

# Anne Arundel County



## Kinship Caregiver Resource Guide

## A GUIDE FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

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Are you caring for a relative's child? If so, this guide is designed just for you and your family.

Anne Arundel County recognizes that a child's connection to his/her immediate family, relatives, and community are critical to stability and well-being. This guide is intended to provide information to any adult caring for a related child, under the age of 18. We identify this special group of caregivers as *Kinship Caregivers*.

Anne Arundel County values your commitment to care for children. We also acknowledge that *Kinship Caregivers* have unique areas of need.

This guide was developed to address the issues of the growing population of *Kinship Caregivers*. The

intent of this guide is to link you to useful resources in an effort to support you as you care for your relative's children.

Please refer to the table of contents to find information that might help you and your family. The sections within this guide have been identified to serve as a starting point to make your transition easier. For your information, there is also a general resource guide for all of Anne Arundel County at [www.networkofcare.org](http://www.networkofcare.org).

Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Maryland Department of Human Resources for awarding us a portion of a federal grant so that we could develop our local plan. Services in this guide reflect the collaborative partnership between the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities, Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks and Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services. By combining resources, we hope to be able to offer more efficient services to *Kinship Caregivers*. All of us would like to thank those Caregivers who shared their Kinship experiences in recent focus groups. As a result of your voices we are moving forward with an enhanced understanding of *Kinship Caregivers*.

You are not alone, resources are available, and Anne Arundel County is here to help support you and guide you in the right direction!

Welcome



***This guide is intended to provide Kinship Caregivers with some directions regarding the experience of transitioning a new child into their home. The information and resources in this guide are not necessarily exhaustive.***

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This Kinship Caregiver guide is intended only to provide general guidance. If you have detailed questions, you may want to call the various resources listed in the guide. The guide does not intend to provide nor should it be taken as providing legal advice. Moreover, the laws in Maryland are constantly changing and evolving. Therefore, it should be noted that all references to laws and monetary limits for public benefits programs are subject to change at any time. Given that the application of Maryland's laws related to children varies depending on the specific circumstances presented in each case, the reader should not rely on this general guidance as providing answers to individual legal issues or problems.

# Disclaimer

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## Local Resources for Kinship Caregivers

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### **LOCAL KINSHIP CAREGIVER SUPPORT RESOURCES**

#### **Kinship Caregiver Monthly Support Groups**

Facilitated by Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services

Contact: 410-897-3933, Kinship Navigator for locations and times

Website: [www.dhr.state.md.us/county/ann](http://www.dhr.state.md.us/county/ann) or [www.annearundelfostercare.com](http://www.annearundelfostercare.com)

The department facilitates monthly support groups for individuals caring for other people's children.

#### **Caregiver Support Groups**

Facilitated by Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities

2666 Riva Road, Fourth Floor Annapolis, MD. 21401

Contact: 410-222-4464 ext. 3045

Website: [www.aacounty.org/Aging](http://www.aacounty.org/Aging)

Support groups meet the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Tuesday of every month from 1:00pm-2:30pm and provide support to caregivers caring for seniors 60-years and older.

#### **The Parenting Center at Anne Arundel Community College**

Contact: 410-777-2159

Email: [parenting@aacc.edu](mailto:parenting@aacc.edu)

Website: [www.aacc.edu/parenting](http://www.aacc.edu/parenting)

The center offers family life education classes during the day, evening, weekend, and online to accommodate caregivers' busy schedules. There are no tests and no grades – just lively instruction with plenty of time for questions. Customized training is also available as well as a free monthly electronic magazine.

Popular topics include:

- Parenting the adolescent
- Managing anger in family life
- Dealing with bullies
- Parenting after separation and divorce
- Balancing work and family life

#### **The Family Tree**

Family StressLine: 1-800-243-7337

The toll-free stress line provides confidential information, referrals and support for parents and other individuals in care giving roles, professionals, community members, children adolescents, families, educators and more. Available to families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is Maryland's leading child abuse prevention organization.

## ***Additional Kinship Caregiver Support Resources***

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### **Tot's Line of Anne Arundel County**

1-877-817-TOTS (8687)

The Tot's Line is a nonprofit agency, which provides toll-free number parents, and caregivers can call to get free information, advice, and referrals. They also provide programs and workshops on a variety of topics.

### **Parents' Place of Maryland**

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

Contact: 410-768-9100

Website: [ppmd.org](http://ppmd.org)

A statewide parent-directed free resource for families of children and young adults with all disabilities.

### **YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County**

1517 Ritchie Hwy, Ste. 201, Arnold, MD 21012

Contact: 410-626-7800

Website: [www.annapolisywca.org](http://www.annapolisywca.org)

The YWCA offers a variety of programs for parents and families. These include workshops and support groups for parents going through divorce, grandparents and other relatives providing care for children, and parents of young children. They also offer other classes and workshops aimed at adults who are not necessarily parents.

### **Family NET Works**

Website: [www.family-networks.org](http://www.family-networks.org)

Comprehensive online resource for disability-related information and supports

### **Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL)**

Website: [www.mdcl.org](http://www.mdcl.org)

The website is a statewide, interactive online directory developed to assist in locating community services. It allows users to get organizational contact information, map resources by location, and instant directions.

### **Anne Arundel County Network of Care**

Website: [www.networkofcare.org](http://www.networkofcare.org)

This website is constantly being updated. It lists all sorts of mental health and family services that might be useful.

## **Countywide Family Resources for Kinship Caregivers**

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### **FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER**

Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services

80 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-269-4478 or 410-421-8560

Website: [www.dhr.state.md.us/county/ann](http://www.dhr.state.md.us/county/ann)

Services Offered (free of charge):

- Parenting centered-educational services with connections to community resources Teenage Parenting Program-Alternative High School Program
- Adult Basic Education and General Equivalency Degree (GED) with on-site developmentally appropriate care
- English as a Second Language
- Educational and Employment Services for Noncustodial Parents
- Support groups
- Building Blocks youth program for elementary and middle school students living near Annapolis family Support Center including after school/homework assistance and summer camp
- Infant and Toddler Car Seat Loaner Program
- Young Fathers and Responsible Parent Employment Network: Free services to fathers aged 40 and younger
- 80 West...After Hours – Free weekly family event for caregivers with children 0–3 years to mingle, have dinner, and share resources and experiences

### **Parents' Place of Maryland:**

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

Website: [www.ppmmd.org](http://www.ppmmd.org)

Statewide resource for families of children with disabilities or special health care needs. Provides information on laws, resources, family rights, and the school system.

### **Robert A. Pascal Youth and Family Services, Inc.:**

Contact: 410-975-0067

Website: [www.rpascal.org](http://www.rpascal.org)

Mental health counseling services for children, adolescents, and families residing in Anne Arundel and surrounding counties in Maryland. Comprehensive individual, family, and group counseling as well as educational services.

## **Statewide Resources for Kinship Caregivers**

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### **MARYLAND ORGANIZATIONS ADVOCATING FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS**

#### **Grandparent Family Connections**

Sponsoring Organization: University of Maryland School of Social Work

Ruth H. Young Center for Families and Children

Contact: 410-706-8716 or 410-706-3672

Website: [www.family.umaryland.edu](http://www.family.umaryland.edu)

Service area: Baltimore area

Services offered:

- Free services for eligible families in Baltimore (grandparents are not required to have custody and guardianship)
- In-home community based services
- Advocacy/assistance in obtaining health care, mental health, legal, housing, financial and education services
- Individual, group and family counseling

#### **Kinship Care Program**

Maryland Department of Human Resources, Social Services Administration

Contact: 410-767-7912

Website: <http://www.mdoa.state.md.us/services.html>

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Supports new and existing kinship care support groups throughout the state
- Quarterly newsletter *Kinship Care Connections*

#### **Progressive Life Center Kinship Care Program**

8800 Jericho City Dr., Landover, MD 20785

Contact: 301-773-1701

Website: [www.ntuplc.org](http://www.ntuplc.org)

Service area: Prince George's County and surrounding area

Services offered:

- Counseling and supportive services & respite care
- Parent and youth groups & Family team meetings
- 24-hour crisis intervention/mental health services
- Peer support groups for grandparents

## ***Statewide Resources for Kinship Caregivers continued***

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### **Solutions for Children and Caregivers of Maryland**

Sponsoring Organization: Grandfamilies of America

6525 Fish Hatchery Road Thurmont, Maryland 21788

Contact: 1-301- 898-8023 or Toll Free: 1-866-203-8926, ext. 8103

Website: [www.solutionsforchildrenandcaregivers.org](http://www.solutionsforchildrenandcaregivers.org)

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Information/referral and Resources for support groups
- 24/7 Warm line at 301-898-8023
- Direct services, outreach and advocacy & Educational enrichment programs

### **STATEWIDE KINSHIP CARE SUPPORT GROUPS:**

- Just For Us Support Group: 410-542-3377, serving Baltimore City
- Grandparent Family Connections: 410-706-8716
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Maryland: 410-243-4000, serving Baltimore City, Central Maryland, Salisbury, Lower Eastern Shore  
Website: <http://www.biglittle.org>
- Caregiver Support Program: 301-600-6001, serving Frederick County  
Website: [www.co.frederick.md.us/doa](http://www.co.frederick.md.us/doa)
- Family Matters: 410-225-2600
- Family Tree: 410-889-2300 or 1-800 243-7337, serving Baltimore  
Website: [www.familytreemd.org](http://www.familytreemd.org)
- Grandparents as Parents: 410-381-4800, serving Howard County
- Grandparents Supporting Grandparents: 410-853-3903, serving Baltimore County
- Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration Kinship Care Program: 410-767-7912  
Website: <http://www.mdoa.state.md.us/services.html>
- Progressive Life Center Kinship Care Program: 301-773-1701, serving Prince Georges County
- Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP): 410-742-0505, serving the Eastern Shore [www.macinc.org](http://www.macinc.org)
- Relatives as parents Program (RAPP): 410-651-9608, serving Somerset County
- Rockville Senior Center Grandparents to the Rescue: 240-314-8810, serving Montgomery County  
Website: <http://rockvillemd.gov>

## ***National Resources and Additional Guidance for Kinship Caregivers***

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### **NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ADVOCATING FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS:**

**Helpful Websites to provide information and resources on the Kinship experience.**

- AARP: [www.aarp.org/quicklink](http://www.aarp.org/quicklink)
- The Brookdale Foundation Group: [www.brookdalefoundation.org](http://www.brookdalefoundation.org)
- Children's Defense Fund: [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)
- Child Focus: [www.child-focus.org](http://www.child-focus.org)
- Generations United: [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org)
- Grandfamilies of America: [www.grandfamiliesofamerica.org](http://www.grandfamiliesofamerica.org)
- Grandfamilies State Law & Policy Resource Center: [www.grandfamilies.org](http://www.grandfamilies.org)

### **ADDITIONAL GUIDES AND SERVICES FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS**

#### **Children's Defense Fund**

Contact: 202-662-3568

Website: [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org) (Kinship Care Resource Kit)

Benefit guides for grandparents and other relatives for information about state and federal benefits.

#### **National Council on Aging – Benefits Checkup**

Website: [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)

On-line interactive service to locate all the benefits you deserve. Find and enroll in federal, state, local and private programs that help pay for prescription drugs, utility bills, meals, health care and other needs.

#### **Grandparents Resource Directory**

Website: [www.mdoa.state.md.us/gpintro.html](http://www.mdoa.state.md.us/gpintro.html)

Maryland Department of Human Resources and the Department of Aging Statewide Information about social services, support groups, educational programs, legal services, childcare, health services, recreational activities.

# Caregiver Resources

## Child Care Vouchers and Finding Licensed Childcare Providers

### **CHILD CARE SUBSIDY (CCS) PROGRAM**

Child Care vouchers paid directly to the childcare provider are available to those who qualify. You may apply for a voucher on behalf of the child in your home if your income is not over the limit. To determine your eligibility, please apply in person at Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services or online at [www.marylandsail.org](http://www.marylandsail.org).

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

- A Maryland resident who is working, in an approved training program, or in public school.
- A recipient of Temporary Cash Assistance or Supplemental Security Income or within CCS income guidelines.
- Willing to have your child immunized by Maryland State standards.
- Pursuing child support.

Families in the following categories may be eligible:

Family Size	Maximum Annual Income
Family of 2	\$24,277
Family of 3	\$29,990
Family of 4	\$35,702
Family of 5	\$41,414
Family of 6	\$47,127

Note: Non-parent custodians may earn \$5,000 more than these Maximum Annual Income limits and still qualify for subsidies.

### **LOCATE DAY CARE AND CHILD PROVIDERS:**

#### **Arundel Child Care Connections**

Contact: 410-222-1728

Hours of Operation: between 9am and 3pm

Website: <http://arundelccc.org/>

To find licensed childcare call the Arundel Child Care Connections' Locate number. This service can also assist finding Head Start, early education, and nursery schools.

### **OTHER CHILD CARE LOCATOR RESOURCES:**

- The Tot's Line: 1-877-817-8687
- Anne Arundel Early Head Start: 410-867-8945
- National Association for Family Child Care: 410-222-1712
- Arundel Child Care Connection Office: 410-222-1728

***If you have legal custody or care for a child who is over 5-years and under 16-years, you are responsible for ensuring that the child attends school.***

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### **ACADEMIC OPTIONS**

Your child has three options for their education:

1. Maryland Public Schools
2. Private or Parochial Schools (at the caregivers expense)
3. Charter Schools

### **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOLS**

A charter school is a free, public school alternative to a Maryland Public School. Charter schools are tuition free. Charter schools emphasize a particular teaching method, instructional theme, or academic area of concentration. A charter school is not operated by Maryland Public Schools. *Kinship Caregivers* should begin the academic process in the winter to ensure enrollment for the next academic year.

#### **Chesapeake Science Point (CSP) Public Charter School (Grades 6 through 8)**

1321 Mercedes Drive, Suite Q-S, Hanover, MD 21076

Contact: 410-684-2886

Website: [www.clfmd.org](http://www.clfmd.org)

#### **Monarch Academy Public Charter School (Grades K, 1, 5)**

6730 Baymeadow Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21060-6412

Contact: 410-444-7582

Website: [www.monarchcharter.org](http://www.monarchcharter.org)

### **MARYLAND PUBLIC EDUCATION ENROLLMENT**

In Maryland, all children who are 5 years or older and under age 21 will be admitted free of charge to the Maryland Public Schools.

Typically, a child attends their local neighborhood school. Children residing with a *Kinship Caregiver* will be eligible to enroll at a public school where the *Kinship Caretaker* resides. If your child needs to transfer schools you need to call the school your child last attended and ask the school to prepare a Maryland Transfer Form. Call your child's new school and schedule an enrollment appointment.

### **ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES:**

To enroll your child in an Anne Arundel County Public School follow these steps:

1. Ensure your child has been formally withdrawn from their previous school
2. Find out what school your child will be attending based on your current address (<http://www.aacps.org/mapinfo.asp>)
3. Complete the necessary enrollment forms

The school system identifies *Kinship Caregivers* as a "Relative of a student providing care and/or custody due to a serious hardship, including death, serious illness,

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**Welcome to Anne Arundel County Public Schools! This section is designed to provide info for Kinship Caregivers on school enrollment and school transfers.**

The school system identifies *Kinship Caregivers* as a “Relative of a student providing care and/or custody due to a serious hardship, including death, serious illness, incarceration, drug addiction, military assignment, or abandonment of the child by parent/guardian.”

**ENROLLMENT FORMS FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS:**

1. Notarized Kinship Care Affidavit
2. Residency Documentation
3. One Additional Supporting Document (i.e. utility bill, bank statement, etc.)
4. Evidence of Birth
5. Medical Records: (all three required)
  - Immunization record
  - Lead certificate for student entering Pre-K, Kindergarten, or 1st grade
  - Record of Physical Exam for students entering a MD public school system for the first time
6. Maryland Transfer Form if transferring from a MD Public School, copy of last report card/high school transcript, and Documentation of Special Services

Detailed information regarding the enrollment of children in Informal Kinship Care may be obtained by contacting Pupil Personnel Services at 410-222-5284 or <http://www.aacps.org/studentservices/relative.asp>.

**KINSHIP CARE AFFIDAVIT:**

Maryland State Department of Education  
Contact: 410-767-0295  
Website: [www.msde.state.md.us](http://www.msde.state.md.us)

The Education Affidavit provides *Kinship Caregivers* assistance in enrolling the child in school and allows the *Kinship Caregiver* to be an advocate for the child in school matters. Forms may be obtained from the child’s school or through the MD State Department of Education.

For children in *Informal Kinship Care*, the affidavit with supporting documentation (death certificate, letter verifying rehabilitation/incarceration/illness, etc.) must be filed annually and at least 2 weeks prior to the start of each school year.

***Meal Benefit Applications are handed out at the beginning of the school year. Applications are available through the school office and Food and Nutrition services.***

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### **FREE AND REDUCED MEALS**

Division of Food and Nutrition Services

Contact: 410-222-5900

Website: [www.aacps.org/nutrition/meal.asp](http://www.aacps.org/nutrition/meal.asp)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools offer healthy meals every school day. Students who have applied and are eligible will receive meals free or at a reduced price.

Unless you have already been notified that you will be receiving free meals, you must complete a Meal Benefit Application and return the form to the youngest child's school. Use one Household Meal Benefit Application for all children in your household. Note: If the child is in State custody and is a foster child, you must complete a separate application for each child.

### **APPLICATIONS:**

Meal Benefit Applications are handed out at the beginning of the school year. Applications are available thru the school office and Food and Nutrition Services office. Applications must be completed on an original Meal Benefit Application and will be scanned.

### **NOTIFICATION:**

From the time the Meal Benefit Application is received in the Food and Nutrition Services Office, there could be a 10 school day turn-around time for you to be notified. It is recommended that your child bring either a lunch or money to purchase school meals during the waiting period.

A Household Notification Letter, which is sent through the school office, will inform you if your Meal Benefit Application was approved or denied.

### **VERIFICATION:**

Your income eligibility may be checked at any time during the school year. If you do not qualify now, you may reapply at anytime during the school year.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

A child qualifies for free meals if he or she:

- Lives in a household receiving benefits from Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) or Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)
- Is a foster child
- Is in a household participating in Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

# Free & Reduced Meals

**School counselors provide a comprehensive, developmental counseling program addressing the academic, career and personal/social development of all students**

## **SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**

School Psychologists are assigned to every public school in Anne Arundel County. School Social Workers are assigned to specific schools that have programs and services for students with intensive needs. Psychologists and Social Workers are trained to work with students from early childhood through the age of 21.

School Psychologists and School Social Workers can be contacted by calling your child's school directly. Many School Psychologists and some School Social Workers work with several different schools and may not be in your child's building on the day you call. However, most school secretaries can provide you with appropriate and timely contact information. Additional contact assistance may be available by calling the Student Services Center at 410-222-5320.

### **SERVICES PROVIDED:**

- Prevention
- Assessment
- Program Evaluation
- Consultation
- Direct Intervention

### **ADDITIONAL STUDENT SERVICES:**

General School Counseling Services  
Contact: 410-222-5280

Office of Psychological Services  
Contact: 410-222-5321

Resource School Psychologist  
Contact: 410-222-5321

Secretary for School Psychologists/Social Workers  
Contact: 410-923-0770

School Attendance Boundaries  
Contact: 410-439-5683

Student Safety and Discipline  
Contact: 410-222-5288 or 410-222-5289

***This section is designed to provide information for Kinship Caregivers on Special Education procedures. Special Education creates a learning community for general and special education students with disabilities.***

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### **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Contact: 410-222-5410

Website: [www.aacps.org/specialed](http://www.aacps.org/specialed)

Special Education means specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability. Additionally, once Special Education is determined, related services may also be implemented based on student need.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Children with disabilities from birth to age 21 may be eligible for special education. Federal law defines “children with disabilities” as having any of the following types of disabilities:

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Autism                  | Multiple Disabilities                   |
| Deaf-blindness          | Orthopedic Impairment                   |
| Deafness                | Other Health Impairment                 |
| Developmental Delay     | Specific Learning Disability            |
| Emotional Disturbance   | Speech or Language Impairment           |
| Hearing Impairment      | Traumatic Brain Injury                  |
| Intellectual Disability | Visual Impairment (including blindness) |

### **REFERRAL PROCESS:**

If a *Kinship Caregiver* has an educational concern and/or believes their child may have a disability, they may refer the child to one of the special education teams identified below for evaluation.

Child's Age	Refer to:
0 to 3 years	Infants and Toddlers
3 to 5 years	Child Find Team
5 – 21 years	School's IEP Team

The special education team will determine if the child meets the eligibility criteria for one of the 14 federal disabilities and if special education and related services are needed. If a child is eligible for services, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed.

For additional information please refer to Special Education Overview on the Anne Arundel County Public School website at [www.aacps.org/specialed/overview.asp](http://www.aacps.org/specialed/overview.asp).

# Special Education

## ***Special Education Identification and Evaluation: Stages of Development***

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### **INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM: CHILDREN BIRTH TO AGE 3**

AACPS Infants and Toddlers Program  
Point Pleasant Elementary  
1450 Furnace Avenue, Glen Burnie, MD 21066  
Contact: 410-222-6911

Anne Arundel County Public Schools' Infants and Toddlers Program is a countywide system of coordinated, interagency and multidisciplinary early intervention services for children birth to age three who are suspected of having a disability. *Kinship Caregivers*, medical personnel, or other concerned individuals may make a referral or request an evaluation. Evaluations are completed to determine if the child is eligible for early intervention services.

### **CHILD FIND TEAMS: CHILDREN AGES 3-5**

AACPS Child Find Teams  
200 Scott Avenue, Glen Burnie, MD 21060  
Contact: 410-766-6662

The Preschool Child Find Team is an interdisciplinary team that provides identification services to children from three to five years of age that may have a disability. *Kinship Caregivers*, medical personnel, or other concerned individuals may make a referral or request an evaluation. If the Child Find Team suspects that the child has a disability after reviewing all screening information, assessments in all areas related to the suspected disability are recommended.

Upon *Kinship Caregiver* approval, the recommended assessments are conducted by the school-based staff and reviewed by the Child Find team at a team meeting. For those children eligible for services, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed. The IEP team reviews the IEP, identifies services needed to implement the IEP, and considers options for the provision of services in the least restrictive environment.

**SCHOOL-AGE STUDENTS (GRADES K-12)**

A school-age child who is suspected of having a disability is referred to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team at his/her school. The IEP team meets to review the referral and existing data, information from the *Kinship Caregiver*, previously implemented instructional interventions and strategies, current classroom-based assessments/curriculum measures and observations. Based on this information, the IEP team shall determine the need for assessment.

If assessments are recommended, the school staff obtains permission and the recommended assessments are conducted by the school-based staff and reviewed by the IEP team at an IEP team meeting. For those children eligible for services, an IEP is developed. The IEP team reviews the IEP, identifies services needed to implement the IEP, and considers options for the provision of services in the least restrictive environment.

**PRIVATE/PAROCHIAL**

If there is a concern or belief that a school-age child who attends a private or religiously affiliated school in Anne Arundel County may have a disability, contact the Compliance Office Technician at 410 222-5479.

**SERVICE CONTINUUM**

The Anne Arundel County School System provides a continuum of services ranging from consultation and general education programming to specialty classes, regional programs and separate public and private (approved nonpublic) school placements.

***Do you feel you or your family may be a victim or at risk? Emergency Assistance Resources can Assist.***

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## **EMERGENCY HELP: OPTIONS TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM HARM**

- Immediate Risk of Harm: Call the police at 911
- Non-emergency: Call the police at 311
- Suspicion of Abuse or Neglect: Notify the police or Local Department of Social Services at 410-421-8400

## **HELPFUL COUNTY AND STATEWIDE INTERVENTION RESOURCES**

- Anne Arundel County Emergency Operations Center: 410-222-8040
- Anne Arundel County Crisis Warmline: 410-768-5522, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Anne Arundel County Food Bank: 410-923-4255
- American Red Cross: 866-438-4636
- Anne Arundel County Emergency Preparedness and Response: 410-222-4115
- Child Protective Services (screening): 410-421-8400
- Food Link: 410 897-3942
- Homeless Women's-Crisis Shelter Home Program: 410-767-7285
- Maryland Emergency Food Program: 410-767-8963
- Maryland Lead Hotline: 1-800-370-5323
- Maryland Poison Prevention: 1-800-222-1222
- Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline: 1-800-422-0009, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- National Suicide Prevention Hotlines: 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433) or 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Office of Victim Services: 410-767-7565
- Sexual Assault Crisis Center: 410-222-7273
- Student Safety Hotline: 1-877-676-9854, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

## **PROTECTIVE ORDERS**

As a *Kinship Caregiver* if you believe a minor child or a vulnerable adult (an adult who cannot provide for his or her own daily needs) is in need of protection, you may file a protective order if:

1. you are related to the minor child or vulnerable adult, or
2. you reside in the same house with the minor child or vulnerable adult

For a protective order you must prove one (1) of the following acts listed below:

- an act that caused serious bodily harm
  - an act that placed the petitioner in fear of imminent bodily harm
  - assault in any degree
  - rape or sexual offense or attempted rape or sexual offense
  - false imprisonment
-

## ***Emergency Assistance continued***

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### **What will the Protective Order do?**

- Provide protection for the petitioner and individuals named in the order
- Stop threatening or committing abuse
- Stay away from the petitioner's home, place of employment or school
- Have no contact with the petitioner or others
- Award temporary use and possession of the home to the petitioner
- Award temporary custody of children to the petitioner
- Award temporary financial support

### **How to apply for a Protective Order:**

Step 1: Complete the correct petition:

You can obtain the Petition for Protection from any Circuit or District Court clerk or commissioner or by using the link below.

<http://www.courts.state.md.us/courtforms/joint/ccdcv001.pdf>

Step 2: File the petition:

During normal business hours, 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday, file the petition with a Circuit or District Court clerk. Once the petition is filed, you will then go to a courtroom to await a hearing.

Step 3: Interim Order:

When courts are closed, District Court Commissioners may issue an Interim Protective Order to last until a judge holds a temporary hearing. An interim order goes into effect once the respondent is served by a law enforcement officer. Commissioner Stations are located at each of the District Courts and operate 24 hours, 7 Days a Week.

### **District and Circuit Court Locations:**

Robert F. Sweeney District Court

251 Rowe Boulevard Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-260-1370 General Information

Commissioner's Office: 410-260-1314

George M. Taylor Multi-Service Center/Glen Burnie District Court

7500 Governor Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie, MD 21061-3756

Contact: 410-260-1800 General Information

Commissioner's Office: 410-260-1817

Anne Arundel County Circuit Court

7 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-222-1420 General Information

## ***Maryland Child Support Enforcement Program***

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### **CHILD SUPPORT ASSISTANCE**

*Kinship Caregivers* may receive child support assistance from the child's parents if they are still alive. There are no income guidelines applicable to the *Kinship Caregiver* in order to receive Child support assistance. However, if you choose to apply for Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), as the Kinship caregiver you must file for child support.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

1. You must complete an Application for Services, Service Agreement, and Notice of Legal Representation (see website below to locate forms).
2. Return forms to your Local Office of Child Support Enforcement Office by mail or in person. At this time, the Agency cannot accept electronic or e-mailed applications.
3. Pay a one time, non-refundable \$25.00 application processing fee. You may send a certified or cashier's check or money order through the mail, or you may pay in person by cash, certified or cashier's check or money order. Personal checks are not accepted. The fee may be waived if the Caregiver is receiving TCA or medical assistance.
4. Please provide all the information requested on the application.
5. If there are any orders for custody, paternity, including affidavits of parentage, etc., you must provide a copy. If you do not have the needed information, there may be delays until it is obtained.
6. Our office must have a valid address for the absent parent before we can proceed on your behalf. If you have a good home or work address for the absent parent, indicate this in writing on the form.
7. When your application has been processed, and a confirmed address for the absent parent is provided, you will be contacted regarding filing your case or enforcement of your order.
8. You must complete a separate form for each person from whom you want support. Only (1) \$25 fee is required.

### **Anne Arundel County Child Support Enforcement Agency**

44 Calvert Street, 2nd Floor, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 800-332-6347

Hours of Operation: 8:00am - 4:00pm, Monday through Friday

Website: [www.dhr.state.md.us/csea/local/annearun.htm](http://www.dhr.state.md.us/csea/local/annearun.htm)

### **Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 1870

Annapolis, MD 21404

## **As a Kinship Caregiver are you aware of your potential Financial Benefits?**

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### **TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA)**

Assists families who are caring for their relative's children with "child only" grants. *Kinship Caregivers*, regardless of income, are eligible to apply for these grants on behalf of the children to whom they are related. *Kinship Caregivers* can walk into any Department of Social Services Office or may apply online at [www.marylandsail.org](http://www.marylandsail.org).

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Maryland residents who are U.S. citizens or immigrants with permanent resident status are eligible to apply for "child only" grants. If the *Kinship Caregiver* is related to the child family income is disregarded. Most kin are eligible to receive assistance for related children in care.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)**

Formerly called the Food Stamp Program. *Kinship Caregivers* may apply for help with food purchases. Eligibility for this program is related to income of the *Kinship Caregiver's* family. These benefits help low-income households purchase healthy and nutritious food at any participating grocery store or other retailer using an electronic debit card.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

The amount of food stamps you get will depend on the number of people in your household and on how much monthly income is left after certain expenses. *Kinship Caregivers* may apply for this program but their income and resources will be considered when making the eligibility decision. To see if you are eligible, please go online to [www.marylandsail.org](http://www.marylandsail.org).

#### **SUBMIT BENEFITS APPLICATION:**

To apply for any of the above financial benefits: Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or Medical Assistance (MA), please visit one of the two county offices Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm or visit [www.marylandsail.org](http://www.marylandsail.org) to submit an application.

#### **Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services (2 Locations):**

80 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401  
Contact: 410-269-4500

George M. Taylor District Court/Multi-Service Center  
7500 Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
Contact: 301-261-1756  
Website: [www.marylandsail.org](http://www.marylandsail.org)

***As a Kinship Caregiver, are you aware that the child in your home may be eligible for medical coverage?***

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## **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (MA)**

Maryland Medical Assistance (sometimes called Medicaid) is a free health insurance program for low-income families, children in low-to-moderate-income households, and some low-income, disabled, single adults.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Medicaid coverage is automatically granted to individuals receiving other public assistance, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), and Foster Care children. Low-income families, children, pregnant women, and aged, blind, or disabled adults may also qualify for Medicaid. You can have private health insurance and be eligible for Medicaid. The rules and the kinds of medical care covered are different for different groups. Assistance lasts for one year. You must reapply annually.

### **Benefits Under Medicaid Include:**

- Doctor visits and check-ups
- Hospital care
- Prescription medications
- Shots
- Vision care (eyeglasses for children under age 21)
- Mental health
- Drug and alcohol abuse treatment services (all children and *selected* adult populations)
- Laboratory tests
- Home health service

## **MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (MCHIP)**

The Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program (MCHIP) gives full health benefits for children up to age 19, and pregnant women of any age who meet the income guidelines. MCHIP provides care through a variety of Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Children under age 19, who are not eligible for Medicaid and pregnant women of any age whose countable income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, are eligible for MCHIP.

### **SUBMIT MEDICAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION:**

Anne Arundel County Department of Health (to apply for medical assistance only)  
1 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Suite 200, Annapolis, MD 21401  
Contact: 410-222-4792 to have an application mailed to you.  
Website: [ahealth.org](http://ahealth.org)

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**Are you eligible for cash assistance to help out with your energy bills?**

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**MARYLAND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MEAP)**

Maryland makes a one-time payment every year to help low-income families pay for their heating. Funds can be for any type of home heating charge. Limited assistance is also available to replace broken or inefficient refrigerators and furnaces. The MEAP benefit is directly to the energy supplier on behalf of the applicant. The MEAP benefit may also be paid directly to the landlord if heating costs are included in the rent.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

This program provides an annual grant that varies depending on the type of home heating source, the size of your household, your yearly energy usage, and your income. MEAP eligible households may also qualify for Utility Service Protection Program protecting you from utility cut-offs.

**ELECTRIC UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM (EUSP)**

EUSP is a program that helps low-income electricity customers pay their bills. Assistance is available whether you are an active customer or you are currently without service. Cash assistance may help to pay current electric bills, help pay past due electric bills, and help with energy efficient measures to reduce future electric bills.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

Must be an electric customer. Eligibility for assistance is based on household income.

**WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WAP)**

WAP assists limited income families with reducing their energy usage by providing home weatherization services at no cost. WAP makes an assessment of the physical structure of the applicant's home and then installs energy conservation features.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

Priority is given to homeowners who meet MEAP/EUSP eligibility guidelines and are elderly or disabled, have minor children in the home, or have high-energy consumption.

**SUBMIT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE APPLICATION:**

Anne Arundel County Community Action Partnership  
251 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21404  
Contact: 410-626-1900 or 1-800-925-4434  
Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm  
Website: [www.aaceoc.com](http://www.aaceoc.com)

***As a Kinship Caregiver you may be eligible for WIC.***

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**SERVICES & BENEFITS PROVIDED BY WIC**

- Nutrition & Health Education
- Breastfeeding Information
- Free healthy food
- Referrals to other health and social agencies

**ELIGIBILITY:**

*Kinship Caregivers* receiving Medical Assistance for their child, infancy through age 5, automatically meet the income guidelines. For those not receiving Medical Assistance you must meet the income criteria guidelines, which will be determined at your WIC appointment.

The following requirements for WIC eligibility will be determined by appointment at your local Anne Arundel County WIC office.

- Are pregnant, a new mother, an infant or child under 5 years of age.
- Have a nutritional need.
- Proof of Income
- Identification for each child. Birth certificate, Social Security Card or Immunization Records.
- Live in Anne Arundel County & proof of address/residency. A piece of mail or Driver's License.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Call 410-222-6797 to schedule a WIC appointment Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm. An appointment is MANDATORY to start the WIC application process. Please identify yourself as a *Kinship Caregiver*. At your appointment you must bring your child.

Benefit determination is made at your appointment. Your 1<sup>st</sup> payment is also provided at your first appointment after watching a video and completing the application process.

**Appointments can be made at the following Clinic locations:**

AA County Department of Health  
3 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401

North County Health Services Center  
791 Aquahart Road Suite 200 Glen Burnie, MD 21061

**Do you qualify for public or subsidized housing in Anne Arundel County?**

**Housing Choice Voucher Program or Section 8 Program**

The Housing Choice Voucher Program is a federally funded rental assistance program under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and locally is administered by the Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County. Assistance is provided to low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled. Upon acceptance into the program, families are issued a rental voucher and can locate their own housing. The Housing Commission completes an initial and annual inspection. The family pays a percentage of their monthly adjusted income toward rent and the program pays the landlord the balance directly on behalf of the family. The Housing Commission may deny applicants considered to have habits and practices expected to have a negative effect on others or on the property.

**Anne Arundel Housing Commission**

7477 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd, Suite 301, Glen Burnie, MD 21060

Contact: 410-222-6200

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm

Website: [hcaac.com](http://hcaac.com)

Provides information on Section 8 and Rental Allowance in Anne Arundel County.

**Anne Arundel Community Development Services, Inc.**

2666 Riva Road, Suite 210, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Contact: 410 222-7600

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 8:30a.m. - 5:00p.m.

Website: [acdsinc.org](http://acdsinc.org)

Provides affordable housing/community development help in Anne Arundel County.

**Department of Planning & Zoning City of Annapolis**

160 Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-263-7961

Website: [www.annapolis.gov/Government/RentalAllowance](http://www.annapolis.gov/Government/RentalAllowance)

Provides information on Rental Allowance Programs in the city of Annapolis.

**Anne Arundel County Economic Opportunity Committee**

251 West Street/P.O. Box 1951, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-626-1900

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm

Website: [www.aaceoc.com](http://www.aaceoc.com)

Provides information on Rental Allowance Programs in the city of Annapolis.

**Multifamily Housing Community Development Administration**

100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21023

Contact: 410-514-7436

Provides information on Rental Allowance Programs in Anne Arundel County.

***Are you caring for a child or children in your home where you have assumed parental responsibilities for the child without involving state agencies or the judicial system?***

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## **CHILDREN NOT IN STATE CUSTODY (INFORMAL KINSHIP CARE)**

If you have voluntarily undertaken the responsibility of fulfilling parental duties without petitioning a court for custody or guardianship, you are an *Informal Kinship Caregiver*. Common reasons that *Informal Kinship Care* giving comes about include: death of the parent(s), parents unable to care for the child, and abandonment. This results in you assuming the role of primary caregiver. However, under these circumstances, the parent retains legal custody over the child even though you, as the primary caregiver, have assumed physical custody.

Legal custody confers the right to make important decisions about a child's upbringing. Therefore, since the biological parents retain legal custody, you do not have the authority to make certain decision on behalf of the child. *Kinship Caregivers* may not be able to act on behalf of the child to consent to medical treatment, marriage, and enlistment in the armed forces or legal representation.

In an *Informal Care* arrangement, where the child is not in the state's custody, the biological parents can take physical custody of the child at any time. This can be avoided if the *Kinship Caregiver* successfully sues for custody or if the caregiver is awarded custody due to an abuse or neglect hearing proceeding against the biological parents by your local Department of Social Services. If the biological parents do not want to transfer their parental rights to the caregiver, a court hearing will be required and the caregiver may have difficulty obtaining legal custody of the child or children.

Wondering what the advantages are to **Informal Kinship Arrangements?**

**Here are some examples:**

- Flexibility
- The family determines the care giving arrangements
- Modifications can be made to suit the child's needs without a court order
- Conducive for short periods of time or temporary periods of care
- Kinship Care can be established without an Attorney

**As a Kinship Caregiver you can obtain the same rights as parents by acquiring a legally recognized relationship through guardianship, custody, or adoption.**

A custody action asks the judge to issue an order conferring custody to the petitioning party. More permanent options would be to pursue guardianship or adoption.

**Option 1: CUSTODY**

Filing a custody action in the Circuit Court of Maryland is one way to formalize a voluntary *Kinship Caregiver* arrangement. A custody order officially grants the caregiver the right to care for the child in question. To obtain a custody order, a complaint must be filed in the Circuit Court in the county in which the caregiver resides. A complaint for custody asks the judge to issue an order granting formal custody of the child to the caregiver. In cases where the petition for custody is contested, the court will appoint a guardian for the child to ensure that the child's interests are represented by a neutral party. An information gathering hearing will then be scheduled by the court to hear from the parties.

**Option 2: LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP**

Another option is to petition the court for legal guardianship. An order for guardianship vests the *Kinship Caregiver* the rights to make legal and medical decisions for the child. A guardianship order can be awarded without terminating parental rights.

**Option 3: ADOPTION**

Maryland law states that formal adoptions is the only way that the legal relationship between parent and child can be terminated. Adoption of a child gives Kinship caregivers the autonomy, right, and responsibilities of a parent. However, adoption may be a lengthy and at times complicated legal process.

Maryland law requires all living biological parents must give up their parental rights or a court must terminate their rights for adoption to become an option. An exception occurs if the parents cannot be found for more than 6 months, consent is not required. In the case of Department of Social Services having custody of the child, that department must consent to the adoption as well. Consent from the child is considered when over 10 years of age.

*Kinship Caregivers* often consider adoption if they are confident the biological parents will not contest the proceeding. Additionally, caregivers also tend to pursue this option if the child's need for permanency outweighs the tensions of the adoption court proceedings.

***If the state has custody of the child placed in your home read on for more information about Child Welfare Services.***

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## **CHILDREN IN STATE CUSTODY (FORMAL KINSHIP CARE)**

When the state intervenes in the parent-child relationship, it usually is done through the courts. Most of the time, the state assumes custody if and when a parent cannot provide a safe home for the child. If the court deems it necessary to remove a child from his or her parent(s), the local Department of Social Services will look for a relative or a foster family who can care for the child. If this is how you first began caring for the child in your home, then you are a *Formal Kinship Provider*.

## **FOSTER CARE**

Foster care provides a temporary placement outside of the home due to abuse or neglect or when parents are unwilling or unable to care for their children. Maryland operates foster care programs in 23 counties and in Baltimore City. When children come into state custody, they may be placed with a foster family or a relative. The relative caregivers have a choice whether or not they want to apply to be foster parents to the child. Even though the caregiver is related, if he or she decides to apply to become a foster parent, a homestudy and training are required. Foster Care is meant to be temporary, with reunification back to family as the ultimate goal. If this does not occur within 15 months, the agency looks for an adoptive home or to help a relative get guardianship.

## **KINSHIP CARE**

Maryland law requires local departments to give first priority to a relative when a child needs to be removed from a parental home due to abuse or neglect. Therefore, kinship care is a placement option for children in state custody. DSS may petition the court for an order removing the child from the parent's home and formally place the child in the care of a relative or adult caregiver.

Approval as a *Kinship Caregiver* is based on the following guidelines:

- The parent's and the child's relationship with the kinship caregiver
- Physical and mental ability to care for a child and a healthy, safe home
- Willingness to assume legal responsibility of the child if reunification is not possible within 12-18 months
- Safety inspection/background check and approval by DSS

## **RESTRICTED FOSTER PARENT**

As a *Kinship Caregiver* you have the option to apply for approval to become a restricted foster care provider, which is a family foster home, approved to serve a specific child/children. Restricted foster care providers receive financial assistance from the state of Maryland. The amount of financial assistance equals the current rate paid to foster care in Maryland. For more information on how to become approved as a restricted foster care provider contact your LDSS or the child's caseworker for specific information.

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## ***Helpful Legal Resources***

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### **FAMILY LAW SELF HELP CENTER**

Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County

7 Church Circle, Room 21-38, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-280-5374 (Hours 9:00am-1:00pm)

Hours of Operation: M/W/TH 9:00am-4:30pm and Tu/Fri 9:00am-1:00pm

Website: [www.courts.state.md.us/family/selfhelp](http://www.courts.state.md.us/family/selfhelp).

Provides free legal information and forms to assist pro se individuals in matters of divorce, custody/visitation, child support, and name changes.

### **MARYLAND VOLUNTEER LAWYERS SERVICES**

One North Charles Street, Ste 222, Baltimore, MD 21201

Contact: 1-800-510-0050

Hours of Operation: Intake conducted Mon-TH 9:00am-1:00pm

Website: [www.mvlslaw.org](http://www.mvlslaw.org)

Free legal assistance to all Maryland residents with limited income

### **LEGAL AID BUREAU**

229 Hanover St., Annapolis, MD 21401 (Local Office)

500 E. Lexington Street, Baltimore, MD 21202 (Main Office)

Contact: 410-263-8330

Hours of Operation: M-Fri 9:00am-5:00pm

Website: [www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org)

Provide free civil legal help to financially qualified Maryland residents

### **YWCA OF ANNAPOLIS & ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY LEGAL SERVICES**

1517 Ritchie Highway, Arnold, MD 21012 (Main Office)

Contact: 410-757-8300

Hours of Operation: M-TH 8:00am-8:00pm & Fri 8:00am-4:00pm

Website: [www.annapolisywca.org](http://www.annapolisywca.org)

Places contested custody cases for low-income clients with private attorneys in reduced-fee program. Representation for domestic violence cases.

For additional legal and self-help information tailored to Maryland residents, visit [www.peoples-law.org](http://www.peoples-law.org), a website supported by Maryland's non-profit legal services providers, in partnership with the courts, as a service to the public.

## ***Does your current private health insurance plan cover the costs of your new child?***

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Health Care involves the prevention, treatment, and management of illness, and includes regular medical and dental checkups, vaccinations, immunizations, developmental and mental health services and access to prescription drugs. As Kinship Caregivers keeping your new child physically and emotionally healthy is one of your great responsibilities. Equally important is maintaining your own physical and mental health.

### **MARYLAND STATE-WIDE HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS**

In Maryland, children are also eligible to receive assistance through the Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP), the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program, the WIC Program, Healthy Start, and mandatory medical care provided in Maryland public schools. A *Kinship Caregiver* providing informal kinship care to a child may apply on behalf of the child for all medical and public assistance entitlements (i.e. Medicaid, MCHP) for which their child may be eligible provided they have filed a Consent for Health Care Affidavit.

#### **Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP):**

MCHP provides another source of free and low cost health care for low and average-income families caring for children up to the age of 19 who are not eligible for Medicaid. *Kinship Caregivers* may only apply for MCHP on behalf of their child if the child is living in their home and the child's parents are not, regardless of whether the grandparent has established a formal kinship arrangement with the child. Further, it is important to note that the Kinship caregiver's income will not be counted for purposes of determining eligibility unless the child has been formally adopted by the *Kinship Caregiver*.

If a child does not qualify for MCHP because he or she does not meet the income eligibility requirement, he or she can still obtain low cost health care coverage through Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) Premium. Children enrolled in MCHP Premium must pay a monthly premium to purchase this health care coverage. Children covered by either MCHP or MCHP Premium will receive the full range of Medicaid covered services and will be enrolled in HealthChoice.

#### **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

To apply for the MCHP, a *Kinship Caregiver* can pick up an application at the nearest Local Department of Social Services, Local Health Department, Women, Infant, and Children Centers, and local hospitals and schools. Applications can also be mailed to *Kinship Caregivers* upon request by calling (800) 456-8900, or can be downloaded from <http://www.dhmd.state.md.us/ma/mchp/>.

## **Medical continued: Maryland State-wide Health Care Programs**

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If a child does not qualify for Medicaid or MCHP, and has no private medical insurance, it still may be possible to obtain low-cost or free necessary mental health services for the child. To determine if such services are available, call ValueOptions, which manages Maryland's Public Mental Health System at 800-888-1965, Monday-Friday from 9:00am-6:00pm.

### **HEALTHCHOICE:**

Website: [www.healthchoice.com](http://www.healthchoice.com)

The HealthChoice program is Maryland's Medicaid managed care program. It is a mandatory program for most of the Medical Assistance population. A recipient in HealthChoice will receive health care services through a managed care organization.

If the child already has a physician, a *Kinship Caregiver* should select the Managed Care Organization (MCO) to which the physician belongs. If you do not select an MCO or a primary care physician, the state will assign one to your child. If you need assistance with the selection process, you may call the telephone number provided in the HealthChoice information or the HealthChoice Enrollee Action Line at 800-254-4510.

For a list of medical professionals who provide fee-for-service medical care under Medicaid in a particular area contact 800-492-5231.

### **MARYLAND PHARMACY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Website: [www.dhmf.state.md.us/mma/mpap](http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/mma/mpap)

The Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program (MPAP) provides pharmacy benefits to low-income individuals not eligible for Medicaid who need help paying for prescription drugs. MPAP is only available to children under the age of 19 who have been denied by MCHP. Any child eligible for MCHP is ineligible for MPAP. Additional financial restrictions apply.

### **ENROLLMENT PROCESS:**

A person must complete a mail-in application, which requires documentation of income, assets, and other information. Applications are available by calling toll-free, 800-226-2142. Applications are also available on-line. Applications are not accepted via email or fax. Any questions should be directed to the nearest Local Department of Social Services.

Applications should be mailed to:  
Maryland Pharmacy Program  
P.O. Box 386  
Baltimore, MD 21203-0386

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## ***Medical Services provided to Anne Arundel County residents***

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### **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

3 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Contact: 410-222-7145

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm

Website: [aahealth.org](http://aahealth.org) (for listings of the comprehensive services and contacts)

The Department of Health is the sole government agency responsible for improving the health of Anne Arundel County. The Behavioral Health Bureau promotes the emotional health and physical well being of county residents by assessing the problems, needs and resources of the county and promoting behavioral health through education, prevention and treatment.

The Department of Health's mission is to preserve, protect and promote the health of all County residents.

Through the Department of Health, some personal health services, such as tuberculosis treatment, are free to all. Other services are charged according to a sliding fee scale based on residents' income. Below are some important services to become aware of. Additional services can be found on the Department of Health website.

#### **Dental Health:**

Contact: 410 222-7138

Provides dental services to County residents on a sliding fee scale, as well as Medical Assistance/MCO dental plans, such as MCHP.

#### **Vision and Hearing Screening:**

Contact: 410-222-6838

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health vision and hearing technicians and school nurses conduct mandated vision and hearing screenings in public schools for children in preschool, kindergarten, first through eighth grades and for students new to Anne Arundel County schools. Special education students receiving speech therapy may also be recommended for screening.

#### **Immunizations:**

Contact: 410-222-4896

Routine immunizations for children and for some adults are available at area health centers by appointment and at scheduled walk-in clinics Monday through Friday. Immunizations are free, but donations are appreciated.

## ***Anne Arundel County Department of Health continued***

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### **Reproductive Health Services:**

Contact: 410-222-7145

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health provides low or no cost comprehensive sexual health and Family Planning Services.

### **HEALTH CENTERS IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**

There are several health centers located throughout the county, which provide an array of services. Contact your local Health Center for more information about programs, services offered, and fees at the specific location.

Annapolis Health Center  
3 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-222-7381

Brooklyn Park Health Center  
300 Hammonds Lane  
Brooklyn Park, MD 21225  
410-222-6620

Glen Burnie Health Center  
416 A Street SW  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
410-222-6633

Magothy Health Center  
2501 Mountain Road  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
410 255-1260

North County Health Services  
791 Aquahart Road, Suite 200  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
410-222-6625

Parole Health Center  
1950 Drew Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-222-7247

Medical Services

## **Statewide Medical Resources**

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### **Medical Care Programs and Information on HealthChoice**

Contact: 800-492-5231

### **Choosing an MCO through HealthChoice**

Contact: 800-977-7388

### **Medicare and Medicare Prescription Drug Program:**

Contact: 800-633-4227

Covers healthcare for individuals who receive SSDO and for individuals' age 62 and older those have paid into the Social Security system for the required amount of time. Primary source of financial help with prescriptions for people on Medicare.

### **Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program:**

Contact: 800-205-6308

Helps low to moderate income Maryland residents who are HIV-infected, purchase medications for their treatment.

### **Maryland Qualified Health Centers:**

Contact: 301-577-0097

Sliding scale health care services for low-income people.

### **Maryland Health Insurance Program:**

Contact: 888-444-9016

Offers affordable Health Insurance Statewide to residents with pre-existing conditions who are unable to obtain health insurance.

### **Maryland Technology Assistance Program:**

Contact: 800-832-4827

Provides tools to help Marylanders with disabilities and seniors enjoy the same opportunities as others.

### **Oral Health Resources:**

Contact: 410-767-5300

Assists Maryland residents find affordable dental care services.

### **Primary Adult Care Program (PAC):**

Contact: 800-226-2142

Provides limited health services to adults ages 19-64 that do not qualify for Medicare.

## ***Statewide Medical Resources continued***

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### **State of Maryland Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program:**

Contact: 800-551-5995

Provides help toward the cost of the premium for persons enrolled in a Medicare D Prescription Drug plan.

### **Vision USA:**

Contact: 800-766-4466

Provides free eye examinations to low-income individuals and families who may not qualify for government or private health care assistance.

### **VACCINATIONS**

The following vaccines are required (for children 2 to 10 years) to attend school in Maryland. Some of the vaccines can be combined to reduce the number of shots given at one visit.

Vaccine	Protects Against
DTaP	Diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw) and pertussis (whooping cough)
Hepatitis B	Hepatitis B
Hib	Haemophilus influenzae type b, which causes bacterial meningitis
IPV	Polio
MMR	Measles, mumps, and rubella (German Measles)
PCV7, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine	Pneumococcal disease that can cause bacterial meningitis and blood infections
Varicella	Varicella (chickenpox)

## **Medical Services: Vaccinations and Consent of Health Care Affidavit**

Students (ages 11 to 17 years) not previously vaccinated are given the following vaccines in order to attend middle and high school in Maryland.

Vaccine	Protects Against
Hepatitis B	Hepatitis B
IPV	Polio
MMR	Measles, mumps, and rubella (German Measles)
Varicella	Varicella (chickenpox)
Tdap, Td	Diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw) and pertussis (whooping cough)

### **MEDICAL DOCUMENTS:**

Having the following documents will make it easier to obtain health care for your Child.

- Health Insurance Plan Cards
- Immunization Certificate
- Court Order or Affidavit for Health Care Services

### **AFFIDAVIT FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES:**

This document is available to *Kinship Caregivers* who do not have legal custody or guardianship or the child in their care. You as the *Kinship Caregiver* must be able to verify relationship to the child who is in need of health care services.

The *Kinship Caregiver* must verify the informal *Kinship Care* relationship by filing an affidavit with the Department of Human Resources Social Services Administration. A *Consent for Health Care – Affidavit* (Form DHR/SSA 554) is available at each county board of education and local health department or you can contact 1-877-463-3464 or go to [www.dhmr.state.md.us](http://www.dhmr.state.md.us).

An affidavit should be filed annually at the following address:

Maryland Department of Human Resources  
 Social Services Administration  
 311 W. Saratoga Street, Room 592  
 Baltimore, MD 21201

If any change occurs in the care or in the serious family hardship of the child, notice should be given to the Department of Human Resources, Social Services Administration in writing within 30 days.

***Are you struggling with mental health problems but cannot afford to get care?  
You do have options. Help is a phone call away.***

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**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AGENCY (AACMHA)**

1 Truman Parkway, Suite 101, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410 222-7858

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm

Web: [www.aamentalhealth.org](http://www.aamentalhealth.org)

Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency (AACMHA) was established to help Medicaid recipients and other low-income, non-insured people in the county who meet certain criteria get the mental health care they need.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

AACMHA accepts Medicaid. In some cases, there may be a sliding scale for fees charged for those with limited income and no private insurance.

**ANNE ARUNDEL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BUREAU**

3 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Contact: 410-222-7095

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm

Website: [www.ahealth.org/mentalhealth.asp](http://www.ahealth.org/mentalhealth.asp)

The Department of Health is the sole government agency responsible for improving the health of Anne Arundel County. The Behavioral Health Bureau promotes the emotional health and physical well being of county residents by assessing the problems, needs and resources of the county and promoting behavioral health through education, prevention and treatment.

**Adolescent and Family Services:**

Provides behavioral health services to children and their families, to include both mental health (410-222-6785) and addictions treatment (410-222-6725).

**Adult Addiction Services:**

Contact: 410-222-0100

Provides outpatient medically managed substance abuse treatment, which includes the use of methadone.

**Community Treatment Services:**

Contact: 410-222-0120

Partners with the criminal justice system and private substance abuse treatment programs to provide substance abuse assessments for offenders and treatment for those offenders who are indigent or incarcerated.

## **Mental Health and Addiction Resources**

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### **Prevention and Education Services:**

Contact: 410-222-6724

Promotes public health by preventing alcohol and drug abuse in young people.

### **ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE RESOURCES**

#### **Network of Care for Behavioral Health**

Website: [networkofcare.org](http://networkofcare.org)

#### **OASIS, Urgent After Hours Mental Health Services**

Contact: 410-571-0888

Website: [www.oasismentalhealth.com](http://www.oasismentalhealth.com)

#### **On Our Own of Anne Arundel County, Inc.**

Contact: 410-224-0116 or Toll Free (800) 704-0262

Self-help group for current and former recipients of mental health services. Fellowship, support, advocacy. Call for times. Provides transportation.

#### **MD Coalition on Mental Health and Aging**

Contact: 410-235-1178

Nonprofit citizens' organization that brings together consumers, families and professionals by providing education and advocacy on behalf of individuals with mental illness.

### **SELF-HELP GROUPS**

#### **Alcoholics Anonymous**

Contact: 410-663-1922

Website: [www.baltimoreaa.org](http://www.baltimoreaa.org)

Support groups for people who abuse or are addicted to alcohol.

#### **Alanon and Alateen**

Contact: 410-832-7094

Website: [www.alanon-maryland.org](http://www.alanon-maryland.org)

Support groups for family members and friends of alcohol abusers.

#### **Chemical Dependency Anonymous**

Contact: 888-232-4673

Website: [www.cdaweb.org](http://www.cdaweb.org)

Support groups for people who are chemically dependent.

#### **Narcotics Anonymous**

Contact: 800-317-3222

Website: [www.freestatena.org](http://www.freestatena.org)

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## ***What kind of recreational programs are available in the county?***

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### **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS**

1 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-222-7300

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30p.m

Website: [www.aacounty.org/recparks](http://www.aacounty.org/recparks)

### **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY TRAILS**

Contact: 410-222-8820

Anne Arundel County has the following trails:

- Baltimore and Annapolis Trail in Severna Park
- BWI Trail that circles BWI International Airport in Linthicum
- West Baltimore and Annapolis Trail in Odenton

### **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PARKS**

Anne Arundel County has many parks throughout the county. Some community parks have special areas set aside for off-leash dog activities. Go to the department's website ([www.aacounty.org/recparks](http://www.aacounty.org/recparks)) for more information regarding services, hours, and entrance fees.

Downs Park - Dog Beach

8311 John Downs Loop, Pasadena, Maryland 21122

Park is closed on Tuesdays

Contact: 410-222-6230

Fort Smallwood Park

9500 Fort Smallwood Road Pasadena, MD 21122

Park is closed on Wednesdays

Contact: 410-222-6230

Hammonds Connection at Dairy Farm

100 Dairy Lane, Gambrills, MD 21054

Contact: 410-222-7317

Hancock's Resolution - Most events are free, but a small donation is suggested

2795 Bayside Beach Road, Pasadena, Maryland

April through October, Sundays 1-4 pm

Contact: 410-255-4048

Homeport Farm Park

Homeport Drive, Edgewater, MD 21037

Contact: 410-222-7317

# Recreational Activities

## ***Recreation continued***

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Jonas Green Park  
1990 Governor Ritchie Highway Annapolis, MD 21401  
Contact: 410-222-8820

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary  
1361 Wrighton Road, Lothian, MD 20711  
Contact: 410 741-9330

Kinder Farm Park  
Kinder Farm Park Road Millersville, MD 21108  
Park is closed Tuesdays  
Contact: 410 222-6115

Lake Waterford Park  
830 Pasadena Road, Pasadena, MD 21122  
Contact: 410-222-7000

London Town & Gardens  
839 Londontown Road, Edgewater, MD 21037  
April – December, Wed – Sat, 10am – 4pm, Sunday, 12pm – 4pm  
Contact: 410-222-1919

Mayo Beach Park  
Honeysuckle Drive, Edgewater, MD  
Contact: 410-222-1978

Thomas Point Park  
3890 Thomas Point Road, Annapolis, MD  
Contact: 410-222-1777

Quiet Waters Park - Dog Beach Only  
600 Quiet Waters Park Road, Annapolis, MD 21403  
Park is closed on Tuesdays  
Contact: 410-222-1777

## ***Recreation continued***

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### **RECREATION CENTERS**

Sports and recreation centers are located throughout the county and are listed below. Please call specific locations for fees and hours of operation.

North County Recreation Center  
196 Hammonds Lane, Brooklyn Park  
Contact: 410-222-0036

South County Recreation Center  
4510 Owensville-Sudley Road, Harwood  
Contact: 410-222-1515

Arundel Olympic Swim Center  
2690 Riva Road, Annapolis  
Contact: 410-222-7933

North Arundel Aquatic Center  
7888 Crain Highway, Glen Burnie  
Contact: 410-222-0090

Skateboard Park Information (free admission)  
301 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie  
Contact: 410-222-0017

Randazzo Softball Park Information  
Upton Road, Severn  
Contact: 410-222-6255

Bachman Sports Complex Information  
570 East Ordnance Road, Glen Burnie  
Contact: 410-222-0017

### **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

Website: [www.aacpl.net](http://www.aacpl.net)

Contact: 410-222-7371

15 branches offering a wide selection of free resources to residents, including public Internet access and Homework Centers in all branches. Check your local branch for special events information.

### **Tutoring Services:**

Chat live with a tutor by calling 1-866-272-4638

Hours of Tutoring Services: 3pm-10pm, 7 days a week

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## Are you or the child you are raising eligible for Social Security Benefits?

### **SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE (SSDI)**

SSDI provides financial benefits to eligible disabled individuals and eligible dependent relative children.

#### **SSDI for Kinship Caregivers:**

Eligibility for SSDI is based on the caregiver's work record, not income requirements. Qualifying *Kinship* must have a recognized disability and have paid into Social Security through payroll deductions. The disability standard under SSI is defined as a medically determinable physical or mental impairment that prohibits gainful activity and the duration of the impairment is expected to last 1 year or to result in death.

#### **SSDI for a Child Under 18:**

Children under the age 18 qualify for SSDI dependent benefits if the Caregiver receives SSDI. The child will receive the SSDI up until 18 if residing with the *Kinship Caregiver*. Child benefits are regardless of a disability.

#### **SSDI for a Disabled Child Over 18:**

*Kinship Caregivers* providing for a disabled dependent adult child may qualify for SSDI if the child became disabled prior to age 22 and is unable to work. SSDI benefits are also based on the Caregiver's work record.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)**

If you are receiving monthly Social Security benefits then you may be eligible to receive SSI. SSI provides a monthly financial benefit to low-income adults and children, people who are 65 or older, or blind or disabled and have limited resources. SSI benefits are not based on work records.

#### **SSI for Kinship Caregivers:**

Social Security benefits may be received starting at age 65-67, depending on one's year of birth. Individuals born prior to 1938 can receive full benefits beginning at age 65. Those born in 1938 or later may have to wait 2 months-2 years after they turn 65 to receive full SSI benefits. Even though Age 65 is the earliest an individual can receive full SSI benefit, those eligible may choose to receive early social security benefits at age 62. However, the monthly financial benefit will be less than waiting until full retirement age.

## ***Social Security Benefits continued***

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### **Income Eligibility for the Kinship Caregiver:**

Social Security retirement benefits are based on “credits” earned through qualified employment. On average, you must have worked 10 years to earn the required 40 credits. Additionally, you must not have a net income greater than the current benefit rate.

### **SSI for a Dependent Child:**

If the parent of the child in your care, is/are deceased or disabled, the child may be eligible for Social Security Survivor’s Benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). You must apply directly at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

### **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Applications may be submitted online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or in person at one of the field offices in Anne Arundel County.

#### **Annapolis Office**

180 Admiral Cochrane Drive, Suite 210, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-897-9217

#### **Glen Burnie Office**

337 Hospital Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21061, Suite A1

Contact: 1-866-528-9873

### **APPEAL PROCESS:**

For additional information on Social Security benefits, eligibility conditions, or to file an appeal if denied benefits please refer to the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, 1-800-325-0778 (tty) or visit <http://www.ssa.gov>.

The Social Security Administration must receive the appeal within 60 days from receipt of the denied request.

***Learn about tax credit eligibility and if you qualify for a refund.***

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## **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION**

### **HOMEOWNERS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM**

301 W. Preston Street, Room 900, Baltimore, MD 21201-2395

Contact: 410-767-4433 or 1-800-944-7403

Website: [www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us)

### **FEDERAL TAX CREDIT FOR CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE**

If you are paying for day care expenses for children or disabled adult dependents and have earned income then you may be eligible for a federal tax credit of 20% to 35% of day care expenses.

#### **ELIGIBILITY-DEPENDENT:**

You must have a dependent child age 12 or younger or a dependent of any age that cannot care for him or herself. You must provide a home and pay for over half of the care giving costs of the dependent.

#### **ELIGIBILITY-DAYCARE PROVIDER:**

Your childcare provider or daycare services cannot be one of your dependents. You must report your daycare provider's name, business name when applicable, address, and social security or employer ID Number on Form 2441 when filing taxes.

### **RENTERS' TAX CREDIT**

If you rent, are age 60 or over, or disabled you may be eligible for a property tax credit. The rented property must be your principal residence in Maryland. The renter must live at the property for at least 6 months of the year. The rented living space may be an apartment, house, duplex, co-op, condominium, house trailer, or mobile home.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

You must meet one of the following criteria:

- Age 60 and over
- 100% Disabled
- Surviving spouse of someone who would have been 60 or older or disabled
- Under 60 and have 1 or more dependents under 18 living in the rental property and do not receive federal or state housing subsidies, and have income below the certain limits. Renters have until September 1 of the year in which the credit is requested.

## ***Tax Credits Continued and Resources on Tax Services***

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### **HOMEOWNERS PROPERTY TAX CREDIT**

This Maryland tax credit is available to Maryland homeowners whose property taxes exceed a fixed percentage of their income.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Qualified homeowners regardless of their age. Homeowners must submit the application and required documents by September 1 of each year.

### **FEDERAL AND MARYLAND EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT**

The EITC is a special tax credit for low and moderate-income workers. This credit is designed to give workers back taxes that were withheld from their paychecks. Payments vary based on income, family size, and marital status.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

People who worked full-time, part time, or did temporary work during the year, provided their household income was below the eligibility limits.

### **OTHER RESOURCES**

Office of the Comptroller of MD

Contact: 410-260-7980

Provides further information about Maryland tax credits.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Contact: 1-800-829-1020

Provides further information about Federal tax credits.

### **FREE TAX SERVICES**

AARP TAX-AIDE

1-888-227-7669

1<sup>st</sup> CALL FOR HELP

1-800-492-0618

Available to the elderly, disabled, non-English speaking, and limited income households.

*There is a wide range of youth advocacy services throughout Anne Arundel County.*

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## **THE YWCA OF ANNAPOLIS AND ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**

1517 Ritchie Highway, Suite 201, Arnold, MD 21012

Contact: 410-626-7800, review with Intake Coordinator sliding fee scale.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 8:00am-8:00pm

Website: [www.annapolisywca.org](http://www.annapolisywca.org)

The YWCA focuses on the strength of the family unit. Learn about the YWCA programs that could best provide the resources and support necessary for the enrichment of your children.

### **Mentoring for Youth:**

Therapeutic Mentoring program provides a positive adult role model for children ages 8 to 18 with social and emotional concerns. Children are provided with the opportunity to build their social skills with the support of trained mentors. Children participate in group activities, support groups, one-to-one meetings, and field trips. Close interaction with parents is maintained. Children are referred to the program through the Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency.

### **Transition to Independence:**

The YWCA offers intensive therapeutic case management services specifically designed for teen mothers. The goal of the program is to ensure graduation from high school, positive parenting skills, understanding of child development, vocational consideration and family support. The program is available to ladies age 13 through 18 who are pregnant and/or have children age 0 through 7.

### **School-based Mentoring for Teen Ladies (High School) Turning Point:**

A group of high school female students meet after school. The program is designed to enrich the girls in the areas of social life skills, financial planning, higher education and career options, and exposure to fine arts, employment opportunities, healthy choices, and parental involvement through weekly home visits. Contact Annapolis High School to learn more.

### **School-based Intervention Program (Middle School):**

The STAR Academy after-school program provides additional assistance to students with social, emotional and academic challenges. The program focuses on increasing school attendance, improving academic performance, social interaction, health and wellness, and recreational opportunities. Individuals are referred to the program through their school counselors or administrators.

## ***Youth Advocacy Programs continued***

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### **Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County:**

Contact: 410-263-2542

Website: [bgcaa.com](http://bgcaa.com)

Programs are available in the areas of education, the environment, health, the arts, careers, alcohol/drug and pregnancy prevention, gang prevention, leadership development and athletics. Club programs and services promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence.

### **Big Brother/Big Sisters of America:**

Contact: 410-243-4000

Website: [www.biglittle.org](http://www.biglittle.org)

Matches at-risk children or children being raised by non-parents with an adult volunteer who will provide additional guidance, support, and company to the child.

### **Eastport Girls Club (EGC):**

Contact: 410-263-3291

Website: [www.EastportGirlsClub.org](http://www.EastportGirlsClub.org)

Eastport Girls Club is a grassroots mentoring program for girls in grades 5-12 who are living in public housing communities in Annapolis, MD. EGC operates in partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA). EGC is currently offered on Wednesdays from 3:30-6:00 p.m. at the Eastport Community Center. Programming includes a tutoring program, youth development and skill building activities

### **Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts:**

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland

Contact: 1-800-492-2521

Boy Scouts of Central Maryland

Contact: 410-338-1700

### **Maryland Mentoring Partnership:**

Contact: 410-685-8316

Website: [www.marylandmentors.org](http://www.marylandmentors.org)

Matches mentors with children to build self-sufficiency skills, improve self-esteem, and boost motivation.

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**Anne Arundel County supports Kinship Caregivers. Let us help you find your way.**

Anne Arundel County recognizes that caring for a relative's child can be difficult, overwhelming, and even exhausting. We recognize the life altering aspects and abrupt lifestyle changes of caring for children that are not your own. The time and financial commitment, transition factors, generational gaps, and role changes all add up to an unbelievable responsibility.

The starting point in caring for someone else's child requires a balance between meeting the child's needs and meeting your own needs. This can be puzzling! Kinship support groups, the child's school, physicians, clergy members, and family centers are all good starting points to seek resources.

Anne Arundel County administers an array of services. The following provides a summary of services that can assist *Kinship Caregivers* who have parenting responsibilities. Below is a list of county agencies and information on services and programs administered through each department.

**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm

Website: [www.dhr.state.md.us/county/ann](http://www.dhr.state.md.us/county/ann)

**Annapolis Office**

80 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-269-4500

**Glen Burnie Office**

7500 Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Contact: 301-261-1756

**SOCIAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS:**

**Adult Protective Services**

Contact: 410-421-8400

Investigation of adult abuse or neglect and resources for vulnerable adults at risk of abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation.

**Project Home**

Contact: 410-897-3960

Support Services and help with self-care in an adult foster care setting within the community.

**Guardianship**

Contact: 410-269-4756

Guardianship for adults who lack sufficient understanding to make or communicate responsible decisions about self-care or property due to mental or physical disability.

**HELP FOR FAMILIES:**

**Child Protective Services:**

Contact: 410-421-8400

Investigation of children believed to be neglected or abused.

**In-Home Family Services:**

Contact: 410-421-8400

Helps strengthen and preserve families, protect vulnerable children, and prevent out-of-home or out-of-community placement of children while helping increase family's skills and use community resources.

**Out-of-Home Placement (Foster Care, Kinship Care):**

Services for children in state custody, which focus on maintaining contact with birth parents, while working as a team with parents to reunite with their children.

**Support Services for Foster or Adoptive Parents:**

Contact: 410-897-3950

Assists caregivers providing temporary care for children in State custody

**Adoption Services:**

Contact: 410-269-4772

Assist children in need of a permanent, stable environment that nurtures a child's healthy development.

**FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER:**

80 West Street, Suite B, Annapolis, MD 21401

Hours of Operation: M/T/TH 8am-5pm, Wed 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-1pm

Contact: 410-269-4478

The *Anne Arundel County Family Support Center* provides free, comprehensive services, either on-site or through referral, to families, targeting parents and their children from birth through age three. Free on-site childcare is provided for caregivers. Additionally, free transportation can be arranged to and from the center. (Please refer to the *caregiver resources* section of the guide for Family Support Center programs and services).

## Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities

### **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITIES**

2666 Riva Road, Fourth Floor, Annapolis, MD. 21401

Contact: 410-222-4464 or 1-800-243-3425

Hours of Operation: weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m

Website: [www.aacounty.org/Aging](http://www.aacounty.org/Aging)

The following services and programs are offered to Anne Arundel County senior citizens and adults with disabilities to assist with their needs, welfare, and questions.

#### **Adult Evaluation and Review Service:**

Contact: 410-222-4366

Provides comprehensive psychosocial and nursing evaluation in the home. Develops client care plans and makes referrals to services to help individuals function as independently as possible.

#### **Adult Public Guardianship:**

Contact: 410-222-4464

Provides information and education about alternatives to guardianship.

#### **Americans with Disabilities Act Office:**

Contact: 410-222-4383

Coordinates and serves as a resource for Anne Arundel County government programs and facilities to ensure compliance with the American with Disabilities Act.

#### **Community Care Partnership:**

Contact: 410-222-4369

Provides in-home services and care management to frail elderly individuals 60 years of age or older and individuals with disabilities so that they may continue living in their own homes. Financial and medical requirements apply.

#### **FEAST, the Senior Nutrition Program:**

Contact: 410-222-4464

Meals at community sites throughout the county, nutrition education, activities, and physical fitness.

#### **Foster Grandparent Program:**

Contact: 410-222-4464

Provides volunteer opportunities to low-income seniors to give ongoing support and supervision to children with special needs.

**Friendly Visitors:**

Contact: 410-222-4464

Provides weekly volunteer visitors and housebound residents of the county who are 55 or older and adults with disabilities.

**Health Insurance Counseling (SHIP, Senior Health Insurance Program):**

Contact: 410-222-4464

Provides health insurance assistance and information to Medicare-eligible individuals and their families.

**Home Delivered Meals:**

Contact: 410-626-7543 or 1-866-558-0927

Volunteers deliver 2 meals a day between the hours of 11a.m. and 1:30p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Housing Assistance:**

Contact: 410-222-4464

Regulates assisted housing program, which provide shelter, meals, services, and help with activities of daily living.

**Legal Assistance:**

Contact: 410-263-8330

Provides services to eligible seniors through a contract with Legal Aid Bureau.

**Life Enrichment Program:**

Contact: 410-222-0738

Volunteers provide weekly visits to residents of nursing homes and assisted living sites.

**Medicaid Waiver Program:**

Contact: 410-222-4464

Provides services to eligible individuals fifty and older to enable them to remain in the community as opposed to nursing homes. Medical, financial, and technical requirements apply.

**National Family Caregiver Support Program:**

Contact: 410-222-4464

Program for caregivers to help relieve stress associated with their role. Information, assistance, educational programs, respite, and supplemental services.

## ***Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities continued***

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### **Ombudsman Program:**

Contact: 410-222-4464

Provides information and education about nursing homes and assisted living facilities and the admission process.

### **Respite Care Referral:**

Contact: 410-222-4464

Links pre-screened, self-employed home care workers with families in need of assistance.

### **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP):**

Contact: 410-222 6713

Meaningful volunteer opportunities for seniors throughout schools, libraries, museums, hospitals, etc.

### **Senior Centers and Nutrition Sites:**

Contact: 410-222-4464 to locate the most convenient senior center in your area

Provide lunches, recreational activities, health screenings, and socialization at community sites throughout the county.

### **Senior Medicare Patrol:**

Contact: 410-222-4464

A grant-funded project to combat fraud and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid. Increases senior awareness on health fraud issues.

### **Taxi Voucher Program:**

Contact: 410-222-4222

Provides coupons for discounted taxicabs within the county to people 55 years and older and people 18 or older with disabilities who meet the income guidelines.

### **Telephone Reassurance:**

Contact: 410-222-4464

Provides daily telephone calls to seniors. Volunteers check in with senior clients 365 days a year.

### **Transportation:**

Contact: 410-222-4826

Rides provided to seniors age 55 and over and adults with disabilities age 18 and over to senior centers, nutrition sites, medical appointments, etc.

## **Anne Arundel County Board of Education**

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### **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-4:30pm

Contact: 410-222-5000 General Information

Public Information Office: 410-222-5312

Website: [www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) provides a challenging and rewarding educational experience for every child. The AACPS school system is the 5th largest in Maryland, and among the 50 largest school systems in the country.

Refer to the *Education* section of this guide for specific information about special programs or contact one of the numbers below.

Main Switchboard:	410-222-5000
Bus Transportation:	410-222-2910
Career & Technology Education:	410-222-5490
Curriculum:	410-222-5412
Early Childhood:	410-222-5441
Health Services:	410-222-6833
Human Resources:	410-222-5061
Immunizations:	410-222-3855
Out of Area Placements and Transfers:	410-222-5322
Public Information Office:	410-222-5312 or 410-222-5316
School Attendance Boundaries:	410-439-5683
School Safety & Security:	410-222-5083
Special Education:	410-222-5410
Student Services:	410-222-5320

# Agency Services

**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS**

1 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 8:00 am - 4:30pm

Contact: 410-222-7300

Website: [www.aacounty.org/recparks](http://www.aacounty.org/recparks)

The Department consists of more than 140 parks and sanctuaries. Specialized recreational facilities include the North and South Recreation Centers, two swim centers, two golf courses, baseball/softball facilities, and a skateboard park. The department offers organized sports and recreation programs at facilities throughout the county. Programs such as school-age childcare and adaptive recreation are also offered. Thousands of acres of land fall under the department's jurisdiction. The department's open space includes community parks, green ways, archaeological, environmental, and historical preserves, and large regional facilities occupying several hundred acres of land.

Refer to the *Recreational Activities* section of this guide for specific information about special programs or contact one of the numbers below.

Parks:	410-222-7317
Recreational Programs:	410-222-7313
Sport Leagues:	410-222-7865
Summer Camp:	410-222-7313
School-Age Child Care:	410-222-7856

Agency Services

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## **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FOOD BANK**

P. O. Box 650, Crownsville, MD 21032

Contact: 410-923- 4255 for a pantry in your area.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm (closed from 12-1 daily)

Website: [www.aafoodbank.org](http://www.aafoodbank.org)

The Anne Arundel County Food Bank is a free resource bank that gives away food and donated appliances, furniture, medical equipment, baby items, clothing, cars and other items that will help families in need.

### **PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:**

#### **Operation Food Sharing:**

Food Pantries distribute bags of food to families in need throughout Anne Arundel County.

#### **Soup Kitchen Program:**

The Anne Arundel County Food & Resource Bank works with the Department of Human Resources to make sure that congregate feeding sites always have a hot meal to offer.

#### **Nutritional Diet Program:**

This helps families whose needs go beyond standard food pantry items. The goal of the Nutritional Diet Program is to ensure that seniors and infants with diet constraints are not left at risk of hunger or malnutrition.

#### **Furniture Program:**

The Anne Arundel County Food Bank distributes furniture, appliances, and other household items at no charge to our clients through referrals from the Department of Social Services, and other service oriented agencies. You must have an appointment to pick up furniture.

#### **Professional Medical Equipment:**

The distribution of medical equipment includes but is not limited to wheel chairs, transfer chairs, electric scooters, hospital beds, and walkers to clients free of charge through referrals by Department of Aging, Department of Social Services and other service oriented agencies.





