

## ABOUT THE COMMISSION

The Commission on Disabilities, a part of the Baltimore County Office of Community Conservation, serves in an advisory and referral capacity on the coordination and development of the County's policies affecting residents with disabilities. Appointed by the County Executive, the Commission includes people with disabilities, family members, representatives of public and private service-providing agencies, and state and local government.

Our **MISSION** is to foster attitudes and promote behaviors which respect and value people with disabilities among County government, its citizens, and others.

Our **GOALS** are:

- to achieve an effective and systematic delivery of public, private, and consumer resources to all people with disabilities in the County;
- to identify the strengths and weaknesses in programs, services, and resources available to citizens with disabilities; and
- to propose the means whereby the needs of citizens with disabilities can be met.

*Please feel free to copy and distribute this brochure so that others may benefit from the information which it contains.*

*Available in alternative format upon request.*



**BALTIMORE COUNTY**  
M A R Y L A N D

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*The information contained in the brochure was accurate at the time of printing. If you find a number or web site to be incorrect, please contact the Commission Office for assistance.*

The Education Work Group of the Commission on Disabilities worked in partnership with staff from Baltimore County Public Schools to develop this brochure.

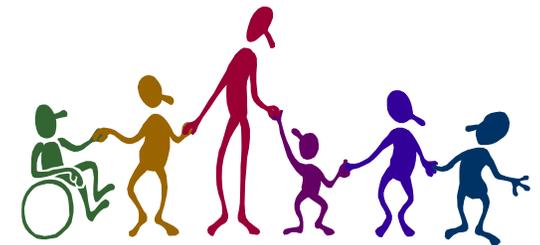
# WHEN YOUR

# CHILD

# HAS A

# DEVELOPMENTAL

# DISABILITY...



... **complete an application for the Maryland State Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)**. Ask your child's IEP chairperson for an application, call DDA (410-902-4500) or download an application at [www.ddamaryland.org](http://www.ddamaryland.org). Keep a copy of the application for your files and send the original to DDA. The date the application is received could be critical in determining whether your child is eligible for services in the future.

... **get information about rolling access funds**. This is money from DDA that can be used for camp tuition, home modifications and other expenses related to your child's disability. Call DDA (410-902-4500).

... **plan for your child's future now**. The Resource Center for Families and Schools (410-887-5443) offers workshops on long-range financial and legal planning. "*Planning Now*," a reference for families, can be borrowed from the Resource Center and can be downloaded from [www.md-council.org](http://www.md-council.org).

... **be sure that your child carries identification at all times**. Consider Medic Alert 1-888-633-4298 ([medicalert.org](http://medicalert.org)), iron-on clothing labels and/or a MD state ID card from the Motor Vehicle Administration (1-800-950-1682, [www.mdot.state.md.us](http://www.mdot.state.md.us)).

... **get information about respite care** so that you can get a break from the demands of parenting. Call Respite Care Services at the Arc of Baltimore (410-296-2273).

... **subscribe to "Leisure Resources,"** the newsletter of the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, Office of Therapeutic Services (410-887-5370). Building a social network for your child is as important as any IEP goal! Recreation programs offer opportunities to make friends and learn new skills outside of school.

... **apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) when your child turns 18**. Call the Resource Center for Families and Schools (410-887-5443) for information on parent workshops about SSI. More information is available at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

... **apply for Medical Assistance when your child turns 18**. This is mandatory as part of the eligibility process for DDA-funded adult services. If your child receives SSI, Medical Assistance is automatically provided. If not, contact your local Department of Social Services for an application.

... **register your son with the Selective Service System when he turns 18**.

... **become a member of an advocacy group** that will represent your child as he moves into adulthood. Call the Resource Center for Families and Schools (410-887-5443) for a list of advocacy groups.

... **work on daily living skills at home** so that your child will be increasingly independent. Daily living skills translate into employment skills as a child gets older.

... **celebrate** all of the very special persons in your family!

*This is what your child is entitled to from birth-21:*

special education  
speech/language services  
behavior management  
work training  
physical therapy  
community-based instruction  
occupational therapy,  
etc., etc., etc.

*This is what your child is entitled to after age 21:*

