

# Children's Mental Health Matters!

a Maryland public education campaign

## Mental Health Resources Transition-Age Youth

Transition-age is defined roughly as the period between 14 - 24 years of age when youth are preparing to move from adolescence to young adulthood in the areas of employment, education and independent living. The transition to adulthood can be challenging for all young adults - not just those with mental health needs. For young adults with mental health issues, the transition to adulthood can be longer and more difficult. The social and emotional delays experienced by youth with mental health needs impede the skills necessary to successfully transition to adulthood.

Transition-age youth with mental health needs do not necessarily fit the child or adult mental health system; services need to be tailored to their specific needs and developmental characteristics.

Youth coded with an "emotional disability" on an Individualized Education Program have the highest dropout rate of any disability group, hovering around 50% in Maryland. Transition-age youth with mental health needs have the lowest rate of engagement in continuing education or employment.

### High School

If your child is eligible for an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan, s/he may be receiving mental health or other support services at school.

- An IEP is developed for students with more intensive mental health needs who qualify for special education.
- Your child's IEP team is responsible for helping your child with transition planning and implementation.
- Under a 504 plan, the school can make special accommodations for your child if s/he does not qualify for special education.

If your child has a 504 plan, s/he will have access to the services for transition assistance, but you or your child may be responsible for initiating contact to access these supports.

### High School Support Staff

- IEP Case Manager
- Guidance Counselor
- Transition Coordinator
- Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) counselor

### After High School

The transition from high school can be challenging for youth with behavioral issues. Some youth may wish to attend college or vocational schools and others may want to seek employment.

### Education opportunities include:

- College
- Community College
- Vocational and Technical Schools
- Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) Workforce and Technology Center (WTC) in Baltimore
- Apprenticeship Programs

### Employment opportunities include:

- DORS provides a range of services including:
  - Career assessment
  - Career decision-making
  - Counseling and referral
  - Vocational training
  - Employment assistance
- Supported employment through the Mental Hygiene Administration

Children's  
Mental  
Health  
Matters.org  
A MARYLAND PUBLIC  
EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

coordinated by

mhamd   
MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND

MCF  
maryland coalition of families  
for children's mental health

[www.ChildrensMentalHealthMatters.org](http://www.ChildrensMentalHealthMatters.org)

## Housing

Most families of young adults will find their youth continuing to live with them, if not on a permanent basis, then on a revolving door trajectory - moving out for a time and then moving back in. Outside of the idea of living in the family home, there are both subsidized and private-pay housing possibilities.

### Subsidized housing

- Transition-age youth Residential Rehabilitation Programs

- Adult Residential Rehabilitation Programs

For more information, please contact your local Core Service Agency.

### Other housing options might be

- Main Street Housing
- Section 8 housing
- Private-pay

## Health Care

Health care in Maryland will change in the coming year with the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion. To learn more or for enrollment information, visit [www.marylandhealthconnection.gov](http://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov)

Health Care options include

- Medicaid
- Maryland Primary Adult Care (MPAC)
- Private Insurance

## Resources/Links

### Children's Mental Health Matters!

*Facts for Families – First Steps in Seeking Help*

[www.ChildrensMentalHealthMatters.org](http://www.ChildrensMentalHealthMatters.org)

*Facts for Families – School Services*

[www.ChildrensMentalHealthMatters.org](http://www.ChildrensMentalHealthMatters.org)

### Core Service Agencies -

<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/mha1/SitePages/csa.aspx>

Department of Social Services - 1-800-332-6347 or visit

[www.dhr.maryland.gov/county.php](http://www.dhr.maryland.gov/county.php)

Main Street Housing - 410-646-0262 or visit

[www.onourownmd.org/msh.html](http://www.onourownmd.org/msh.html)

### Maryland Coalition of Families

*Navigating the Transition Years*

<http://www.mdcoalition.org/publications-and-webinars/publications/TAYHandbookSept2010.pdf>

Maryland Department of Disabilities - 1-800-637-4113

Maryland Transitioning Youth - 1-800-637-4113

[www.mdtransition.org](http://www.mdtransition.org)

### Maryland's Vocational Rehabilitation Agency - DORS

To learn more about the wide range of services DORS offers, you can visit [www.dors.state.md.us](http://www.dors.state.md.us) or call 410-554-9109 (1-888-554-0334).

For information on health insurance coverage for mental health/substance use disorders or **Mental Health Parity** please call 443-901-1550, ext. 206 or visit [www.MarylandParity.org](http://www.MarylandParity.org)

MPAC - 1-800-226-2142 or visit [www.dhmh.state.md.us/mma/pac/index.htm](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/mma/pac/index.htm)

To apply for **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** call 1-800-772-1213

MHAMd ~ 443-901-1550 ~ [www.mhamd.org](http://www.mhamd.org)

MCF ~ 410-730-8267 ~ [www.mdcoalition.org](http://www.mdcoalition.org)

The Children's Mental Health Matters! Campaign is a collaboration of the Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMd) and the Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) with support from the Maryland Mental Hygiene Administration and MD CARES. The Campaign goal, with over 80 partners across the state, is to raise public awareness of the importance of children's mental health. For more information, please visit [www.ChildrensMentalHealthMatters.org](http://www.ChildrensMentalHealthMatters.org)