



RESOURCES FOR GRANDPARENTS:

A Guide for Relatives Caring for Children



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Second Edition

Resources for Grandparents:
A Guide for Relatives Caring for Children

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This edition is accessible on the Maryland Department of Aging website: www.mdoa.state.md.us. Click on “Caregiving.”

We hope that grandparents and other kinship caregivers, as well as agency staff who work with caregivers, find this edition useful. Please send comments or corrections *in writing* to:

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INTRODUCTION

Grandparents and other relatives, who take on the job of parenting their grandchildren or other kin's children, often need help with their new role. Legal, financial, medical, educational, emotional, and other issues often arise for which you were not prepared. **This resource directory is a starting point for getting help.** Check the Table of Contents for the topics that interest you the most.

Your physical and emotional health are critical to the well being of your grandchildren. **Ask for help from family members and friends.** Among the agency resources listed, support groups, comprised of grandparents and other relatives who are parenting, are particularly helpful (see page 27). For additional information, call your local Department of Social Services (see # 3 under *Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*).

***IF YOU FEEL YOUR SITUATION IS AN EMERGENCY,
CALL A CRISIS CENTER OR HOTLINE NUMBER RIGHT AWAY.
CRISIS/HOTLINE NUMBERS ARE LISTED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.***

Be aware that most agencies' programs are not set up to recognize grandparents raising their grandchildren. When seeking help, you will have to insist that people in authority listen to you about your needs and those of your grandchild/ren. If a staff member at an agency is not responding to your calls or is not treating you respectfully, ask to speak to that staff member's supervisor or to the agency's director.

Your elected officials may be able to help if the systems are not responding to you. They may be able to explain State laws relevant to benefits and services you are seeking. You can find the names and phone numbers of the elected officials who represent your district by calling the League of Women Voters of Baltimore City at 410 464-1901 or your local Board of Elections; *see # 9 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers.*

This resource guide is intended for use by grandparents across the State of Maryland. However, since 90 percent of grandparents who are parenting grandchildren reside in Baltimore City, we are listing some resources that are specific to Baltimore City. **Also, while we use the terms "grandparents" and "grandchildren" throughout the directory, most of the resources are available to aunts, uncles, cousins, and others who are raising children of their extended family.**

IN AN EMERGENCY

Call one of the following numbers

Family Tree Parent Stress Line 1-800-243-7337

Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline 1-800-422-0009

First Call for Help 1-800-492-0618

Baltimore Crisis Response 410 752-2272

**ALL RESOURCES LISTED IN THIS DIRECTORY ARE
ACCESSIBLE TO TTY USERS VIA THE MARYLAND
RELAY. DIAL 711**

CHILD CARE

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CHILD CARE

Where can I get information on child development, behavior management, and activities for my grandchild?

The local office of the Maryland Child Care Resource Network (MCCRN) is a good place to start. One of the functions of the MCCRN offices around Maryland is help caregivers of children improve their skills.

◆ *See # 10 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers to find the listing for the MCCRN office in your locality.*

The Baltimore City Child Care Resource Center, a part of MCCRN, has a special telephone counseling service dedicated to relative caregivers who need information and support. The service is called FYI: Child Care. Group meetings are also held on topics suggested by the relative caregivers.

Call: 410 625-8900

What other child care should I consider?

If you are still employed and you have the responsibility of caring for your grandchild, you will need adequate child-care on a regular basis. While infants and toddlers require all-day care, a school-age child needs only before and after school care.

Some schools provide before- and after-school care in the school building. Check with your grandchild's school to learn whether this option is available.

What does "regulated child care" mean?

Regulated child care means that a child care provider has been approved to operate by the Child Care Administration (CCA) of the Maryland Department of Human Resources. CCA approval means that the child care provider meets the minimum health, safety, and program standards set by Maryland law.

What kinds of regulated child care are there?

Child Care Centers These are facilities that generally serve large groups of children. They operate for part or all of a day at least twice a week. The children are supervised by professional child care staff. Within the center, children are usually grouped with others of the same age.

There are different types of child care centers. Some centers primarily provide care for infants and toddlers. Other centers care for pre-school or school-age children. Some centers care for children of mixed-age groups, from six weeks through school age.

CHILD CARE

Small group centers have a maximum capacity of 12 children and may be located in private residences. School-age child care centers offer programs before and/or after school hours and during school holidays and vacations. All child care centers licensed by CCA must be inspected and re-licensed annually.

Family Day Care Homes Professional child care is provided in the caregiver's home. Regulations allow the caregiver to take care of up to 8 children at one time if the home meets certain physical requirements. No more than 2 of these children, including the caregiver's own, may be under 2 years old unless additional staff members are present.

Family day care is typically available for at least 8 hours per day and usually offers flexible scheduling. Like many child care centers, some family day care homes serve only certain age groups or children who have special needs. All family day care homes must be inspected and re-registered every 2 years.

You may choose to have a relative or friend care for your grandchild. This is considered "informal child care." Maryland law requires that if an informal caregiver that is a non-relative cares for your child *outside your home* more than 20 hours per month, that caregiver must be regulated.

How do I choose a child care provider?

The Child Care Administration (CCA) offers a free booklet, *Making the Difference for Your Child: Choosing Regulated Child Care in Maryland*, that will help you choose a child care provider that best suits your needs. It gives you suggestions on questions to ask a prospective child care provider and what to look for when you visit the regulated family day care home or child care center.

The booklet also tells you what your rights and responsibilities are as a child care consumer. For example, you have the right to review, at your regional CCA office, the public portion of the licensing or registration file on the child care facility where you are considering enrolling your grandchild. To order the CCA booklet, call your local CCA Regional Office.

- ◆ ***See # 11 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers to find the listing for the CCA Office in your area.***

CHILD CARE

What are some agencies I can call to locate a regulated child care provider?

Maryland Child Care Resource Network (MCCRN)

Your local office of the MCCRN can advise you how to find, evaluate, and select a regulated child care situation in your local area. This service is also known as “LOCATE.”

- ◆ *See # 10 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers to find the listing for the MCCRN/LOCATE offices.*

The YMCA of Central Maryland The YMCA of Central Maryland operates about 80 child care sites in the Baltimore metropolitan area (including Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, and Harford counties). The YMCA operates child care programs in other parts of the State as well.

Financial assistance with the cost of care is available to families who meet financial eligibility criteria. Call your local YMCA for its specific program and financial eligibility criteria and to learn about the range of services offered (e.g. early learning, school readiness, before and after-school care).

- ◆ *See # 12 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for local YMCAs in Maryland.*

Departments of Recreation Some local Departments of Recreation offer year-round child care programs, licensed through the Child Care Administration, at affordable prices.

- ◆ *See # 13 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for a listing of local Departments of Recreation.*

I am seeking a more formal learning situation for my pre-school grandchild than a child care center or licensed day care home offers. What is available?

In addition to helping Marylanders locate child care centers and day care providers, local offices of the Maryland Child Care Resource Network can help you find Headstart, Early Education Programs, and nursery schools in your area.

- ◆ *See # 10 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for a listing of local MCCRN/LOCATE Offices.*
- ◆ *See the Early Learning section of this directory.*

CHILD CARE

My income is modest. Is there any financial assistance to help with the cost of child care?

The Child Care Administration's (CCA) Purchase of Child Care (POC) Program issues vouchers to eligible families to help pay child care costs for children up to 13 years of age. A voucher is a document certifying that the local Department of Social Services (DSS) will pay the child care provider of the family member's choice, either a regulated provider or an informal provider.

To qualify for the POC Program, families must meet certain need and income requirements. Due to limited funding, priority is given to families caring for a child with a disability. To apply for POC, call your local DSS and ask for the Child Care Unit.

- ◆ *See # 3 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for local DSS listings or*
- ◆ *Call the Child Care Administration at 410 767-7840.*

If a social worker from the local DSS already manages your grandchild's case, ask the worker about the POC Program as well as whether there are "flexible funds" available to assist you with the cost of child care.

YMCA child care programs also offer financial assistance for those families who qualify.

- ◆ *See # 12 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for YMCA locations in Maryland.*

What child care resources are available to me if my grandchild has disabilities or HIV?

The Maryland Child Care Resource Network Your local MCCRN Office can advise you about how to find, evaluate, and select a regulated child care situation in your local area for the child with a disability. This service is also known as "LOCATE."

- ◆ *See # 10 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*

Headstart and **Early Headstart** can provide both educational and child care services for pre-school children with special needs, including HIV.

See descriptions on page 9.

CHILD CARE

World of Care This is a program of PACT, Inc. (Parents and Children Together), affiliated with the Kennedy Krieger Institute. The program serves children with complex medical needs, as well as children with developmental delay and typically developing children, ages 6 weeks to 4 years. Nursing staff is available on site.

Fees are based on a sliding scale. Medicaid, private insurance, and Purchase of Care vouchers are accepted.

This program is located in Baltimore County (Woodlawn) but serves any Maryland resident.

Call: 410 298-9280

The Family, Infant, and Child Care Center This is a program of the Arc of Montgomery County. It serves children with complex medical needs, as well typically developing children, ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Nursing staff is available on site.

Fees are based on a sliding scale. Medicaid, private insurance, and Purchase of Care vouchers are accepted.

This program is located in Montgomery County, but serves any Maryland resident.

Call: 301 279-2165

Is there any financial assistance available for child care for my grandchild with disabilities?

If you are approved for the Purchase Of Care Program, ask the DSS worker, who manages the case, about additional POC funds. A higher level voucher may be possible to pay for additional expenses the care provider incurs in caring for your grandchild.

What about finding regular care for “off-hours,” like evenings, weekends, and rotating work schedules?

Often grandparents prefer to rely on other relatives or friends close-by for this type of child care. The local office of the Maryland Child Care Resource Network may be able to direct you to regulated child care providers in your area that offer care in the evening, overnight, and/or on weekends.

- ◆ *See # 10 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for the local MCCRNL/LOCATE office.*

CHILD CARE

Where can I find occasional (“respite”) care, if I just need a break?

Caring for your grandchild can be very confining, especially if the child came to live with you unexpectedly. It is important for you to get out of the house occasionally and enjoy some leisure time away from your grandchild, for a few hours or even a whole day. Relief or occasional care, to give you a break from your normal routine with the grandchild, is known as “respite care” (pronounced “res-pit”). Your local MCCRN office may know of resources for respite care.

◆ *See #10 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers.*

Respite care is particularly important if your grandchild has a disability. A source of respite for the grandparents of children with disabilities is the Respite Care Program of the Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR). Within DHR, the Respite Care Program is located in the Office of Adult Services

Call: 410 767-7725

A worker will provide you with a local number to call.

EARLY LEARNING

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EARLY LEARNING

What behavior and learning is typical for a child?

Children are unique individuals. They think, look, act, and grow in different ways. The AGES AND EXPECTATIONS OUTLINE on pages 12-14 will help you know what to expect at various ages in your grandchild's life.

Be aware that exposure to certain conditions can affect a child's developmental progress (e.g. feeding himself/herself, walking, speaking in sentences). Alcohol, drug abuse, or HIV (AIDS) infection of a pregnant woman can affect the physical development and behavior of her child both prenatally (while the child is growing in her womb) and after birth. Exposure to domestic violence, neglect, physical or sexual abuse may also result in child development or behavior that is different from the expectations outlined.

Various diseases, diagnosed or undiagnosed, can affect child development, behavior, and learning capacity. Even environmental factors, such as high amounts of lead, an ingredient in older house paints, can be poisonous to children, affecting brain function.

What should I do if my grandchild does not seem to be developing according to average expectations?

If you are concerned that your grandchild is not demonstrating the behavior and learning typical for his/her age, as outlined, you should contact the child's doctor.

The first three years of a child's life are the most critical years for learning. Therefore, if you have concerns, don't delay in seeking professional advice.

You can also contact a program that evaluates children whose development is slower than average. If your grandchild is already in public school, and you believe the child may need evaluation for a physical, emotional, or learning disability, you can request an evaluation by writing a letter to the school. Or, ask the child's doctor or therapist to make a written request to the school for an evaluation.

EARLY LEARNING

What are some agencies I can call that provide evaluation services for children?

Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program directs a family-centered system of early intervention services for children under 3 years of age with developmental delays and disabilities. Services are designed to enhance a child's potential for growth and development before he/she reaches school age.

Most early intervention services are provided at no cost to eligible families. Representation from the school system and the health department is included in each local Infant and Toddlers Program.

Services in the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program may include hearing evaluations and aids, physical & occupational therapy, health & nutrition services, family training & home visits, special instruction, transportation, assistive technology services, and speech-language therapy.

Call: 1-800-535-0182 or

- ◆ *See # 14 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for a listing of Local Infant and Toddler Programs*

Kennedy Krieger Institute provides evaluation services and treatments for children from birth through age 21 with disorders of the brain, (present from birth or acquired through injury or disease), and/or with learning and behavior problems. Evaluation and treatment services include psychological, behavioral, psychiatric, speech and hearing, health and nutrition, physical and occupational therapy.

Fees for services may be covered through the child's insurance plan, Maryland Medical Assistance or the Maryland Children's Health Program.

Call: 410 502-9400 or 1-888-554-2080 (Toll-free)

EARLY LEARNING

What organized learning opportunities are available for children under age 5?

Headstart is a federally funded program for children ages 3-4 from low-income families. The program helps children prepare for kindergarten by providing education and other services to the children and their families.

There are over 200 Headstart sites in Maryland. Headstart programs may be located in school buildings, community centers, churches, etc. Transportation is usually provided by the program. There is no fee for the programs for children who are financially eligible. Program days and hours vary by location.

A new concept called **Early Headstart**, which serves children in need of early intervention *from birth*, is available at certain locations in Maryland.

- ◆ *See # 16 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for Headstart sites near you.*

Extended Elementary Education Programs (EEEP) and PreKindergartens generally serve 4-year-olds to help prepare them for kindergarten. There is no cost for EEEP and Pre-Kindergarten programs. They are located in public schools and operate on the schools' schedules. Not every public school has an EEEP or Pre-Kindergarten.

- ◆ *See # 15 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for the Early Learning Office in your area.*

EARLY LEARNING

Nursery Schools offer structured learning experiences and are managed by private organizations. These programs generally serve two, three and four-year-old children. Days and hours of operation, services and fees vary. Families usually must provide their own transportation.

All nursery schools must be licensed by the Maryland Child Care Administration. Schools run by secular (non-religious) organizations must hold a Certificate of Approval from the Maryland State Department of Education for their educational programs.

- ◆ *See # 10 under Other Helpful Telephones Numbers for a listing of local MCCRN offices to find licensed nursery schools in your area.*

Licensed Child Care Centers While licensed child care centers offer opportunities for children to learn, they are not required to have a written curriculum in English/language arts, math, social studies, and science, which nursery schools must have. Child care centers benefit working parents who must pay for the services on an hourly or daily basis. These centers are described in more detail in the Child Care section of this guide.

What about learning opportunities for my pre-school grandchild with disabilities or special needs, including HIV/AIDS?

Partners for Success are resource centers established by the Maryland State Department of Education and local school systems, to help children ages 3-21 years old, who have disabilities. The centers provide families and educators support, information, and resources on disabilities and community services. The centers also help families solve problems and make informed decisions about their children's education.

Call: 410 767-0267 or

- ◆ *See #17 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*

EARLY LEARNING

Headstart and **Early Headstart** can educate children with disabilities and provide services for the children's families, such as health referrals, before and after school care, parent training, and male involvement activities.

◆ *See # 16 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for Headstart sites near you*

Martin Luther King, Jr. Early Headstart operates a site in Baltimore City which serves children with HIV/AIDS.

Call: 410 955-5451

Baltimore City Pediatric HIV Program is a comprehensive educational wellness program that also serves children with HIV/AIDS and their families. See page 40.

Call: 410 225-2600

Also see entries on **Families Involved Together** (page 24) and **Parents Place of Maryland** (page 26).

AGES AND EXPECTATIONS OUTLINE

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Birth - 2 Months</u></p> <p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ barely lifts head to clear surface ◆ keeps hands tightly fist <p>Speech Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ coos and makes grunting sounds ◆ babbles <p>Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ sleeps a lot ◆ cries a lot ◆ may have erratic sleeping and feeding patterns ◆ quiets in response to parent's face and voice 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2 Months</u></p> <p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ lifts head while lying on stomach ◆ has smooth motions ◆ relaxes fist, unfolds fingers ◆ waves hands and kicks feet when on back <p>Speech Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ coos and gurgles increasingly, especially when talked to ◆ cries vary for different needs <p>Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ begins to smile, show excitement and distress ◆ turns to familiar voices ◆ quiets when held ◆ enjoys being tickled ◆ maintains brief eye contact while being fed ◆ may suck thumb or finger to quiet self
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>4 Months</u></p> <p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ can see across a room ◆ sits erect when supported ◆ rolls over from tummy to back ◆ reaches for toys ◆ holds objects ◆ reaches for feet and brings them to mouth ◆ turns head to localized sounds ◆ follows people with eyes <p>Speech Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ laughs, squeals and babbles ◆ coos and gurgles with joy ◆ says "Ooh" and "Aah" <p>Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ loves to play with own feet ◆ sees colors rather than black and white ◆ fusses when wanting to be picked up and held ◆ can tell the difference in family members ◆ reaches out hands and arms to play ◆ smiles 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>7 months</u></p> <p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ sits up by self for a short time ◆ holds toys and feeds self pieces of food ◆ stands when held, takes some of the weight on own legs ◆ reaches for objects, transfers them from hand to hand ◆ begins teething, which may disturb sleep <p>Speech Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ combines vowel sounds ◆ imitates sounds ◆ responds to "no" and own name ◆ uses body language to initiate interaction ◆ imitates sounds <p>Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ plays alone ◆ plays longer with people and toys ◆ enjoys other children ◆ grows more responsive to sound ◆ withdraws from strangers, clings to familiar caregivers

AGES AND EXPECTATIONS OUTLINE (continued)

<u>10 months</u>	<u>12 months</u>
<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ crawls using different crawling styles ◆ crawls over objects ◆ may stand leaning against an object ◆ picks up small objects with thumb and fingers <p>Speech Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ says no," "bye-bye," "Papa," "Mama," Nana" ◆ uses voice to get attention <p>Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ more independent, may play alone instead of being held ◆ imitates hand and facial gestures ◆ crawls around to look for parents ◆ crawls to you when name is called ◆ likes to play "peek-a-boo" ◆ turns handful of pages of books and magazines ◆ likes to play sound games ◆ waves "bye-bye" ◆ understands simple directions 	<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ begins to change from a crawl to a tottering walk ◆ feeds self finger foods ◆ may begin to use a spoon ◆ squats <p>Speech Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ uses "Papa," "Mama," and "Nana" to refer to specific persons ◆ may have a vocabulary of 3 to 10 "real" words ◆ adds gestures to own body language <p>Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ loves an audience ◆ scribbles with crayons ◆ has more variety in play ◆ exhibits stronger likes and dislikes ◆ flirts with and kisses self in mirror ◆ plays with dolls and stuffed animals ◆ points to objects in books and identifies them ◆ understands simple words and phrases like "Come to Nana"
<u>15 months</u>	<u>18 months</u>
<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ stands and walks alone ◆ uses a spoon to feed self ◆ picks up things from a walking position <p>Speech Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ uses simple words and phrases ◆ says some words spoken by family members <p>Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ likes to listen to music and dance to rhythms ◆ says "no" and refuses food ◆ is more aware of surroundings ◆ is growing more independent ◆ is very active 	<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ runs stiffly ◆ uses whole arm when playing ball ◆ feeds self, eats with a spoon, tries a fork ◆ takes off shoes, hat, mittens ◆ loves to lug, tug, dump, push, and pull ◆ goes up and down stairs without help <p>Speech Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ knows names of objects ◆ uses personal pronouns <p>Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ loves to explore ◆ often refuses foods

AGES AND EXPECTATIONS OUTLINE (continued)

<u>24 months</u>	<u>36 months</u>
<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ undresses self (large items such as pajamas) ◆ begins to kick ◆ handles a cup well ◆ takes things apart and puts them together again <p>Speech Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ speaks more clearly ◆ replaces "baby" language with short sentences ◆ likes to talk to self ◆ repeats words others say ◆ combines words and actions <p>Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ identifies with surroundings ◆ enjoys helping family members ◆ may enjoy cleaning up after playing ◆ is very active ◆ may have periodic temper tantrums ◆ may point to named body part 	<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ swings and climbs ◆ jumps in place ◆ walks backward ◆ peddles tricycle <p>Speech Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ talks in short sentences, uses plurals ◆ sings short songs ◆ language is understood by others besides family members ◆ says own name ◆ increasingly uses "no" ◆ announces fears and dislikes <p>Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ feeds self well with spoon and fork ◆ drinks from a straw ◆ strings large beads ◆ dresses self well ◆ begins to identify gender roles ◆ explores environment outside of home
<p>4 Years Old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ begins thinking in an organized manner, knows about 1,000 words 	
<p>5 Years Old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ plays logically, able to perform activities in sequential order 	
<p>6 Years Old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ able to learn and recognize differences between right and wrong 	
<p>7 Years Old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ able to concentrate well on tasks at hand, often self-absorbed to the point of appearing withdrawn, shows sensitivity to others 	
<p>8 Years Old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ curious about all things he/she is learning, including sexuality, has high energy level, and often acts impulsively 	
<p>9 Years Old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ acts with independence, likes to learn facts, rules and standards, takes on more responsibility, and engages in chores around the house 	

*Information on child development from birth to 36 months is taken from the pamphlet "Growth and Development Milestones," published by the Infant and Toddler Program, Maryland State Department of Education.

ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL/PUPIL SERVICES

ENROLLMENT
IN
SCHOOL

ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL/PUPIL SERVICES

How do I prove the age of my grandchild in order to enroll him/her in an organized learning program?

Obtain an official copy of your grandchild's birth certificate by contacting your local health department (except Baltimore City residents)

◆ *See # 5 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*

Baltimore City residents (and others) may call or write to:

Division of Vital Records
6550 Reisterstown Road
Reisterstown Road Plaza
Baltimore, MD 21215
410 764-3036
1-800-832-3277 (if calling from out-of-state)

Helpful note: This office is open the third Saturday of every month

What information is needed when requesting a copy of a birth certificate?

- Date of application
 - Full name at birth of individual whose birth certificate is being requested
 - Sex of individual
 - Date of birth
 - Individual's age on last birthday
 - Birth certificate number (if known)
 - Place of birth, county of birth
 - Name of hospital (if known)
 - Mother's full maiden name
 - Father's full name
 - Present address
 - Reason for request (retirement, passport, social services, identification, etc.). Relationship of person requesting the birth certificate to the person whose certificate is being requested
 - Your full name (print it AND sign it in writing)
 - Enclose proper fee (if requesting in writing)
-

What is the fee for obtaining a copy of a birth certificate?

Each copy costs \$6.00, payable by cash, check, or money order (do not mail cash) to Division of Vital Records. *Local health departments may charge slightly higher fees.*

ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL/PUPIL SERVICES

Who may apply for a birth certificate?

A person may request his/her own birth certificate. A child may apply by providing the necessary information, a picture ID, and a signature on the application.

The parent or guardian of a child may also apply; guardians must submit legal proof.

A representative of the child, parent, or guardian may apply by presenting a letter signed by a notary public, stating that the representative has permission to obtain the birth certificate.

How long does it take to obtain a copy of a birth certificate?

An in-person request is processed the same day. Requests made by mail can take 2-4 weeks to process.

How can I get additional information on birth certificates?

Call 410 764-3036 or, for a recorded message, 1-800-832-3277.

Where do I start with enrolling my child in school for the first time?

If this is the first time your child will be enrolling in any school, call the school and ask what you must bring with you to enroll your child. As a minimum, most schools require the following documents: birth certificate; proof of custody/guardianship (documentation which determines where the child resides and who has decision-making authority); proof of residency; and record of immunizations (DHMH Form 896).

What do I do if my child is transferring from one school to another?

Call the school your child last attended and ask the school to prepare a Maryland Transfer Form. Tell them the last day your child will attend school and ask if you may pick up the Maryland Transfer Form, or if it can be mailed to you or brought home to you by your child. The Maryland Transfer Form will contain all the information you need to enroll your child in the new school.

Call your child's new school and schedule an appointment. Be sure you bring the Maryland Transfer Form. The appointment will ensure that time is set aside to speak with you and to answer any questions you may have. Also, ask what items you need to bring with you to enroll your child in the new school.

ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL/PUPIL SERVICES

Why is proof of guardianship/custody required?

Proof of custody/guardianship is required to identify who is legally responsible for the child and who can be contacted in case of an emergency. This tells the school who can make educational decisions for the child. Each local school system determines which documents will be accepted as proof (i.e., a court order; a separation or divorce decree; or a birth certificate which identifies the parents). Call the school and ask what documents are acceptable.

Why is proof of residency required?

The residence of the parents/legal custodian/guardian determines the child's right to attend the local public school. Acceptable proof of residency is established by each local school system. You should call the school where you plan to enroll the child to find out what will be accepted as proof of residency. Generally accepted documents are current rental lease; current utility bills containing applicant's name and address; or a current property tax bill.

Does this procedure include children in Kinship Care?

These requirements include formal Kinship Care (when a child is removed from his/her family and is placed with a relative by a State child welfare agency, and appropriate documentation is provided).

Why do I need to bring proof of age?

Proof of age is particularly important the first time a child enrolls in school. It helps determine which services and programs are available to the child. The mandatory attendance law applies to children between the age of five to sixteen.

Why do I need to bring immunization (shot) records?

All children need to have an up-to-date copy of immunization records to be enrolled in, and to attend, school. If your child's immunizations need to be updated and you can bring written proof of an appointment within 20 days to obtain the immunizations, you may temporarily enroll your child pending receipt of the required immunizations. Your doctor or health clinic can provide the DHMH 896 Form, or a computer-generated form, for you to take to the school. (See page 43 of this guide for Immunization Schedule.)

ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL/PUPIL SERVICES

Why do I need to bring the current Individual Education Program (IEP) for my child who receives Special Education services?

This will ensure that your child receives, at the new school, the appropriate special education services and related services which were specifically developed for your child. It will also provide the school with the dates for the annual IEP review of your child's program as well as any re-evaluations that may be required.

Do I need to bring the most recent report card and/or withdrawal grades?

This information is very helpful in matching up a continuing program for your child. It tells the school what courses your child was taking and may indicate the instructional level. For elementary children, it may indicate the reading or math series with which your child was being taught. For high school students, it may indicate credit earned and/or graduation requirements which have been met.

What other services are available in the public schools to help students to succeed?

Pupil Service Programs, available in each public school, provide preventive and remedial services that help students succeed in school and prepare them for work or college. These programs provide assistance in the areas of health, personal, interpersonal, academic and career.

If you are concerned that your grandchild is having difficulty in any of these areas, you can contact any member of the Pupil Services Program team. The team may include a school administrator, health services professional, guidance counselor, pupil personnel worker, social worker, or school psychologist. Ask your child's teacher or principal about getting help through the Pupil Services Program.

Tutoring and Mentoring Programs, available in many schools, recruit volunteers to work with children who need individualized attention. Tutors help students with their school work, while mentors provide friendship to help improve the child's self-esteem. Ask the principal or guidance counselor if the school has a tutoring or mentoring program.

ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL/PUPIL SERVICES

What about help for my school-age grandchild who may need special education?

Partners for Success are resource centers established by the Maryland State Department of Education and local school systems, to help children ages 3-21 years old, who have disabilities. The centers provide families and educators support, information, and resources on disabilities and community services. The centers also help families solve problems and make informed decisions about their children's education.

Call: 410 767-0267 or

◆ *See #17 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*

*Also see entries on **Families Involved Together** (page 24) and **Parents Place of Maryland** (page26)*

Note: Most questions and answers on the preceding three pages were provided by the Maryland State Department of Education and apply to public schools. While private schools may follow the practices outlined, they are not required to do so. For more information on public school enrollment call 410 767-0301 or 1-888-246-0016 (toll free).

FAMILY SUPPORT AND COUNSELING

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FAMILY SUPPORT AND COUNSELING

Why do I feel so overwhelmed as the primary caregiver for my grandchild?

Caring for one's own child is an awesome responsibility. Caring for a relative's child can be much more difficult. Whether the child's natural parent is living in your home or living elsewhere, kinship caregiving is complicated because there are more personalities and different generations involved in raising the child.

Where can I go for help?

Public agencies, as well as private ones, employ trained professionals, including social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists, who can help you. Many of these agencies also sponsor support groups for kinship caregivers. In a support group, you can share your concerns with and learn from the experiences of other kinship caregivers. Public and private agency programs that may be of assistance are described in this section.

Many caregivers find it difficult to take the first step. Because there are many places to turn for help, figuring out where to begin can be a challenge. Some caregivers find the child's school a good place to start. Others feel more comfortable talking to the child's doctor or to one's own physician. Another person who might provide direction is your minister, priest, or rabbi.

If you feel your situation is an emergency, call one of the numbers on page ii following the Introduction to this guide.

Is there a cost for advice, counseling, or support groups? If so, is there financial help?

Many family support and counseling services are free of charge or low-cost, especially if they are offered through a public or non-profit agency. In other cases, private health insurance, federal Medicare, or State health insurance programs (Medicaid, Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program-MCHP) can pay some or all the cost (see pp. 34-35).

FAMILY SUPPORT AND COUNSELING

What programs are available from the local Departments of Social Services (DSS) to protect children and preserve families?

Listed below are programs providing counseling, protection, and preservation services with which kinship families (grandparents or other relatives who have parenting responsibilities) often have contact. To obtain these services, call your local DSS.

- ◆ *See #3 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for a listing of Local DSS offices.*

Child Protective Services

The local DSS investigates all reports of child abuse or neglect. If abuse or neglect is determined to exist, and the child can be safely protected in his/her own home through the provision of services to the child's family, family preservation is preferable to removing the child from his/her family. Family preservation services may include home visits and support, in-home aide services, respite or day care, parent education, mental health or substance abuse counseling, and other services and goods needed to improve conditions in the home.

Only when parents are unwilling or unable to utilize the needed help and to provide proper care does the local DSS seek custody of the child and plan for removing the child from his/her home.

Intensive Family Services

Intensive Family Services attempts to reduce the unnecessary removal of children from their homes due to crisis situations. Social workers in the local DSS have access to limited funds that can be used to purchase goods and services to maintain a child safely in the home while working with the family toward resolution of the crisis.

Kinship Care

When a child is removed from his/her home and is placed in the legal custody of the local DSS, extended family members are regarded as the first alternative living arrangement. If relatives agree to care for the child, the local DSS Kinship Care Program ensures that the child is as safe, healthy, and secure as possible following placement with the relatives.

The DSS's primary goal is to work with all involved family members, including the birth parents if possible, to develop a permanent plan of care. The permanent plan might include reuniting the child with his/her birth parents, or working with the relatives toward legal custody or adoption. Goods and services necessary to improve the functioning of the family, while the permanent plan is being made, may be provided through special DSS funds.

FAMILY SUPPORT AND COUNSELING

Foster Care

The local DSS Foster Care Program provides short-term care and supportive services for a child, up to age 21, whom the court and/or the local DSS has determined shall live outside his/her own home. The decision for out-of-home placement is made because the child is abused, neglected, in danger of serious harm, and unable to care for himself or herself.

Social services staff work with the birth parents to develop a permanent plan of care. The permanent plan might include return to the birth parents if the problems which caused the child to be removed from the family home can be resolved. Other possible placement arrangements might be with relatives or with adoptive parents.

The Foster Care Program also recruits, trains, licenses, and oversees foster care providers, to ensure the highest quality of care to the children who need placement. Licensed foster care providers receive a financial stipend from the local DSS to pay the expenses of the child(ren) in their care.

Relatives who wish to become foster care providers for children placed with them must undergo the same approval procedures required of non-relative applicants.

Independent Living Program

This new program, established by the federal Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, provides increased assistance to youth, who are in foster care and in the process of leaving out-of-home placements.

Maryland's Independent Living Program helps youth, starting at age 14, learn basic life skills necessary to being on their own. Thereafter, it assists them in obtaining a high school diploma, getting vocational training, exploring careers, finding a job, preparing for higher education, having limited financial assistance and housing counseling. The plan for transitioning to independent living is made through a partnership between the young person, his/her caregiver, and the case manager.

FAMILY SUPPORT AND COUNSELING

Adoption

Local DSS offices work to find permanent families for children who can no longer live with, or be safely reunited with their birth parents. The DSS may sometimes encourage extended family to consider adopting a child, for whom the DSS has provided guardianship, to help ensure a sense of permanency for the child.

Social services staff work with birth parents considering placing children for adoption, with children who are already candidates for adoption and with prospective adoptive families. After an adoption has taken place, social services staff can provide information (as State law allows), referral, and counseling to the birth parents as well as to the adoptive families and to adult adoptees.

Where can I call with a question, problem, or complaint about services from a local DSS or if I need information about eligibility requirements for a DSS program?

The Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR) administers the programs operated by the local DSS offices. DHR's Constituent Services Office provides a central point of contact for Marylanders to obtain information about and gain access to the programs and services administered by DHR and to lodge legitimate complaints regarding service delivery by the local DSS.

**Call: 410 767-7140 or
1-800-332-6347
1-800-732-7850 (In Spanish)**

What other organizations offer family support and counseling?

Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc. is a helping organization, serving Baltimore City residents, whose mission is to assure timely, effective, community-based intervention to children, adolescents and adults who may be experiencing a mental health crisis. Services include an Informational & Referral Hotline (operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week), Mobile Crisis Teams (which can be dispatched to the location of the person in crisis), Crisis In-Home Services and Crisis Residence Beds.

Call: 410 752-2272

FAMILY SUPPORT AND COUNSELING

Depression and Related Affective Disorders Association (DRADA) helps relieve the suffering arising from depression and other mood disorders. The Association helps link persons affected by the disorders to individual support or support groups. DRADA also provides education and information on mood disorders and supports research programs.

Call: 410 955-4647

Families Involved Together (FIT) offers peer support, education, training, and advocacy to family members involved with youngsters with special needs. Through the services of FIT, families learn they are not alone in their daily struggle to raise and care for their children. They learn to understand the nature of their child's disability and how to advocate for better services in their own community.

Support groups and educational presentations are offered in locations throughout Baltimore at various times during any given month. Topics are suggested by family members and presented by local experts.

Call: 410 235-5222

Family Support Centers provide services to the families of young children, birth through age three, to help them raise healthy children and build productive futures. Parenting classes, support groups, health education, and referrals to health care services are some of the services provided by the centers. *These Centers work primarily with young parents; however, some of them are able to provide services to older parents or grandparents.*

Call: 410 659-7701 or

- ◆ *See # 4 under Other Helpful Telephones Numbers for the phone number of the Family Support Center nearest you.*

FAMILY SUPPORT AND COUNSELING

The Family Tree offers parenting education classes, support groups, mentoring programs, and an information/crisis stressline to persons having primary parenting responsibility. A program of The Family Tree geared toward grandparents is PROJECT AGAPE (*ah-ga' - pay*). AGAPE (Advocacy for Grandparents through Advanced Parent Education) focuses on issues faced by grandparents and older persons raising children who are not their own.

The AGAPE curriculum addresses topics such as self-esteem, loss and separation, forgiveness, family history, discipline, and family life. Classes feature discussion and interaction among the participants. A certificate of accomplishment is presented to caregivers that complete the eight-week course.

Call: 410 889-2300

24-hour Stress Line: 1-800-243-7337

Kennedy Krieger Institute – Department for Family Support Services provides home and community-based support and resource coordination to families with children who have developmental disabilities or special health care needs. Support services staff help families with financial assistance, medical care, special equipment, respite care, educational planning, and recreation services.

Your family may be eligible for services if the child in your care (birth to age 21) is developmentally disabled (e.g., mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism), and is living in your home in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, or Anne Arundel County.

Call: 410 298-9826

Kinship Care Resource Center of Maryland gives information on services available to grandparents and other relatives parenting children. Center staff advise relatives on how to obtain needed services. Staff also provide emotional support to callers and visitors to the Center.

Funded by the Maryland Department of Human Resources, the Kinship Care Resource Center is located at Coppin State College in Baltimore; however, the Center serves relative caregivers anywhere in Maryland.

Call: 410 951-4177 or 1-888-440-0193

FAMILY SUPPORT AND COUNSELING

Mental Health Association of Maryland is dedicated to promoting mental health and preventing mental disorders through advocacy, education, research, and service. The Association's Information and Referral Services/Ombudsman Program guides people seeking information on mental illness, looking for a support group, or trying to find a mental health provider. In addition, the Association assists people experiencing problems with mental health insurance coverage or public mental health services.

**Call: 410 235-1178 or
1-800-572-6426**

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill – Maryland (NAMI-MD) is the State affiliate of the leading advocacy organization for people with serious mental illness/brain disorders, their family members and friends. Besides advocacy, NAMI-MD provides practical resources for help.

**Call: 410 467-7100 or
1-800-467-0075**

Parents' Place of Maryland is a State-wide parent-directed organization which educates parents of persons with disabilities about laws, resources, parents' rights and responsibilities so they can obtain appropriate services for their sons and daughters. The Parents' Place sponsors workshops to help parents interact with the school system, manage their children's behavior at home, etc. Programs can be arranged in various locations around the State.

The organization publishes a newsletter, maintains a lending library, and offers parent-to-parent support and mentoring. No dues or fees are charged for membership.

**Call: 410 859-5300 or
1-800-394-5694**

FAMILY SUPPORT AND COUNSELING

Prevent Child Abuse Maryland provides telephone information and support to persons who are concerned about child abuse or whose families have experienced child abuse. This organization also sponsors a variety of educational programs targeting different age groups

**Call: 410 841-6599 or
1-800-244-5373
410 572-6166
(Eastern Shore Office)**

Senior Information & Assistance (Senior “I&A”) provides information about services and benefits for older persons age 60 and older. Senior I&A specialists also assist in determining an older person’s need for services and benefits and referring the person to the agencies that can potentially meet the identified needs. The program is administered by the Area Agencies on Aging throughout Maryland.

Senior I&A specialists answer questions about senior citizens centers and clubs, congregate and home-delivered meals, senior assisted housing, adult day care, Medicare, Medicaid, and Medigap insurance counseling, in-home care nursing home care, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), transportation and legal services.

**Call: 410 767-1100 or
1-800-AGE- DIAL or**

- ◆ *See # 2 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for a listing of the local Senior I&A offices*

Support Groups for Grandparents and Kinship Caregivers provide a place where relatives with parenting responsibilities can share their concerns with and learn from the experiences of others in the same situation. A variety of organizations sponsor such support groups. To locate the support group closest to you

- ◆ *Call the Maryland Department of Aging at 410 767-6032 or the Kinship Care Resource Center of Maryland at 410 951-4177.*

FINANCIAL MATTERS

FINANCIAL MATTERS

FINANCIAL MATTERS

What kinds of financial assistance are available now that my grandchild is living with me?

Public programs may provide financial assistance to grandparent-headed families. The funding for these programs comes from the State of Maryland and from the federal government.

Some of the programs provide a payment for the child, some provide a payment for the grandparent, and others provide a payment for the family unit. The type of arrangement, legal or informal, by which you are caring for your grandchild(ren) may determine the kind of financial assistance, if any, you are eligible to receive.

This section describes financial assistance programs *other than those related to health and housing*. For information on financial programs that help pay for health care, see the “Health Care” section of the guide. Also see the section entitled “Housing” for information on publicly-funded housing assistance.

How do I apply for financial assistance programs?

Applications for financial assistance through the public programs must usually be made in person and, generally, by calling for an appointment in advance.

When you make an appointment, be sure to ask what information and papers you need to bring with you. When you arrive at your appointment be sure to get the name and phone number of the eligibility worker who takes your application.

What programs help people with their basic needs like food, shelter, clothing, and heat?

Food Stamp Program helps low-income people buy the food they need. Eligibility is determined by your income, employment, age or disability, and whether you are receiving Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) or other public assistance payments. You may have other allowable deductions.

To apply, call your local Department of Social Services

- ◆ *See # 3 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for local DSS listings.*

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) is a one-time per year benefit to assist low-income households in paying a portion of heating costs during the heating season. The benefit may be used toward the primary heating source for the residence: gas, electric, oil, propane, gas, kerosene, coal, wood.

Eligibility is determined by income and verification of your residence, whether owned or rented, regardless of whether you pay your own heating costs. Application for MEAP also serves as application for EUSP (see next entry).

Persons eligible for MEAP may also be able to obtain furnace repair and replacement.

Call: 1-800-352-1446 or

◆ *See # 6 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*

Electric Universal Program (EUSP), new in 2000, helps low-income Maryland electric customers pay their electric bills. The program is available to both homeowners and renters. To qualify, you must meet income guidelines and provide verification of your residence. For those who qualify, the grant is paid directly to the utility company.

Persons who qualify for the Maryland Energy Assistance Program grant for heating costs may also be eligible for an EUSP grant for their other electric services. Only one application is needed for both programs.

Call: 1-800-352-1446 or

◆ *See # 6 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Social Security Child's Benefit is available to an unmarried child under the age of 18, whose parent qualifies for Social Security or has died. This benefit may also be available to a child who is under age 19 and a full-time student and/or to a disabled child who is 18 or older, who was disabled before age 22.

An eligible child may be a biological child, adopted child, or stepchild. A dependent grandchild may be eligible if the grandparent has adopted him/her.

Call: 1-800-772-1213 or

- ◆ *See #7 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for the Social Security district office closest to you*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a benefit to a disabled child, under the age of 18, who has little or no income and who has no assets or limited assets. As a grandparent or relative caregiver, your income and assets do not affect the disabled child's eligibility.

The child in your care *may* be eligible if both of the following conditions are met:

- The child meets the Social Security definition of being disabled
- The child's parent, if living in your household, has limited income and assets *or* the child's parent does not live in the household.

Financially needy persons 65 and over, blind persons, and certain other adults with disabilities may also qualify for SSI.

Call: 1-800-772-1213 or

- ◆ *See # 7 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for the Social Security district office closest to you*

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) is a monthly benefit, provided by the State, to help a relative caregiver pay the costs of housing, feeding, and clothing a child related to you and living in your home. Eligibility is determined by income and asset guidelines, any court-assigned child support and citizenship/legal immigrant status.

To apply, call your local Department of Social Services.

- ◆ *See # 3 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for local DSS listings*
-

What can I do if someone is receiving a Social Security benefit for my grandchild but is not providing money for the child?

If you find yourself in this situation, contact Social Security and ask to become the child's Representative Payee. You will need to have the child's Social Security number available when you call.

Call: 1-800-772-1213 or

- ◆ *See # 7 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for the Social Security district office closest to you*
-

Can I receive any tax credits or deductions while caring for my grandchild?

Federal Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care is an amount of money an employed caregiver, who requires child care in order to work, may subtract from federal income tax he/she owes. Each year the tax law states the maximum amount a care giver can claim on his/her income tax return for each dependent cared for.

You *may* qualify for the credit if the child in your care qualifies as a dependent according to the Internal Revenue Service guidelines, and you file your income tax return using Form 1040 or 1040A (not Form *1040EZ*).

**Call: 1-800-TAX-FORM
(1-800-829-3676)
(Request Publication No. 503 entitled : *Child & Dependent Care Expenses*)**

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Federal Earned Income Tax Credit is a special tax benefit for single or married low-income workers. If you qualify, you will owe less in taxes, and you may get cash back. Even if you do not owe income tax, you can still get the credit.

To qualify for the credit you must meet the income guidelines established by the Internal Revenue Service and file a federal income tax return. Low-income workers can get free help preparing their federal income tax returns. To find the free tax preparation site nearest you, call the toll-free number listed below.

Call: 1-800-829-8815

Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program sets a limit on the amount of property taxes any homeowner must pay.

You *may* be eligible if you own or have a legal interest in the property. The dwelling for which you seek the tax credit must be your principal residence for at least six months of the year, and you must meet financial guidelines.

**Call: 410 767-4433 or
1-800-944-7403**

Renters' Tax Credit Program provides property tax credits for renters who meet certain requirements. The credit is paid as a direct check from the State.

You *may* be eligible if you have a bona fide lease and are legally responsible for payment of rent. The dwelling you rent must be your principal residence in Maryland for at least six months of the year, and you must meet financial guidelines.

**Call: 410 767-4433 or
1-800-944-7403**

HEALTH

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HEALTH

What measures should I take to keep my grandchild healthy?

One way to help ensure that babies and children are growing properly is to see that they have regular medical check-ups and receive immunizations (“shots”) according to a recommended schedule. See schedule at the end of this section (page 43).

Immunizations protect children from many dangerous diseases. These diseases can cause fever and rashes; even worse, some of them can cause brain damage, heart problems, crippling deafness and blindness.

All children should have their shots by age two. If the children are older and have not had all their shots, they still need them. The shots listed on page 43 are required for day care and school attendance in Maryland. If you do not know whether the children in your care have received their shots, try to find out by asking their parents. If you cannot find out, contact the child’s doctor or your local health department.

◆ *See # 5 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for local health department listings*

How often should infants and children have check-ups by a doctor?

Ask your doctor for the recommended schedule for well baby appointments; children from 18 months to school age should have a check-up once a year.

What other types of regular health-related screenings do children need?

Ask about having vision and hearing screening tests done when the child has his/her yearly check-up. Regular dental care is also important for healthy teeth and gums. A child should see a dentist within 6 months of the appearance of the first tooth and not later than 1 year old; thereafter, the child should see the dentist twice a year.

What are the important things to say when I call a health care provider?

- Explain your medical need
- Ask which of the organization’s locations is closest to you
- Ask for the address and phone number of the location
- Ask if you need an appointment or if you can walk in
- Ask what paperwork you should bring (e.g., proof of income)
- Write down the name of the person you talk to by telephone

HEALTH

Can Medicare or the private insurance I carry pay for my grandchild's health care costs?

Under Medicare and most medical insurance policies, your grandchild will not be covered. Under certain conditions, such as adoption, some private insurance companies *may* cover your grandchild. Call your insurance company to find out whether it is possible to cover your grandchild as a dependent under your own policy and, if so, what steps you need to take.

Where can low-income Marylanders get help to pay for medical care?

Maryland Medical Assistance Program ("Medicaid") helps eligible adults and children in Maryland pay for needed medical services. *Your grandchild's health care will automatically be covered by Medicaid if you are receiving Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) for the child (see page 31).* Persons receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) also receive Medicaid automatically.

Medicaid can help pay for the services listed below for all recipients, regardless of age:

- doctors visits & check-ups
- hospital care
- prescription medicines
- shots
- vision care (eyeglasses for children under age 21)
- mental health
- drug & alcohol abuse treatment services (all children and *selected* adult populations)
- laboratory tests
- home health services

Medicaid recipients up to age 19 or pregnant are eligible for additional services through the Maryland Children's Health Program (see next entry).

Apply for Medical Assistance at your local Department of Social Services (DSS) or health department

- ◆ *See # 3 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for Local DSS offices; or*
- ◆ *See # 5 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for local health department offices; or*
- ◆ *Call 1-800-456-8900*

HEALTH

What if the child in my care is not financially eligible for Medical Assistance?

Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP – sometimes called “CHIP”) provides health insurance coverage for low-income children under age 19 and low-income pregnant women, regardless of age, who meet certain income guidelines *and are not already covered by Medicaid*. MCHP provides the same services listed for the Medical Assistance Program, *as well as these additional services*:

- ❑ dental care for children and limited dental services for pregnant women
- ❑ hearing screenings for children
- ❑ pregnancy-related services

MCHP-Premium covers certain low-income children and pregnant women not financially eligible for regular MCHP. A monthly fee is required for participation in MCHP-Premium

Pick up an application for MCHP at any local school, Headstart, Department of Social Services, or health department.

- ◆ *See # 3 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for Local DSS offices; or*
- ◆ *See # 5 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for local health department offices; or*

Call : 1-800-456-8900

Note: No interview is required.

What do the terms “managed care,” “MCO,” and “HealthChoice” have to do with Medicaid and the Maryland Children’s Health Program?

Persons on Medicaid and MHCP receive their health care through a managed care organization (MCO). An MCO is comprised of a large group of member doctors.

A program called HealthChoice gives a choice of health care providers for consumers on Medicaid and MCHP. Once a person is approved for Medicaid or MCHP, a packet of information is mailed so that he/she can choose an MCO. The packet also describes the consumer’s right under Health Choice.

Call: 1-800-977-7388

HEALTH

What other programs can help me pay for my own health care?

Medicare is a federal program that covers health care for individuals who receive Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) and for individuals age 62 and older who have paid into the Social Security system for the required amount of time.

Call: 1-800-MEDICARE

Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program and other Medicare “buy-in” programs help low-income Medicare beneficiaries with expenses related to their health care. For eligible persons, the program pays their Medicare Part A and Part B premiums, co-payments, and deductibles.

For information, call the Department of Social Services in the locality where you live.

◆ *See # 3 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*

Federally Qualified Health Centers help low-income people apply for programs listed on the previous pages and/or provide health care services on a sliding fee scale.

◆ **Call 301 577-0097** for the number and location of the Federally Qualified Health Center nearest you.

Who can answer my questions about Medicare and other health insurance choices and about the statements I receive from Medicare?

Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) helps educate seniors about Medicare, Medigap policies, HMOs (health maintenance organizations), programs for low-income Medicare beneficiaries, long term care insurance, and options for purchasing medications. Trained staff and volunteers also help prepare and file health insurance claims.

To be connected with SHIP, call the Senior Information and Assistance Program in your local Area Agency on Aging.

◆ *See # 3 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*

◆ **Call 410 767-1100 or 1 800 AGE-DIAL**

HEALTH

What about help to pay for mental health counseling and treatment for me or my grandchild?

The federal Medicare program provides mental health benefits, as well as medical coverage, for enrollees. In Maryland, private insurance companies and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) are required to cover some of the cost of mental health services. Under certain circumstances, you may include your grandchild, who is living with you, on your policy.

- ◆ Call your insurance company or HMO to determine the extent of your coverage for mental health services and whether it is possible to include your grandchild.

What does Maryland Health Partners have to do with Medicaid and the Maryland Children's Health Program?

Persons on Medicaid, regardless of age, or on the Maryland Children's Health Program receive coverage for mental health services through an organization called Maryland Health Partners. The person's primary doctor can refer him/her to Maryland Health Partners, or the recipient can call Maryland Health Partners directly.

Call: 1-800-888-1965

If a person is not on Medicaid or the Maryland Children's Health Program, and has no private insurance coverage for mental health services, is there any other way to get help?

The Public Mental Health System in Maryland, managed by Maryland Health Partners, may be able to help you get medically necessary mental health services if you meet the income guidelines.

Call: 1-800-888-1965

- ◆ See the resources listed in the section of this guide entitled Family Support and Counseling. Many of the organizations listed provide low-cost or free services.

HEALTH

What about help to pay for prescription medicines?

Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program (MPAP)

helps low-income persons pay for certain prescription medicines. Program participants pay a small portion of each prescription and refill.

You *may* be eligible for MPAP if you are not eligible for Medicaid/Maryland Children's Health Program and you meet MPAP's income and asset guidelines.

Call: 410 767-5394 or 1-800- 492-1974
to obtain an application form

Senior Short Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan

was enacted by the Maryland Legislature for a two-year period (July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2003). Medicare beneficiaries, including persons under age 65 on Medicare *may* qualify if they meet income guidelines. *Note: Persons on the Medicaid or Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program are not eligible for this plan.*

Participants pay a monthly premium and also a co-pay for each prescription. The program allows up to 30,000 participants. It is administered by Care First Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Call: 1-800-972-4612

How can a grandparent who is raising a pre-school grandchild or a pregnant teenager learn about meeting the child's nutritional requirements?

Women, Infants, And Children (WIC) is a federally funded program that provides healthy foods and nutrition counseling to pregnant women, new mothers, infants and children under 5 years of age.

Healthy eating helps ensure that children learn and grow. Good nutrition is especially important for expectant mothers and young children because of early stage brain development.

WIC provides program participants with vouchers that can be redeemed for approved foods such as: milk, cheese, eggs, dry beans/peas, iron-fortified cereal, juice, infant formula, and infant cereal.

You *may* be eligible if you meet financial guidelines.

Call: 1-800-242- 4WIC

HEALTH

Healthy Start helps pregnant women and children under the age of 2 get medical care, food, housing, clothes, and transportation to the doctor. The program teaches proper eating habits during pregnancy. The program explains how smoking, alcohol, and other drugs might affect mother and child and prepares the mother-to-be for labor and delivery.

Your grandchild *may* be eligible if the child is under the age of 2 or if she is pregnant, regardless of age.

**Call: 410 767-6750 or
1-800-456-8900**

What programs can help families deal with alcohol and drug abuse problems?

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinators in Baltimore City and in each of Maryland's counties help direct people with substance abuse problems to appropriate treatment.

◆ *See # 8 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers* for a listing of local coordinators.

A family of related organizations that have a long history of helping people with addictions and their families are listed below. They can help you locate appropriate group meetings in your area.

For Baltimore Area:

Alcoholics Anonymous - for persons suffering from alcoholism - **410 663-1922**

Narcotics Anonymous - for persons suffering from drug addiction - **1-800-317-3222**

Alanon and **Alateen** - for family members and friends of alcoholics - **410 832-7094**

For the rest of Maryland call 1-800-711-6375

HEALTH

Treatment Resources for Youth, Inc. (TRY) is an outpatient treatment center in Baltimore City. It serves young people ages 12 to 18, who are at high risk for drug use, crime, and violence, and their families.

TRY works with youth both in the neighborhood and in public schools and provides staff training for teachers.

Call: 410 366-2123

What programs can help grandparents deal with HIV and AIDS in their families?

Health Education and Resource Organization (HERO) provides health education information to people and families affected by HIV/AIDS. For infected people, help is provided around all aspects of living with the disease through: case management services, legal services, emergency funds, support groups, buddy programs, drop-in centers, addiction services, mental health counseling, and acupuncture.

Call: 410 685-1180

Baltimore Pediatric HIV Program is a comprehensive educational wellness program for families and children whose lives have been dramatically changed by HIV disease.

Education, day care, and respite care are available for children ages 2-5. A rap group for adolescents ages 12-18 meets periodically. A grandparent support group also operates. Referrals to other community resources are made.

Call: 410 225-2600

HEALTH

Where can teenagers and young adults get confidential information and help about health related issues they face during those years?

The Adolescent and Young Adult Center, under the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine of the University of Maryland Hospital, provides a wide array of services to young people, ages 12-24. Located in Baltimore, *some* of the services the Center offers are:

- ❑ Pregnancy evaluation, information on methods of birth control, emergency contraception
- ❑ Education on HIV prevention
- ❑ Evaluation, counseling, and treatment of emotional issues related to sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, substance abuse, depression
- ❑ Testing, counseling (including support groups), treatment, and case management related to HIV/AIDS
- ❑ Counseling related to gender identity for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and other questioning youth.

Call: 410 328-TEEN (8336)

Also see **Treatment Resources for Youth**, page 40.

What other programs help children and adults who have special medical conditions and may need equipment or assistive devices for vision, hearing, communication, mobility, and other daily activities?

Children’s Medical Services (CMS) is a State program that helps people up to age 22 get special medical services for certain chronic and disabling conditions which interfere with normal growth and development.

To be eligible for CMS, the family must meet income guidelines and the condition cannot be covered by other programs.

**Call: 410 767-5585 or
1-800-638-8864**

The Hearing and Speech Agency is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to meeting the hearing, speech, and language needs of Maryland’s children and adults.

Its clinical services include hearing tests, hearing rehabilitation services, and evaluation/treatment of voice, speech, and language. Information and referral to other resources are also provided.

Call: 410 243-3800

HEALTH

Kennedy Krieger Institute

See description on page 8.

Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT)

Equipment Distribution Program provides TTY's (text telephones) and other special telecommunications equipment to low-income Maryland residents with certain medical conditions that have been verified by a medical professional.

You *may* be eligible if you:

- ❑ Receive SSI, SSDI, TCA, or TEMHA benefits, are a minor child of parents or guardians receiving such benefits, or are experiencing financial hardship
- ❑ Have telephone service in your home or apply for phone service
- ❑ Are at least 5 years of age
- ❑ Have one of the following disabilities – mobility impairment, blindness, low vision, cognitive impairment, deafness/blindness, speech impairment, deafness or are hard of hearing *and* have difficulty using a standard telephone.

Call: 1-800-552-7724 (VOICE/TTY)

Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MD TAP)

A program of the Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities, MD TAP furnishes information and consultation on assistive technology to aid individuals with disabilities. Information is available on aids for daily living, mobility and transportation aids, communication and speech aids, assistive listening devices, alerting devices, home modifications, recreational equipment and more. Loaner equipment and demonstrations may also be available.

Call: 1-800-832-4827

Other Health related resources are described on pages 4-5 of the Child Care section, pages 10-11 of the Early Learning section, and pages 24-26 of the Family Support and Counseling section.

Immunization Schedule

Note: Your health-care provider may want your child to have these shots at times other than the ones shown here

Type of Shot	Dose	Recommended At
Polio*	1 st	2 months
	2 nd	4 months
	3 rd	12 months
	4 th	Before starting school (4-6 years)
DTaP or DTP* (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)	1 st	2 months
	2 nd	4 months
	3 rd	6 months
	4 th	15 months
	5 th	Before starting school (4-6 years)
	Adult Booster	Every 10 years (diphtheria and tetanus)
MMR* Measles, Mumps, and Rubella)	1 st	12 months
	2 nd	Before starting school (4-6 years)
HIB** (Bacterial Meningitis)	1 st	2 months
	2 nd	4 months
	3 rd	6 months
	4 th	15 months
Hepatitis B*	1 st	at birth
	2 nd	1-2 months
	3 rd	6-18 months
Varicella (chickenpox)*	1 st	12 months
PCV (Pneumococcal Conjugate)	1 st	6 months (additional doses thereafter).

*Required for day care and school attendance in Maryland

**Required for day care attendance in Maryland

Information for this chart was provided by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

HOUSING

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HOUSING

What factors about my housing situation must I consider when having my grandchild live with me?

Space, safety, and privacy needs of the whole family must be considered when a grandchild moves in. As a result, the grandparent may need to think about moving to another residence or making changes to his/her current residence.

What special factors must renters consider when a grandchild moves in?

When living in a rental unit, particularly a government-subsidized facility, the lease usually requires that you advise the rental manager if anyone moves into the dwelling other than those already on the lease. Otherwise, you risk eviction.

In government-subsidized housing, adding a grandchild to your household may affect the amount of rent you pay in the future and whether your family can remain in the same rental unit. Any income the child receives is added to the total household income. Also, there are federal guidelines on the number of children who may occupy a given size apartment.

What kind of housing assistance is available for low-income renters?

The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) operates several rental assistance programs to assist low-income persons and families:

Public housing is operated by the local housing authority.

“Section 8” is a program in which the local housing authority gives the tenant a certificate stating that the government will pay part of the tenant’s monthly rent; then the resident locates his/her own housing.

Not all counties offer both public and Section 8 housing.

**Call: 410 396-5548 or
410 396-5594 about public or Section 8
Housing in Baltimore City.**

◆ *See # 13 in Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for housing offices in Maryland’s 23 counties.*

HOUSING

Privately-owned subsidized rental housing is a program in which the government provides subsidies directly to the owner of the housing; then the owner applies those subsidies to the tenant's rent. Applications can be taken by the individual apartment managers.

Waiting lists for HUD programs can be lengthy. However, the urgency of a situation can sometimes give an applicant priority for housing, particularly if a social worker from the local Department of Social Services manages your grandchild's case. Ask the social worker about getting priority for housing.

To obtain a listing of privately owned subsidized apartment buildings in Maryland, contact the numbers below:

**Call: Washington HUD Office
(Montgomery & Prince George's Counties)
1-202-708-1112**

**Baltimore HUD Office
(Baltimore City and other Maryland Counties)
410 962-2520 and ask for "The Locator"**

Where can I get help in resolving a dispute with my landlord?

Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc., promotes fair housing through education and legal action. This agency provides information on landlord/tenant law, writes letters to landlords and prepares clients for small claims court.

Call: 410 243-6007 or 1-800-487-6007

Where can low-income families get information about home ownership, home improvement, and home repair loans?

**Call: 410 396-4151
(in Baltimore City)**

◆ *See # 13 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for housing offices in Maryland's 23 counties.*

HOUSING

What is a reverse mortgage? Can it help with my family's needs?

Seniors who are at least 62 years old and own their home have an alternative not available to renters or to younger homeowners: the "reverse mortgage." The reverse mortgage can enable senior homeowners to turn their home into a source of income and thus be in a better position to provide for their grandchildren.

Under a reverse mortgage, a lender advances an amount of money, based on the value of the home, to the current owner. A lien is placed on the house, but the senior continues to own it. The lender is paid back the full amount of the loan plus interest when the senior moves permanently or dies. The loan is repaid in one payment, usually through the sale of the house. Generally, the older you are and the more your home is worth, the more money you can borrow.

Reverse mortgages can be complicated arrangements. Do not enter into a reverse mortgage agreement without exploring more than one lender's plan and thoroughly understanding the conditions.

Who can I call to learn more about reverse mortgages?

Your local Area Agency on Aging may know the names of lending institutions offering the reverse mortgage in Maryland.

◆ *See # 2 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*

The AARP Foundation (American Association of Retired Persons) offers a Home Equity Conversion Information Kit and videotape to help homeowners decide if a reverse mortgage may be right for them.

Call: 1-800-209-8085

LEGAL ISSUES

LEGAL
ISSUES

LEGAL ISSUES

What parental legal responsibilities might a grandparent face in raising a grandchild?

Examples of parental legal responsibilities are providing for a child's basic needs (food, clothing, shelter); making medical decisions or giving consent for medical procedures on behalf of a child; enrolling the child in school; and giving consent for psychotherapy or special education services.

A parent may make an informal or verbal agreement with a relative or close family friend to raise the parent's child; this arrangement is often called "informal kinship care." However, in the eyes of the law, the *parent* is still responsible for certain actions and decision-making on behalf of the child, such as the examples listed above.

Why should I consider becoming the legal guardian of my grandchild?

Often a medical facility, school, provider of therapy services, or other system is allowed to give information about the child's treatment only to the parent or someone who can show written proof of having legal authority to act in place of the parent.

Problems arise when a child in the care of his/her grandparent (or other designated person) has a medical, educational or other need that can be provided only with parental consent, and the natural parent is unwilling or unable to cooperate with the service provider. Sometimes, the natural parent cannot be located. Then, in order for the child to receive the necessary care or service, the grandparent may need to petition the court for guardianship of the child. Because court proceedings take time, the child may have to wait to receive the needed care or service.

Another reason for seeking legal guardianship is to ensure that support payments for the child from his/her natural parents are used for the child's benefit.

Grandparents need to know that without obtaining legal guardianship, they are likely to have problems obtaining services and information on behalf of the child in their care, especially from medical institutions, schools, and systems that provide financial benefits.

Is guardianship permanent?

Guardianship need not be permanent. If the natural parent can prove his or her capability to provide for the child's needs, legal responsibility can revert back to the parent through a court order.

LEGAL ISSUES

What is stand-by guardianship?

This is a legal guardianship arrangement, initiated by a parent, where a person designated by the parent is appointed by a court to care for a child in the event of incapacity or death of the child's parent or upon the consent of the parent.

Why should I consider adopting my grandchild?

When it is unlikely that the natural parent will ever be capable of providing for the child's needs, some grandparents pursue adopting their grandchild, rather than obtaining legal guardianship. For the child, being adopted usually results in a greater sense of permanency than being in a guardianship status.

Adoption can also strengthen a grandchild's present and future financial status. A grandchild who has been adopted by his/her grandparent may be eligible for Social Security benefits on the grandparent's Social Security record. For further information, contact your local Social Security Office.

◆ *See # 7 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*

What will happen to my grandchild if I die or if, for some reason, I am no longer able to care for the child?

When the grandparent is caring for his/her grandchild informally, that grandparent has no legal say about where and with whom the child will live if the grandparent should die or become unable to care for the child. In the informal kinship care situation, if the grandparent caregiver dies or becomes unable to care for the child, the natural parents are still legally responsible for the child.

If the grandparent, who has become the legal guardian for his/her grandchild, dies or becomes unable to care for the child, the court decides who takes over legal guardianship. This is an area of law that is undergoing some changes. Consideration is being given to joint guardianship, whereby guardianship for a child can be shared between a grandparent, for example, and another person. Thus, if the grandparent died or could no longer fulfill his/her guardianship responsibilities, the other named person would take over.

Only if the grandparent has legally adopted his/her grandchild does the grandparent have a clear legal right to plan for the care of the child in the event of the grandparent's death or disability.

LEGAL ISSUES

What legal resources and other advocates can help me?

Baltimore City Circuit Court – Domestic Pro Se Office of Family Law enables citizens to file court petitions, without being represented by a lawyer during court proceedings.

Information is given by attorneys on how to complete petitions for absolute and limited divorce, answer to complaint, child support, custody/modifications of custody, motion to waive advance court costs, and visitation. You must meet certain income eligibility guidelines to be eligible for these services.

Call: 410 333-3709

Community Mediation Program helps people in conflict reach an agreement that satisfies their needs. Mediation is for people who have been unable to work through a problem on their own, or who are considering using legal help or violence to resolve an issue. Professionally trained mediators guide the process by which the parties work together.

People can refer themselves or be referred by others. The Program currently receives referrals from the police, courts, city agencies, community-based organizations, and others.

Mediation sessions can be scheduled at a location convenient for the participants. There is no cost for the service.

Call: 410 467-9165

Grandparents Rights Organization of Maryland (GROM) provides information on laws and resources, as well as emotional support to grandparents who are parenting their grandchildren as well as those who are not parenting. Help is provided primarily by telephone consultation from members.

Call: 410 519-7629 or 410 761-1168

LEGAL ISSUES

Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. is a staffed legal services program offering free civil (non-criminal) legal services to low-income persons. The Bureau accepts cases relating to family/domestic law, public benefits, housing/consumer issues, and migrant representation. You *may* be eligible if you meet income guidelines

**Call: 410 539-5340 Central Office or
1-800-999-8904 Maryland Senior Legal Hotline**

◆ *See # 1 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers.*

Maryland Disability Law Center (MDLC) provides information and referral to persons with disabilities in Maryland where the issue is related to the disability. Issues may include: special education, vocational rehabilitation, Social Security benefits, protective services, guardianship and alternatives, civil rights, and access of children to Medicaid mental and physical health services. MDLC may also provide legal services.

Call: 410 727-6352 or 1-800-233-7201

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service refers customers to lawyers who provide free or reduced fee service for civil (non-criminal) matters. Cases may include family law, landlord/tenant issues, problems with administrative agencies, bankruptcy, consumer issues, wills, tort defense, school suspensions/expulsion, etc. You *may* be eligible if you meet income guidelines.

This program is currently not available in Allegany, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

**Call: 410 547-6537 or
1-800-510-0050**

The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare has an 8-page brochure, available free of charge, entitled *Grandparents' Guide to Navigating the Legal System*.

To order call: 1-800-966-1935

LEGAL ISSUES

Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (PBRC) is the Statewide coordinator of volunteer legal services. The Center also provides referrals to persons who are seeking free or reduced-fee civil (non-criminal) legal services. You must meet certain income guidelines for referral. *PBRC does not provide legal advice or direct legal representation.*

Call: 410 837-9379

Senior Legal Assistance Program is a statewide program which provides legal advice, counseling, and representation or refers the senior to an attorney who has specialized knowledge. Income maintenance is one of the priority issues addressed by the program. You *may* be eligible for assistance if you are age 60 or over. The local Senior Information and Assistance Specialist can direct you.

♦ *See # 2 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*

University of Maryland School of Law - Clinic Law Office provides legal representation to low-income persons by law students, under the supervision of experienced lawyers and law professors. You *may* be eligible if you meet the program's financial eligibility guidelines and reside in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

Call: 410 706-3839

Women's Law Center of Maryland offers telephone services and handles a limited number of family law cases and protective orders.

The Center's Family Law Hotline answers general legal questions on family law and makes appropriate referrals for legal services.

The Legal Forms Helpline assists callers, who are filing a family law case without a lawyer, to complete form pleadings.

For the cases the Center takes on, income eligibility guidelines may apply.

Call: 410 321-8761
Family Law Hotline 1-800-845-8550
Legal Forms Helpline 1-800-818-9888

LIFE ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

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LIFE ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

It is important for both grandparents and grandchildren to participate in activities for purposes of fun, socialization, spirituality and exercise to name a few. Churches, synagogues, YWCAs and YMCAs, often offer free or inexpensive planned activities that both generations can enjoy together or that are geared to adults and children separately. These organizations often offer summer programs, including day and overnight camps.

Where are some other places I can find low-cost recreational activities for my grandchild, myself, or for us to do together?

Local Departments of Recreation offer free or reasonably priced activities for children, adults, and families. Various activities are available year-round, including summer camps. Local Departments of Recreation usually offer some activities for children with special needs.

In some localities, by asking to have your name placed on a mailing list, you can receive information on low-cost activities, like summer camps, as soon as they become available and before they fill up.

- ◆ See # 13 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for local Department of Recreation listings.

The Maryland Child Care Resource Network may know of recreational programs for children, including camps, in your local area. This service is also known as “LOCATE .”

- ◆ *See # 10 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts have long enriched the lives of children.

Call: 1-800-492-2521
Girl Scouts of Central Maryland

410 338-1700
Boy Scouts of Central Maryland

Senior Information and Assistance specialists at the Area Agencies on Aging throughout Maryland can direct grandparents age 60 and over to local senior centers, which offer numerous activities

- ◆ *See # 2 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers*

LIFE ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Are there community volunteers who could spend one-to-one time with my grandchild?

Many schools in Maryland recruit mentors and tutors to work with children who need individualized attention. Tutors help students with their school work, while mentors develop friendships with children for whom the encouragement of an interested adult can help improve the child's self-esteem. Grandparents can ask the principal or guidance counselor if the school has a tutoring or mentoring program.

Some faith communities also sponsor tutoring and mentoring programs. Ask about the availability of these services at your church or synagogue.

Maryland Mentoring Partnership matches caring, committed mentors with children who need help in developing self-esteem, ambition, and self-sufficiency. The Partnership has promoted the building of mentoring programs under sponsorship of area schools, religious institutions, corporations, and community organizations.

The Partnership also operates a State Mentoring Resource Center, which tries to link families with a child who needs mentoring to an existing program that can serve the child.

Mentoring programs are not available in all localities. Also, there are more children in need of mentors than there are mentors available.

Call: 410 685-8316

Big Brother/Big Sisters of America matches at-risk children primarily from single-family homes, or children being raised by non-parents, with an adult volunteer who will provide additional guidance, support, and companionship to the child. The Big Brother or Big Sister volunteer has been carefully screened, interviewed, and trained by professional staff of the local organization that sponsors the program. The volunteer continues to be supervised by professional staff once the match is made.

Call: 410 243-4000

LIFE ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Police Athletic League (“PAL”) Activity Centers are located in most of Baltimore City’s police districts and in several other Maryland counties. These centers offer their participants high quality programming in the areas of character development, homework assistance, and academic enrichment, arts and cultural activities, and physical activities.

Baltimore PAL Centers operate in the afternoon and evening, Monday through Friday during the school year. The centers are also open during vacations and summer months.

Center activities are available without charge to boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 17 in Baltimore City. Children and teens must adhere to high standards of conduct in order to participate in the programs.

Call: 410 396-2166
Baltimore City

410 887-5892
Baltimore County

301 840-2694
Montgomery County

301 790-3700
Washington County

301 694-2091
Frederick County

SAFETY

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SAFETY

What measures can I take at home to keep my young grandchild safe?

The following list, prepared by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, gives some home safety tips for young children. Many of these tips apply to all children up to age five, but have been broken down into age ranges for easier reference.

<i>Young Infants (Newborn to 6 months)</i>	<i>Older Infants (7 months to 12 months)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Put your grandchild to sleep on his or her back in a crib with a firm flat mattress and no soft bedding underneath. ◆ Make sure your crib is sturdy with no loose or missing hardware; used cribs may not meet current safety standards ◆ Don't give grandchildren toys or other items with small parts or tie toys around their necks. ◆ In a car, always buckle your grandchild in a child safety seat on the back seat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Never leave your grandchild alone for a moment near any water or in the bathtub, even with a bath seat; check bath water with your wrist or elbow to be sure it is not too hot. ◆ Don't leave a baby unattended on a changing table or other nursery equipment; always use all safety straps. ◆ If you use a baby walker for your grandchild, make sure it has special safety features to prevent falls down stairs, or use a stationary activity center instead. ◆ Keep window blind and curtain cords out of reach of grandchildren; dress grandchildren in clothing without drawstrings.
<i>Toddlers (up to 3 years)</i>	<i>Preschoolers (3 years to 5 years)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Keep all medicines in containers with safety caps; be sure medicines, cleaning products, and other household chemicals are out of reach and locked away from children. ◆ Use safety gates for stairs, safety plugs for electrical outlets, and safety latches for drawers and cabinets. ◆ Buy toys labeled for children under age 3; these are often safety recommendations not measures of a child's skill or ability. ◆ Never leave your grandchildren alone in or near swimming pools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Keep children – and furniture they can climb on - away from windows. ◆ At playgrounds, look for protective surfacing under equipment ◆ Be sure your grandchildren wear helmets when riding tricycles or bicycles. ◆ At all ages, make sure your smoke detectors work; keep matches and lighters away from children.

SAFETY

What is helpful information to have on-hand in case of an emergency?

Keep the following information by your telephone for each grandchild in your care:

- Child's name, age and current weight
 - List of any medical conditions the child has
 - List of medications the child is taking
 - Phone number of child's primary care doctor
-

What are some safety issues I should be aware of, and where can I call for help?

Possible Lead Poisoning can occur from exposure to lead paint, which is present in many older buildings (20 years old or more). Lead paint dust can be inhaled, and young children may put into their mouths lead paint chips that flake off walls.

Because children are more susceptible to lead poisoning than adults, they should be tested for lead poisoning between the ages of 6 months and 6 years.

- ◆ **Call the Maryland Lead Hotline at 410 631-3859 or 1-800-370-5323**
- ◆ *See #5 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers to contact your local health department*

Possible Poisoning (other than lead paint)

- ◆ *For emergencies, call 911*
- ◆ *For less serious cases, call the Maryland Poison Control Center at 410 706-7701 or 1-800-222-1222*

SAFETY

Maryland's Child Passenger Safety Laws and Car Seats

Maryland law requires that a child younger than four years (regardless of his/her weight) or who weighs forty pounds or less (regardless of his/her age) must be secured in a federally-approved safety seat according to the safety seat and vehicle manufacturer's instruction.

A person may not transport a child younger than 16 years of age in any vehicle unless the child is secured in a child safety seat or in one of the vehicle's seat belts.

For additional information, including information about low-cost car seats,

- ◆ *Call Maryland Kids in Safety Seats (KISS) at 410 767-6016 or 1-800-370-SEAT*

Maryland's Bicycle Helmet Law

Persons under the age of 16 who are riding a bicycle (defined as a vehicle with two or three wheels of which one is more than 14 inches in diameter) or are passengers on a bicycle are required to wear a helmet that meets or exceeds one of three certain standards for helmets (Snell Memorial Foundation, American National Standards Institute, or American Society for Testing & Materials)

For additional information:

- ◆ *Call Maryland SAFEKIDS at 410 787-5893 or*
- ◆ *Call Maryland Department of Transportation Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator at 410 545-5656*

Child Abuse or Neglect

To report child abuse or neglect,

- ◆ *See # 3 under Other Helpful Telephone Numbers for the Department of Social Services in the locality where the child lives.*

***Other Helpful
Telephone Numbers***

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #1
LOCAL OFFICES OF LEGAL AID BUREAU, INC.

LOCALITY	TELEPHONE
<u>Anne Arundel County</u>	410 263-8330 - Annapolis 410 269-0846 - Baltimore) 301 261-1956 – DC/1-800-666-8330
<u>Baltimore City</u>	410 539-5340 1-800-999-8904 1-800-458-5340 TTY
<u>Baltimore County</u>	410 296-6705
<u>Lower Eastern Shore</u> Wicomico, Dorchester, Worcester, Somerset	410 546-5511 1-800-444-4099
<u>Montgomery</u>	301 879-8752 1-888-215-5316
<u>Midwestern Maryland</u> Frederick, Carroll, Washington	301 694-7414 (Frederick) 1-800-679-8813 1-800-763-4152 TTY
<u>Northeastern Maryland</u> Harford, Cecil	410 836-8202 Harford 410 879-3755 Baltimore 1-800-444-9529
<u>Prince George's</u>	301 927-6800 1-888-215-5316
<u>Southern Maryland</u> Charles, St. Mary's, Calvert	301 932-6661 Charles 301 884-5935 St. Mary's 410 535-3278 Calvert 301 843-5850 D.C.
<u>Upper Eastern Shore</u> Queen Anne's, Caroline, Kent & Talbot	410 758-2543 / 1-800-477-2543
<u>Western Maryland</u>	301-777-7474 Allegany 301-334-8832 Garrett

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #2

***SENIOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE OFFICES
OF THE LOCAL AREA AGENCIES ON AGING***

COUNTY	TELEPHONE	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Allegany County	301 777-5970	Harford County	410 638-3025
AnneArundel County	410 222-4464	Howard County	410 313-7212
Baltimore County	410 887-2594	Kent County	410 778-2564
Baltimore City	410 396-1341	Montgomery County	240 777-3000
Calvert County	410 535-4606	Prince George's County	310 699-2696
Caroline County	410 479-2093	Queen Anne's County	410 758-0848
Carroll County	410 876-3363	Somerset County	410 651-0020
Cecil County	410 996-5295	St. Mary's County	301 475-4444
Charles County	301 934-0118	Talbot County	410 822-2869
Dorchester County	410 221-1930	Washington County	301 790-0275
Frederick County	301 694-1604	Wicomico County	410 543-0388
Garrett County	301 334-9431	Worcester County	410 632-1289

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #3

LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LOCAL DSS	TELEPHONE	LOCAL DSS	TELEPHONE
Allegany County	301 784-7000	Harford County	410 836-4949 or 4787
Anne Arundel County	410 269-4500	Howard County	410 872-4200
Baltimore County	410 853-3000	Kent County	410 810-7600
Baltimore City	410 361-2202	Montgomery County Health & Human Services	240 777-1245
Calvert County	410 286-2100	Prince George's County	301 209-5000
Caroline County	410 479-5900	Queen Anne's County	410 758-8000
Carroll County	410 876-2190	Somerset County	410 677-4200
Cecil County	410 996-0100	St. Mary's County	240 895-7000
Charles County	301-392-6400	Talbot County	410 822-1617
Dorchester County	410 901-4100	Washington County	240 420-2100
Frederick County	301 694-4555	Wicomico County	410 543-6900
Garrett County	301 334-9461	Worcester County	410 677-6800

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #4

LOCAL FAMILY SUPPORT CENTERS

LOCAL FSC	TELEPHONE	LOCAL FSC	TELEPHONE
Allegany County	301 724-5445	Kent County	410-778-7911
Anne Arundel County Annapolis West County	410 269-4478 410 551-2411	Montgomery County	301 585-3424
Baltimore County	410 853-3860	Prince George's County	301 431-6210 301 324-9705
Baltimore City Bon Secours' GBMC DRU Our House Park Heights S.W. Family Center Waverly	410 362-3629 410 522-7827 410-523-1828 410 396-8469 410 578-0244 410 233-2995 410 235-0555	Queen Anne's County	410 827-7656
Carroll County	410 876-7805	St. Mary's County	301 737-1932
Cecil County	410 392-9272	Talbot County	410 822-0441
Dorchester County	410 221-1290	Washington County	301 790-4002
Frederick County Family Partner Up County	301 846-2206 301 447-2810	Wicomico County	410 860-9194
Harford County	410 273-5650	Worcester County	410 6412898

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #5

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

COUNTY	TELEPHONE	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Allegany County	301 777-5600	Harford County	410 879-2404 410 838-3047
Anne Arundel County	410 222-7375	Howard County	410 313-2333
Baltimore County	410 887-3740	Kent County	410 778-1350
Baltimore City	410 396-4398	Montgomery County	240 777-1245
Calvert County	410 535-5400	Prince George's County	301 883-7834
Caroline County	410 479-8030 410 479-8000	Queen Anne's County	410 758-0720
Carroll County	410 876-2152	St. Mary's County	301 475-4330
Cecil County	410 996-5100	Somerset County	410 651-5600
Charles County	301 609-6900	Talbot County	410 819-5600
Dorchester County	410 228-3223	Washington County	240 313-3255
Frederick County	301 694-1029	Wicomico County	410 749-1244
Garrett County	301 334-7777	Worcester County	410 632-1100

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #6

***LOCAL MARYLAND HOME ENERGY
PROGRAM OFFICES***

COUNTY	TELEPHONE	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Allegany County	301 777-8550	Harford County	410 638-3240
Anne Arundel County	410 626-1910	Howard County	410 313-6440
Baltimore County	410 853-3385	Kent County	410 810-7716
Baltimore City	410 396-5555	Montgomery County	240 777-4450
Caroline County	410 479-5900	Prince George's County	301 209-5240
Carroll County	410 857-2999	Queen Anne's County	410 758-3977
Cecil County	410 996-0270	Shore Up, Inc. (Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester)	410 749-1142
Dorchester County	410 901-4100	Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee (Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's)	301 274-4474
Frederick County	301 694-2410	Talbot County	410 822-5015
Garrett County	301 334-9431	Washington County	301 797-4161

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #7

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION DISTRICT OFFICES IN MARYLAND

A Maryland resident may go to any of the district offices listed. There are several offices in some counties and no offices in other counties. For some Maryland residents, the closest office may be in Delaware or Virginia.

For locations in Delaware, call the Area 2 office at 410 363-4880. For locations in Virginia, call the Area 3 office at 301 585-1835

LOCATION	TELEPHONE	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
Abingdon, MD	410 638-1237	Camp Springs, MD	301 449-7578
Annapolis, MD	410 841-6438	Columbia, MD	410 312-2744
Baltimore – Downtown	410 962-7728	Cumberland, MD	301 724-4896
Baltimore County – Middle River	410 391-7163	Elkton, MD	410 620-5403
Baltimore County – Owings Mills	410 356-7212	Frederick, MD	301 663-1523
Baltimore County – Towson	410 825-7671	Glen Burnie, MD	410 761-1806
Baltimore – North	410 962-0196	Greenbelt, MD	301 344-1592
Baltimore – Northeast	410 276-4128	Hagerstown, MD	301 797-0841
Baltimore – Reisterstown Rd.	410 764- 7862	Rockville, MD	301 413-0304
Baltimore – West	410 962-9453	Salisbury, MD	410 546-5122
Brightseat, MD	301 763- 1001	Westminster, MD	410 848-4826
Cambridge, MD	410 228- 8948	Wheaton, MD	301 427-0106

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #8

***LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COORDINATORS***

COUNTY	TELEPHONE	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Allegany County	301 777-5680	Harford County	410 515-0875
Anne Arundel County	410 222-7164	Howard County	410 313-6200
Baltimore County	410 887-3828	Kent County	410 778-2616
Baltimore City	410 637-1900	Montgomery County	301 217-1300
Calvert County	410 535-5400	Prince George's County	301 883-7853
Caroline County	410 479-1882	Queen Anne's County	410 758-1306
Carroll County	410 876-4410	Somerset County	410 651-5660
Cecil County	410 996-5106	St. Mary's County	301 475-4314
Charles County	301 843-8324	Talbot County	410 822-4133
Dorchester County	410 228-7714	Washington County	301 791-3242
Frederick County	301 694-1778	Wicomico County	410 742-3784
Garrett County	301 334-8115	Worcester County	410 632-1100

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #9

LOCAL ELECTION OFFICES

COUNTY	TELEPHONE	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Allegany County	301 777-5931	Harford County	410 638-3565
Anne Arundel County	410 222-6600	Howard County	410 313-2727
Baltimore County	410 887-5700	Kent County	410 778-0038
Baltimore City	410 396-5550	Montgomery County	240 777-8500
Calvert County	410 535-2214	Prince George's County	301 952-3270
Caroline County	410 479-8145	Queen Anne's County	410 758-0832
Carroll County	410 386-2080	Somerset County	410 651-0767
Cecil County	410 996-5310	St. Mary's County	301 475-4651
Charles County	301 934-8972	Talbot County	410 770-8099
Dorchester County	410 228-2560	Washington County	301 791-3030
Frederick County	301 694-1005	Wicomico County	410 548-4830
Garrett County	301 334-1962	Worcester County	410 632-1320

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #10

***MARYLAND CHILDCARE RESOURCE NETWORK
REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACTS***

COUNTY	TELEPHONE	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Allegany County/ Garrett County	1-800-924-9188	Howard County	410 313-1930
Anne Arundel County	1-888-942-4424	Montgomery County	301 279-1773
Baltimore County	410 288-5600	Prince George's County	301 772-8400
Baltimore City	410 539-2209	St. Mary's County	301 290-0045
Calvert County/ Charles County	1-866-290-0045	Washington County	301 733-6914
Carroll County	410 751 2953 or 1-877-230-7422	Lower Shore	410 548-3279
Frederick County	301 695-4508	Upper Shore	1-888-406-1453
Harford County/ Cecil County	410 297-6592 or 1-888-297-1885		

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #11

***CHILD CARE ADMINISTRATION
REGIONAL OFFICES***

COUNTY	TELEPHONE	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Anne Arundel County	410 514-7853	Montgomery County	240 314-1403
Baltimore County	410 321-2219	North Central (Cecil, Harford Counties)	410 272-5358
Baltimore City	410 554-0482	Prince George's County	301 499-6985
Carroll County	410 751-5438	Southern Tri-County (Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's Counties)	301 475-3770 ext. 101
Frederick County	301 696-9766	Upper Shore (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's Counties)	410 819-5801
Howard County	410 750-8770	Western Maryland (Washington, Allegany, Garrett Counties)	301 791-4585 or 1-800-468-6771
Lower Shore (Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester Counties)	410 543-6737		

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #12

YMCAs IN MARYLAND

COUNTY	TELEPHONE	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Allegany County YMCA of Cumberland YMCA – (downtown) YMCA – Riverside	301 777-9622 301 724-5445 301 777-9622	Harford County	410 893-5074
Anne Arundel County	410 987-9988	Howard County	410 465-4334
Baltimore City YMCA of Central MD Druid Hill Family Center	410 837-9622 410 728-1600	Lower Shore	410 957-9622
Baltimore County Towson YMCA Western Family Branch White Marsh/Fullerton Branch	410 823-8870 410 747-9622 410 661-5600	Mid-Delmarva	410 749-0101
Carroll County	410 876-1194	Montgomery County Bethesda/Chevy Chase Silver Spring Branch Upper Montgomery	301 530-3726 301 585-2120 301 948-9622
Cecil County	410 398-0013	Prince George’s County	301 262-4342
Dorchester County	410 221-0505	Talbot County	410 822-0566
Frederick County	301 663-5131	Washington County	301 739-3990

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #13

GENERAL INFORMATION NUMBERS FOR GOVERNMENTS OF BALTIMORE CITY AND MARYLAND COUNTIES AND DEPARTMENTS OF RECREATION (DoR) AND HOUSING (if available)

COUNTY	TELEPHONE	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Allegany County Housing	301 777-7000 301 777-2372	Harford County DOR Housing	410 638-3117 410 638-3572 410 638- 3045
Anne Arundel County DOR Housing	410 222-7000 410 222-7867 410 222-6200	Howard County DOR Housing	410 313-3000 410 313-4640 410 313-6320
Baltimore City DOR	410 396-4804 410 396-7900	Kent County DOR Housing	410 778-4600 410 778-1949 410 778-0455
Baltimore County DOR Housing	410 887-0000 410 887-3871 410 853-8990	Montgomery County DOR Housing	240 777-1000 240 777-6810 240 777-3600
Calvert County DOR	410 555-1600 X200 410 555-1600 X234	Prince George's Co. DOR	301 350-9700 301 952-4757
Caroline County DOR Housing	410 479-0660 410 479-8120 410 479-3000	Queen Anne's Co. DOR Housing	410 758-4098 410 758-0835 410 758-3977
Carroll County DOR Housing	410 386-2400 410 386-2103 410 386-3600	St. Mary's Co. DOR Housing	301 475-5621 301 475-4572 301 475-4407
Cecil County DOR	410 996-5203 410 392-4537	Somerset County DOR Housing	410 651-0320 410 651-4980 410 651-1424
Charles County DOR Housing	301 645-0550 301 932-3470 301 934-9305	Talbot County DOR Housing	410 770-8001 410 770-8050 410 770-6821
Dorchester County DOR	410 228-1700 410 228-5578	Washington County DOR	240 313-2200 301 791-3481
Frederick County DOR Housing	301 694-9000 301 694-1646 301 662-8173	Wicomico County DOR	410 548-4801 410 548-4900
Garrett County Housing	301 334-8970 301 334-9431	Worcester County DOR Housing	410 632-1194 410 632-2144 410 632-3112

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #14

LOCAL INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAMS

COUNTY	TELEPHONE	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Allegany County	301 689-0466	Harford County	410 638-3823
Anne Arundel County	410 222-6911	Howard County	410 313-7017
Baltimore County	410 887-2169	Kent County	410 778-7038
Baltimore City	410 396-1666	Montgomery County	240 777-3997
Calvert County	410 535-5400	Prince George's County	301 985-3811
Caroline County	410 479-8172	Queen Anne's County	410 758-0720
Carroll County	410 876-4437	St. Mary's County	301 475-4393
Cecil County	410 996-5444	Somerset	410 651-1485
Charles County	301 609-6808	Talbot County	410 820-0319
Dorchester County	410 221-0837	Washington County	301 766-8217
Frederick County	301 694-1612	Wicomico County	410 543-6920
Garrett County	301 334-1189	Worcester County	410 632-2582

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #15

LOCAL EARLY LEARNING OFFICES

COUNTY	TELEPHONE	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Allegany County	301 759-2012	Harford County	410 638-4181 or 410 638-4182
Anne Arundel County	410 222-5441	Howard County	410 313-6843
Baltimore County	410 887-4313 410 887-3486	Kent County	410 778-7120
Baltimore City	410 396-8570 410 396-8562	Montgomery County	301 230-0691 301 230-3055
Calvert County	410 535-7264	Prince George's County	301 408-5566
Caroline County	410 479-3580	Queen Anne's County	410 758-2403 ext. 166
Carroll County	410 751-3047 410 751-3000	St. Mary's County	301 475-5511
Cecil County	410 996-5496 ext. 185	Somerset County	410 651-1485 or 410 651-1616
Charles County	301 934-7369	Talbot County	410 822-0330
Dorchester County	410 221-5261	Washington County	301 766-2936 or 301 766-2935
Frederick County	301 696-6859	Wicomico County	410 677-4523
Garrett County	301 334-7645	Worcester County	410 632-2582

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #16

HEADSTART LOCATIONS IN MARYLAND

COUNTY	TELEPHONE	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Allegany County	301 724-2547	Harford County	410 538-8420
Anne Arundel County	410 626-1925	Howard County	410 313-6443
Baltimore County	410 285-7030	Kent County	410 749-1142
Baltimore City	*See entire listing on next page	Montgomery County	301 230-0676
Calvert County	301 274-4474	Prince George's County	301 431-5600
Caroline County	410 482-2585	Queen Anne's County	410 749-1142
Carroll County	410 871-2450	Somerset County	410 968-0560
Cecil County	410 287-3936	St. Mary's County	301 274-4474
Charles County	301 274-4474	Talbot County	410 749-1142
Dorchester County	410 228-3600	Washington County	301 797-5231
Frederick County	301 694-1024	Worcester County	410 749-1142
Garrett County	301 334-9431		

HEAD START LOCATIONS IN MARYLAND (continued)
(Baltimore City & Early Head Start Programs)

LOCATION	TELEPHONE	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
Ashland	410 563-4685	Baltimore City Child Care Resource Center	410 685-5150
Coldspring	410 542-4242	Emily Price Jones	410 362-6444
Herring Run	410 485-1010	Martin Luther King, Jr.	410 955-5451
Metro Delta Head Start	410 539-5655	Morgan State University	410 464-3265
St. Bernardine's	410 233-4500	St. Francis Xavier	410 685-7288
St. Jerome's	410 685-1700	St. Veronica's	410 354-0220
Southeast Community Organization	410 276-5724	Umoja Harlem Park Community School	410 383-2930
Union Baptist, Harvey Johnson	410 523-3081	YUBI	410 644-0307
<i>Early Head Start</i>			
LOCATION	TELEPHONE	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
BaltimoreCity Friends of the Family	410 659-7701	Montgomery County Family Support Center	301 840-3280
Baltimore City Kennedy Krieger Family Center	410 502-8770	UMUC (serves parts of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties)	240 684-5200
Caroline County Family Support Center	410 479-3298		

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers - #17

LOCAL PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS: RESOURCE CENTERS FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

*Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services*

LOCATION	TELEPHONE	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
Allegany County	301 689-2407	Howard County	410 313- 7161
Anne Arundel County	410 222-3805	Kent County	410 778-7167
Baltimore City	410 396-8995 or 410 396-8983	The Md. School for the Blind	410 444-5000 ext. 489
Baltimore County	410 887-5443	The Md. School for the Deaf	410 480-4597
Calvert County	410 535-7240	Montgomery County	301 657-4969
Caroline County	410 479-2893	Prince George's County	301 925-2814
Carroll County	410 751-3955 or 410 751-3954	Queen Anne's County	410 758-3693
Cecil County	410 996-5637	Somerset County	410 651-1964
Charles County	301 609-3154	St. Mary's County	301 863-4069
Dorchester County	410 221-0837	Talbot County	410 822-0550
Frederick County	240 236-8430	Washington County	301 766-8221
Garrett County	301 334-4251	Wicomico County	410 572-6955
Harford County	410 638-3858	Worcester County	410 632-4531

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