



DID YOU KNOW? FACT SHEET

Transitioning Youth (TY) Initiative

For more information, contact
your regional office at:

Central Maryland

1401 Severn St.
Baltimore, MD 21230
410-234-8200

Serving Anne Arundel, Baltimore
City, Baltimore, Harford, and
Howard Counties

Southern Maryland

312 Marshall Ave.
Laurel, MD 20707
301-362-5100

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

Western Maryland

1360 Marshall St.
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-362-5100

Serving Allegany, Carroll, Frederick,
Garrett, and Washington Counties

Eastern Shore

926 Snowhill Road
Building 100
Salisbury, MD 21802
410-334-6920

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

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dda.health.maryland.gov or
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TY Initiative

Transitioning from high school is an exciting time for young adults and their families as they consider options for the future. The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) offers services that help youth and their families navigate a path toward a "good life" as adults.

Understanding DDA's TY Services

DDA-funded services are not an entitlement. Funding for TY services comes, in part, from one of DDA's three federal waiver programs: Community Pathways, Family Supports, or Community Supports. Waivers allow the DDA to provide specific services through funding from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).



Additionally, the Governor's Transitioning Youth Initiative (GTI) earmarks funds in the DDA budget for eligible students leaving school.

The GTI is a collaboration through a partnership between the DDA and Maryland's Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS).

Eligibility

To be eligible for the TY Initiative, a person must be found fully eligible as

developmentally disabled, based on the following criteria:

- Maryland resident
- Waiver eligible
- 21 years old
- Have a severe chronic disability that:
 - Is attributable to a physical or mental impairment other than a sole diagnosis of mental illness
 - Results in the need to have services which are individually planned and coordinated
 - Results in a need for services that are likely to continue indefinitely
 - Results occurred before the age of 22
 - Results in the inability to live independently

Note: A sole diagnosis of a developmental disability does not mean a person is automatically eligible.

Without this initiative, students leaving the school system would be placed on a lengthy wait for adult services.

Applying for Services

You can apply for DDA services at any time and at any age. You must be found DDA-eligible to receive any DDA services. If you are specifically applying for TY services, contact the servicing DDA regional office when you are age 14.

You may ask for assistance to update or complete the application for determining your eligibility. All DDA waiver applications must be completed by June 30 of the eligibility year to be considered for funding. If the date of transition is after the 21st birthday, the person will be eligible for one year after the date of exiting or graduating from high school. Applications submitted later will be placed on a waiting list. Applications are also available online at

https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Documents/dda_ea_application_updated.pdf

Coordination of Community Services (CCS)

CCS assist people in accessing the DDA and other service delivery systems, services, and resources. Once found to be eligible for DDA services, youth will receive targeted care management from a CCS agency. This will include developing a person-centered plan that considers the youth's goals and preferences to identify desired services and support needs.

Meaningful Day Services

The DDA understands that people with developmental disabilities may need supports to obtain and maintain work in the community, advance in their chosen field, and explore new employment options as their skills, interests, and needs change. Progress towards a person's employment goals, barriers to employment, and the most integrated setting in which the person can be successful will be addressed on an ongoing basis. The DDA is currently realigning its service delivery system with Employment First principles and values. Some of the services available are career discovery, exploration, learning new skills, and planning assistance to help people make informed choices. The CCS can provide more information on available services.

Employment First

The DDA is committed to enhancing community employment options for youth after high school. The guiding principle is that people must consider employment as the first option prior to any other service options and Maryland is an "Employment First" state. Transitioning youth can work and contribute to their community when given opportunity, training, and supports that build upon their unique talents, skills, and abilities. Youth should strive to be fully participating members of their community, to include earning a living wage, and engaging in work that is compatible with their vision of a "good life."

RELEVANT WEBSITES:

DDA

dda.health.maryland.gov

DORS

dors.state.md.us/dors

Maryland Department of Disabilities (DoD)

mdod.maryland.gov

Maryland Transitioning Youth

mdtransition.org