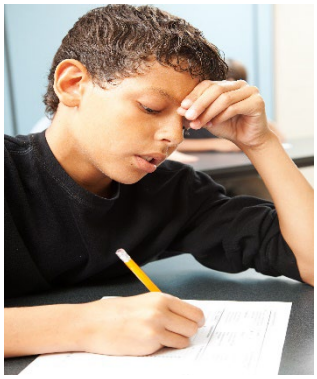
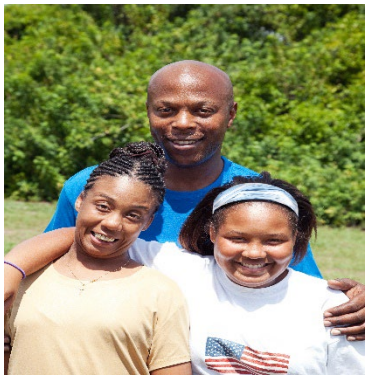




Connecting School and Adult Life

Guidance for youth with developmental disabilities, families and the professionals who support them

Students, with the support from family, should educate themselves on financial eligibility requirements and consider their goals toward the life they seek to live.

A student may not have more than $2,000 in assets and resources in his/her name when applying for government benefits such as SSI and Medical Assistance.

Families should begin financial planning when the student turns 13 years old.

Social Security and Medical Assistance can look back at a student's financial records for 5 years.

Please note that parents of a child of any age who has been diagnosed with a developmental disability can apply on behalf of their child to the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) for assessment and services.

Prior to age 21, children may be entitled to/eligible for:

- Job Training
- Medicaid Waiver Services
- Low Intensity Support Services
- Special Education Services

See back for more resources and services

No later than the fall of the graduating year, the student will need:

- **Birth certificate**
- **State ID card**
- **Social Security Card**
- **Medicaid//Health Insurance Card**

Marc Elrich, County Executive
Natali Fani-González, County Council President

Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services
Commission on People with Disabilities
401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850
MCCPWD@montgomerycountymd.gov
240-777-1252 (V), MD Relay 711
Visit the Commission's website – www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd
Disability Network Directory - www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dnd

February 2026

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

Apply by age 14. Keep a copy of the application for your files and send the original to DDA.
The date the application is received could be critical in determining whether your child is eligible for services in the future.
301-362-5100 1-888-207-2479 https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/home.aspx
Step-by-Step Guide to the DDA Process
www.pcr-inc.org/step-by-step-guide-to-the-developmental-disabilities-administration-process

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)

DORS can assist individuals in reaching vocational goals. Ask about pre-employment transition services.
Germantown: 301-601-1500 Wheaton: 301-949-3750 dors.maryland.gov

Housing Vouchers

Apply for a housing voucher when the young adult turns 18 years old. The waiting list is long, so apply early.
Main: 240-627-4400 UpCounty: 240-627-9744 hocmc.org

Independence Now

Contact Independence Now about benefits and counseling programs for all ages and all types of disabilities.
301-277-2839 innow.org

Legal and Financial Planning

Contact the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council for a copy of PLANNING NOW.
410-767-3670 1-800-305-6441 md-council.org

Low Intensity Support Services (LISS)

Money from DDA can be used for camp tuition, home modifications, and other expenses related to your child's disability.
Maryland Community Connection: 301-583-0358 health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/liss.aspx

MD State ID Card

Apply for a Maryland State ID Card from the Motor Vehicle Administration, when student turns 16 years old
1-800-950-1682 mva.maryland.gov/drivers/Pages/apply-id-card.aspx

Medical Assistance

Apply for Medical Assistance when your child turns 18 years old. This is mandatory as part of the eligibility process for DDA funded adult services. If your child receives SSI, Medical Assistance is provided.
MD Health Connection: 1-855-642-8572 Medicaid: 1-800-492-5231 marylandhealthconnection.gov

Montgomery County Public Schools Transition Services & Parent Workshops

Montgomery County Public Schools transition information for parents and students with IEP for ages 14 to 21.
301-649-8008 montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/special-education/programs-services/transition-services-unit

Recreation

Subscribe to Montgomery County Parks & Rec Program GUIDES (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Summer Camps)
Customer Service: 240-777-6840 Countywide Programs: 240-777-6870 montgomerycountymd.gov/rec

Register with Selective Service System

Register your son with the Selective Service System when he turns 18 years old.
Visit a local Post Office or register at sss.gov/register/

Register to Vote

1-800-222-8683 elections.maryland.gov

Respite Care

Contact The Arc Montgomery County to learn how you can take a break from the demands of caregiving for children/adults with disabilities. 301-984-5777 x 1204 thearcmontgomerycounty.org

Supplemental Security Income

At 18 years old, an adult will be evaluated on their own income and assets, not the family's.
1-800-772-1213 ssa.gov/ssi

Transportation Programs

Apply for all available local transportation programs prior to graduation.
Ride On: 240-777-0311 MetroAccess Eligibility: 301-562-5360 montgomerycountymd.gov/tnd