizes outings for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Interplay Company at Strathmore (Bethesda)

(301) 229-0829

www.interplayband.org

Music performance program for adults (17 and older) with and without disabilities.

Jewish Community Center (Rockville)

(301) 881-0100

www.jccgw.org

Hevara Young Adult Group — socialization groups for those ages 18–25 with disabilities.

Independent Living Skills — variety of classes for adults 18 and older (swimming, dance, art, cooking, money management, relationships, etc.).

Jewish Youth Philanthropy Institute (Rockville)

(301) 348-7348

www.jypi.org

Teens paired with teens and/or adults with developmental disabilities to perform community service work.

Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute, Maryland Division (Rockville)

(202) 281-2700

www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/developmentaldisabilities

Community Companions program provides an after-school social/recreation program for individuals with developmental disabilities up to age 21.

Making Connections (Bethesda)

(301) 656-9140

A friendship and singles group for adults with developmental disabilities.

Montgomery Cheetahs Special Hockey

www.montgomerycheetahs.org

montgomerycheetans@gmail.com.

Bring together kids of all ages with a developmental disability to teach the game of hockey and sportsmanship.

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Montgomery County Department of Recreation (Silver Spring)
(240) 777-6870

Offers a range of therapeutic recreation programs (mainstreaming available) for individuals with disabilities.

Potomac Community Resources (Potomac)
(301) 365-0561

www.pcr-inc.org

Provides social, recreational, therapeutic and education programs and supports for teens and adults with developmental disabilities.

Rock Creek Foundation for Mental Health Socialization Program (Silver Spring)

(301) 589-8303

Offers a socialization program for individuals ages 18 and older.

SEEC (Values in Action) (Rockville)

(301) 576-9000, ext. 250

www.seeconline.org

Medical day care program that provides recreational and therapeutic support for those 16 and older.

Special Olympics Maryland, Montgomery County

www.somdmontgomery.org

director@somdmontgomery.org

Provides a year-round sports program for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Upcounty Community Resources Inc. (upper Montgomery County)

www.UCResources.org

Provide social outings and day programming for individuals with developmental differences.

YMCA (Bethesda-Chevy Chase)

(301) 530-2735

www.ymca.net

Offers a Saturday morning adaptive swim program for children and adults.

Prince George's County

ManeStream Therapeutic Riding Program

9439 Merkel Road, Bowie, MD 20715

(703) 431-0564

ames610@gmail.com

(410) 322-2993

lauriebay@msn.com

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Therapeutic horseback riding lessons to children and adults with disabilities.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

www.mncppc.org

Mission is to improve the quality of life for all of Maryland citizens and of the communities in which these citizens live, including providing leisure and recreational experiences.

Special Programs Division

7833 Walker Drive, Suite 110, Greenbelt, MD 20770

(301) 446-3400

Information in Spanish: (301) 445-4509

TTY: (301) 446-3402

[www.pgpparks.com/Things To Do/Individuals with Disabilities.htm](http://www.pgpparks.com/Things_To_Do/Individuals_with_Disabilities.htm)

Kids-Day-Out (KDO) therapeutic recreation and extended care programs, spring camps, updated disability program and service information.

Special Olympics Maryland

www.eteamz.com/somdpqc

Trish Miles, patricia.miles@pgcps.org

Martin Lampe, martin.lampe@nrl.navy.mil

Bob Janus, (301) 808-4087

Dave Gill, (301) 253-4758

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for people with developmental disabilities.

Washington Ice Dogs Special Hockey (Laurel)

www.washingtonicedogs.org

Mike Hickey, President

Mhickey@specialhockey.org

Provides children and young adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to play ice hockey.

Summer Camps/Vacation/Miscellaneous Resources

Melwood's Camp Accomplish and Access Adventure

(301) 599-8000

<https://www.melwood.org>

Summer sleep-away camp for children and teens with and without disabilities. Also offers supported vacations throughout the year.

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Joni and Friends

www.joniandfriends.org

Offers five-day retreats for families of children with disabilities in multiple locations around the United States.

The League for People with Disabilities

www.leagueforpeople.org

(410) 323-0500

Year-round camping.

Summer Camp Guide

Baltimore's Child Magazine

www.baltimoreschild.com

www.thearcofpgc.org

The Arc of Prince George's County offers a directory of day and overnight camps and vacation planning for children and adults with special needs.

Trips Inc.

<http://tripsinc.com>

1-800-686-1013

Offers travel vacations throughout the United States and internationally to people of various abilities in a safe, respectful and fun atmosphere.

Vacation Programs

Easter Seals

www.easterseals.com/de/our-programs/camping-recreation

Hammer Travel

www.hammertravel.org

Offers a variety of travel opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Jewish Community Center Camps

www.jcc.org/camps/owings-mills/special-needs

The League for People With Disabilities

www.leagueforpeople.org/programs-services/camping-therapeutic-recreation

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

The Sarah Petit Fund

Administered by the Arc of Prince Georges County

spetitfund@thearcofpgc.org

Supplements recreational and travel expenses for people with developmental disabilities.

YMCA Special Needs Camp

<https://frederickymca.org/programs/camps/summer-day-camps/kids-unlimited>

Young Life Capernaum Camp

www.younglife.org/ForEveryKid/Capernaum/Pages/default.aspx

IX. Sexuality and Relationships

Adaptive Behavior and ASD: Life, Safety, Independence and Community Competence

Dr. Peter F. Gerhardt

[www.inca2014.com/sunular/ingilizce/Peter Gerhardt .pdf](http://www.inca2014.com/sunular/ingilizce/Peter_Gerhardt.pdf)

Adolescents on the Autism Spectrum

Chantal Sicle-Kira

www.amazon.com/Adolescents-Autism-Spectrum-Cognitive-Transition

Guide to the cognitive, emotional, social and physical needs of preteens and teenagers with autistic disorders.

The Boy's Body Book

Kelli Dunham

www.amazon.com/Boys-Body-Book-Everything-Growing/dp/1604335742?ie=UTF8&qid=&ref =tmm_pap_swatch_0&sr=

Topics include: From hair care to athlete's foot, a head-to-toe guide to what's happening with your changing body. Your guide to the care and keeping of friends, parents, teachers, brothers and sisters.

The Importance of Social and Sexual Education for Individuals with Down Syndrome

Leslie Walker-Hirsch, M.Ed., FAAMR

www.ndss.org/Resources/Wellness/Sexuality/Social-and-Sexual-Education

Author is a social development and sexuality consultant and co-creator of CIRCLES, a multimedia program for teaching individuals with cognitive disabilities about social and sexual relationships and boundaries.

Life Journey Through Autism: A Guide to Safety

Organization for Autism Research

www.researchautism.org/resources/reading/index.asp#AGuideToSafety

The guide is written by parents, first responders, educators and community members who share their strategies and resources to address safety threats that commonly arise during childhood, adolescence and adulthood. This tool will educate parents about how to prevent and mitigate emergency events, safety threats that may affect their child in the future, and how to teach safety habits that will build a foundation for safety in adulthood.

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Our Whole Lives Curriculum

Unitarian Universalist Association

www.uua.org/re/owl

Honest, accurate information about how sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making and has the potential to save lives.

Sexuality Education for Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Laura E. Solomon, Psy.D.

www.amazon.com/Sexuality-Relationship-Education-Adolescents-Disorders/dp/1849053855

Taking Care of Myself: A Hygiene, Puberty and Personal Curriculum for Young People with Autism

Mary Wrobel

www.amazon.com/Taking-Care-Myself-Personal-Curriculum/dp/1885477945

Through simple stories, the author teaches caregivers exactly what to say and not say, and shows how you can create helpful stories of your own. The ultimate goal is to maximize the child's potential for independence and lifelong social success. Helpful sections include hygiene; health; modesty; growth and development; menstruation; touching and personal safety; masturbation; and using a urinal.

The Unwritten Rules of Social Relationships; Decoding Social Mysteries Through the Unique Perspectives of Autism

Dr. Temple Grandin and Sean Barron

www.amazon.com/Unwritten-Rules-Social-Relationships-Perspectives/dp/193256506X?ie=UTF8&qid=1463520308&ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0&sr=1-1

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

X. Housing

Guide to Housing (National)

www.disability.gov/resource/disability-govs-guide-housing

This guide has information about government agencies and organizations that can help individuals with disabilities find an affordable place to live. It includes information about rental assistance programs, assisted living facilities and modifying a home to make it accessible.

Housing Resources (Maryland)

Developmental Disabilities Administration

<http://dda.dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/housinglinks>

This section of the DDA website includes links to a wide variety of information and resources in Maryland, including public housing, Centers for Independent Living, tax credits, improving a home to make it accessible, rental assistance and homeownership for individuals with disabilities.

Integrated Living Opportunities

www.ilonow.org

Integrated Living Opportunities (ILO) is a nonprofit organization serving Washington, DC, and Montgomery County, Maryland. ILO helps families create intentional communities to facilitate networks of support for adults with developmental disabilities (self -advocates) enabling them to live as integrated contributing members of their communities. These intentional communities of peers and caring people are connected to the self-advocates for the rest of their lives, even after the parents are gone.

Section 8 Housing (National)

www.gosection8.com

Resource affordable housing listing

Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council

www.msilc.org

The Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council (MSILC) is a governor-appointed advisory council that promotes independent living across the state of Maryland. The MSCILC is composed of people with disabilities, parents of disabled individuals, representatives of advocacy groups and service providers from public and private agencies. The MSILC is committed to enhancing freedom and independent decision making of individuals with disabilities.

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Centers for Independent Living

www.mdcilready.com

Community-based, cross-disability, nonprofit organizations that are designed and operated by people with disabilities. CILs are unique in that they operate according to a strict philosophy of consumer control, wherein people with all types of disabilities directly govern and staff the organization. Centers for Independent Living provide peer support; information and referral; individual and systems advocacy; and independent living skills training.

XI. Financial Planning/Legal Planning

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

“Planning Now: A Futures and Estate Planning Guide for Families of Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities”

www.md-council.org/publications-reports-videos/request-form

This comprehensive guide provides information for families of individuals with a wide range of disabilities. It was designed to explain important issues and ideas that families need to consider; provide a basic understanding of financial, legal and planning tools that can help families organize and develop their plan; and assist families in selecting and working effectively with planning professionals. It includes information about government financial and health care benefits, as well as information about wills, trusts and letters of intent.

Eligibility for government benefits depends on a person’s income and assets. Your child may not have more than \$2,000 in assets and resources at age 18 (an adult in the eyes of the law). It is critical to begin the planning.

M & L Special Needs Planning

<http://specialneedsplanning.net>

M&L Special Needs Planning’s mission is to educate families in an emphatic, methodical, non-threatening way. We do this by providing workshops and creating financial security with comprehensive special needs life plans and government benefit counseling for the individual with special needs, siblings and parents. Offers workshops on Navigating the Financial World of the Family with Special Needs to Understanding SSI/Medicaid & SSDI/Medicare.

Special Needs Alliance

www.specialneedsalliance.org

The Special Needs Alliance is a national, non-profit organization committed to helping individuals with disabilities, their families and the professionals who serve them. Many of our member attorneys have family members with special needs; all of them work regularly with public benefits, guardianships/conservatorships, planning for disabilities and special education issues.

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

XII. ID Cards

If you live in Maryland but do not have a driver's license, you can use a Maryland ID card as your photo identification to prove your identity, age or address.

Information about the ID card, including how to apply for a card, is available at the following sites:

DMV (not official government site)

www.dmv.org/md-maryland/id-cards.php

MVA (official government site)

www.mva.maryland.gov/drivers/apply/id-card.htm

Pathfinders for Autism

www.pathfindersforautism.org/articles/view/parent_tips_navigating-the-mva

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Transition Glossary

Accommodations—Changes in a work environment or in an educational setting that allow a person with a disability to perform the duties of a job or access the material for a class. These adjustments—frequently inexpensive or not very extensive—allow a person with a disability to have the same access to and success in a work or school setting.

Assistive Technology—Any item, piece of equipment or system used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Includes such items as communication devices, adapted appliances for accessible living, environmental control devices, modified housing, adapted computers and specialized software. These devices can be bought commercially or modified and customized to suit an individual.

Case Management—A service that helps people identify their strengths and needs to coordinate and locate community specialized services. This may include helping people make plans regarding financial decisions, personal relationships, etc. Also known as service coordination or resource coordination.

Centers for Independent Living (CIL)—Community-based, nonresidential, private nonprofit agencies that offer a wide range of services to help people with disabilities live independently. They are operated by and for individuals with significant disabilities.

Community Rehabilitation Programs—Private, nonprofit programs that provide rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities. In order to provide high-quality services throughout the state, DORS frequently purchases services from these sites, including career assessment services, work adjustment training, job placement services and supported employment.

Coordinator of Community Services —A person who assists a youth and family with transition planning and then accessing funds and programs to complete the transition plan. Local, regional, state and national resources may be discussed, such as information regarding employment, government benefits, advocacy, college, health insurance, housing, futures and estates planning, recreation, transportation and much more. Information is tailored to address each person's individualized plan.

Crisis Prevention (CP)—The second priority category for services funded by DDA. People in this category have been determined to have an urgent need for services, but do not qualify for Crisis Resolution. The person qualifies for this category by meeting one or more criteria as stated in the regulations.

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Crisis Resolution (CR)—The top priority category for services funded by DDA. To qualify for this category, the person has to be in a crisis by meeting one or more criteria as stated in the regulations.

Critical Needs List (CNL)—The name given to the waiting list for people who are eligible for and are requesting services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration.

Current Request—The third or lowest priority category for services funded by DDA. To qualify for this category, the applicant shall indicate at least a current need for services.

“DD” Eligible—One of two eligibility categories in which a person needs to meet the following criteria:

- Have a physical or mental condition other than a sole diagnosis of mental illness;
- The disability is considered severe and chronic in nature;
- The disability was manifested before the age of 22;
- The disability results in the person being unable to live independently; and
- The person needs assistance to plan and coordinate services.

Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)—A Maryland state agency whose mission is to ensure the full participation of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in all aspects of community life. The DDA can provide funds for the continuation of supported employment after provision of time-limited services by DORS and closure of the record of services.

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)—The Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services offers programs and services that help people with disabilities go to work or stay independent in their homes and communities. DORS is an agency of the Maryland State Department of Education, and is composed of the public vocational rehabilitation program and the Disability Determination Services.

Futures Planning (Person-Centered Plan or Essential Lifestyle Plan)—The process of sharing and gathering information on the dreams, desires, wants and needs of people in order to develop an Individual Plan specifically tailored to their lives. A comprehensive plan may include personal, financial and legal components.

Governor’s Transitioning Youth Initiative—An initiative in Maryland to help youth with disabilities work and contribute to Maryland’s future after leaving school. GTYI offers supported employment services and day programs through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA).

Friends of MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Independent Living Services—Programs that enhance the ability of an individual with significant disabilities to live independently and function within the family and community. These services also can help a person get and keep employment.

“SO” Supports Only Eligible—The second category of eligibility for DDA-funded services, the person needs to meet the following criteria:

- Have a physical or mental condition other than a sole diagnosis of mental illness; and
- The disability is considered severe and chronic in nature.

Reasonable Accommodation—Changes in a work environment that allow a person with a disability to more easily apply for, or perform the duties of, a job. These adjustments, frequently inexpensive, allow a person with a disability to have the same benefits of employment as a person without a disability.

Self-Advocate—Those individuals who have chosen to assert their right to choose what is best for them.

Self-Determination—Practicing self-determination means the individual makes the decisions about his or her life, supports and how his or her budgeted funds are spent.

SSI/SSDI—Acronyms for Social Security disability benefits. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) provides cash benefits to insured workers who meet the definition of disability. It also provides for their eligible dependents. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provides monthly cash benefits to children and adults who meet income and resource guidelines and are disabled. More information can be found at www.ssa.gov

Supported Employment—Provides assistance for people who are working jobs in the community. The help can be in the form of job coaching, educating co-workers or negotiating with employers to help the person be as independent as their abilities allow.

Transitioning Youth—A youth between the ages of 14 and 25. Transition planning begins at age 14 in the school system, specifically within the IEP process, and continues through the school exit. The process of transitioning to the post-school “adult” world typically continues through age 25 and sometimes beyond.

Vocational Rehabilitation—Programs designed to help individuals with disabilities enter or re-enter gainful employment.