

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



Commission on People with Disabilities
October 9, 2023

Via Letter of Transmittal Electronically

Honorable Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive
Honorable Evan Glass President, Montgomery County Council
James C. Bridgers, Jr., Ph.D., MBA Director, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

The Commission on People with Disabilities is pleased to present a summary of its activities for the past year. We continue to advise and consult with you on issues of concern to the safety and well-being of an estimated 98,887 people with disabilities who live in the County, according to the 2022 U.S. Census Bureau. Please note the County resident disability data on page 17 — 27,441 with hearing, 16,122 with vision, 37,250 with cognitive and 32,817 with an ambulatory disabilities. The census does not include mental health data. We continue to work to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

1. The safety of all pedestrians remains a major concern of our Commission. The recently updated Vision Zero data showing a rise in severe injuries and deaths amongst pedestrians despite a pandemic-related decrease in vehicular traffic is alarming. The Commission is willing to provide input to help assure that pedestrian travel-way design changes include consideration of the needs of all pedestrians including those with disabilities. Our input early in the design process will permit a thorough consideration of the challenges faced by people with disabilities before plan development and subsequent finalization. We can help with proposed changes in sidewalks, bicycle lane design and appropriate placement, electric scooter use planning and program design, sidewalk construction and all other pedestrian transportation design considerations. We recognize that plans developed by MCDOT attempt to take into consideration the safety needs of people with disabilities but recognize an unintentional, ableism bias that limits the effectiveness of proposed plans as currently in development. Our early involvement may avoid the need for costly retrofitting and reconstruction. The Commission has a long history of successful collaboration with the County on many issues and would like to continue this tradition with MCDOT to develop safety plans for all pedestrians.
2. We appreciate the ongoing review of the Transportation Services Improvement Fund Disbursement guidelines. Use of this fund to promote availability of accessible taxi service in the County requires reconsideration and revitalization. People with disabilities find that the lack of reliable taxi services is a barrier to getting to work, medical appointments, and other life activities.
3. The Commission recommended that the County establish an Intellectual and Development Disability Commission to advise the County, State and Federal government. The Commission was pleased when the County established the new Commission and appointed and confirmed the new members for that Commission on September 12, 2023.
4. If you are looking for information available to you on a broad range of disability issues go to the Commission's Disability Network Directory www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DND and the home page for disability at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/disability.

We wish to recognize and give our personal thanks to all Commissioners, community members, and agency staff who participate in our meetings for their commitment and dedication in promoting the civil rights and independence of people with disabilities. It has been a pleasure to work with you and the members of the Commission. We are confident that you will continue to support the Commission's efforts to enhance the lives of people with disabilities in our County. Our meetings are open to the public, and we invite you to join us at our meetings.



Patricia A. Gallalee

Trish Gallalee
Chair



Karen I. Morgret

Karen Morgret
Vice-Chair

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Membership List / About the Commission	3 - 4
Commission Presentations 2022 - 2023	5
Proclamation Recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month	6
Proclamation Recognizing the 33rd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act	7
What the Americans with Disabilities Act Means	8
Proclamation Recognizing March as Developmental Disability Awareness Month	9
Montgomery County Council Enacts Bill 10-23 to Establish An Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission	9
FY25 Operating Budget Priorities	10
FY24 Operating Budget Priorities	11 - 12
Commission Recommendations for Thrive 2050	13 - 14
Second Accessible Floating Launch Installed at Seneca Landing Special Park / New Adaptive Paddling Program	15
Durable Medical Equipment Collection Site Opens at Shady Grove Transfer Station	16
Who Has A Disability in Montgomery County, MD? An Overview	17
Maryland State Department of Education - Montgomery County Special Education Data	18
Developmental Disability Resources and Information / Community Support Network Programs and FY25 Budget / DDA and Autism Waiver Waiting Lists	19 - 21
Montgomery College Workforce Development and Continuing Education	22
Design for Life Property Tax Incentive Program	23 - 24
Disability Network Directory	25
Commission on People with Disabilities Commemorates 44th Year	26 - 27
Montgomery County COVID-19 Pandemic Information Portal	28
Text-to-911 Now Available in Maryland	28
Safety and Emergency Resources	29
How to Contact Your Elected Officials	30



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Aging & Disability Services - Aging & Disability Resource Unit

Provides hands-on assistance, referrals to service, and information to adults 60+, caregivers and persons with disabilities of any age. It is the primary entry point for most DHHS Aging and Disability services.

240-777-3000 (Voice) • MD Relay 711 • 240-777-4000 (Emergency After Hours)

Email: ADS@montgomerycountymd.gov • www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs

Hours: Monday and Friday, 8:30am to 5pm; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30am to 7:30pm

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP LIST - 2023

PUBLIC VOTING MEMBERS

Myra Coffield
Kaylee Davis
Patricia Gallalee, Chair
Tonya Gilchrist
Karen Goss

Michael Greenberg
Karen Herson
Samuel Korper
Cindy LaBon
Ricardo Lopez

Mandy McCarthy
Teresa Villani
Avner Shapiro
Jeneva Stone

ORGANIZATION / AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES VOTING MEMBERS

Sammi Hampton, *Independence Now*
Karen Morgret, Vice-Chair, *Treatment and Learning Centers*
Maria "Coni" Nepomuceno, *The Arc Maryland*
Lisa Quinn, *Reach Every Voice*
Eric Salzano, *Community Services for Autistic Adults & Children*
Richard Shermanski, *American Speech-Language Hearing Association*
John Whittle, *Consultant, Service Coordination, Inc.*
Najla Wortham, *The Rock Creek Foundation*
Melissa Wyman, *Potomac Community Resources, Inc.*

NON-VOTING MEMBERS - PUBLIC AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Matthew Barkley, *ADA Title II Compliance Manager, Department of General Services*
Bob Green, *M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks*
Rebecca Grayson, *Housing Opportunities Commission*
Candace Groudine, *Human Rights Commission*
Angelisa Hawes, *Montgomery County Public Libraries*
Karen Hochberg, *Targeted Recruitment Specialist, Office of Human Resources*
Denise Isreal, *Department of Transportation*
Angela Luskey, *Department of Recreation*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - STAFF MEMBERS

Betsy Tolbert Luecking, *Community Outreach Manager*
Carly Clem, *Program Specialist II*

Online Disability Resources Provided by the Commission

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DISABILITY WEBSITE: If you are looking for information available to you on a broad range of disability issues including such information as how to apply to the Developmental Disabilities Administration to Caregiver Support go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/disability



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES

DISABILITY NETWORK DIRECTORY

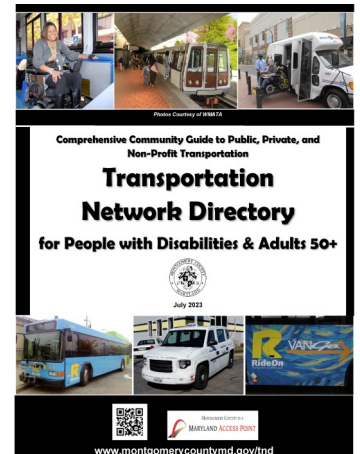
A DIRECTORY OF PROVIDERS, AGENCIES, BUSINESSES AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

Access & ADA-Related Issues, Adaptive & Medical Equipment, Advocacy, Autism, Blind / Low Vision, Brain Injury, Counseling, Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Dental Services, Developmental Disabilities, Education, Emergency Preparedness, Employment, Evacuations & Disaster, Family Supports, Financial Assistance, Hard of Hearing, Home Care, Housing, Independent Living Skills, Learning Disabilities, Legal Services, Long Term Care, Medicaid Waivers, Mental Health, Nursing Homes, Parks, Recreation, Respite Care, Service Animals, Spinal Cord Injury, Support Groups, Transportation

Online Disability Network Directory
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dnd
Search the County's Website
www.montgomerycountymd.gov

DISABILITY NETWORK DIRECTORY: A directory of provider agencies, businesses and advocacy organizations that offer local, state and national resources for people with disabilities. The Disability Network Directory is available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dnd.

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK DIRECTORY: Comprehensive listing of public, private and non-profit transportation in the Washington Metropolitan Region, State of Maryland and beyond. Includes information for people with disabilities and adults 50+. This guide was compiled to assist County residents to better coordinate their transportation needs. To download a copy of the guide visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tnd.



Comprehensive Community Guide to Public, Private, and Non-Profit Transportation

Transportation Network Directory

for People with Disabilities & Adults 50+

July 2023

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tnd

To request alternative formats of these publications, please call 240-777-1252 (V), MD Relay 711, or email mccpwd@montgomerycountymd.gov.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

HISTORY

The Commission on People with Disabilities was established by County legislation October 17, 1978 to advise the County Executive and County Council on the coordination and development of the County's policies affecting residents with disabilities.

MISSION

The Commission provides advice, counsel, and recommendations to the Government of Montgomery County, Maryland in general, the County Executive, and the County Council in particular. Its responsibilities involve those matters influencing the provision of services, County policies and procedures, development and implementation of state and federal laws, and any other issues affecting the lives, rights, and welfare of the people it represents. The Commission operates in belief that people with disabilities have the right to the same opportunities in life as people without disabilities; and that this right can best be ensured by a commitment to enhancing the image, status, and quality of life of all children and adults with disabilities.

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission on People with Disabilities is composed of 25 voting members who serve in a volunteer capacity. Members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

The Commission includes:

- ▶ 13 people with disabilities,
- ▶ 3 parents of people with disabilities, and
- ▶ 9 representatives of public and private service providing agencies

The Commission also includes ex-officio members that are appointed to represent the Departments of Health and Human Services, Transportation, Recreation, Libraries, General Services, Office of Human Resources, and the Human Rights Commission. There are also members who represent Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, Housing Opportunities Commission, Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services, and Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission/Montgomery Parks.

MEETINGS

All Commission and Committee meetings are open to the public. The Commission welcomes visitors to join us as we serve the County and its residents. Meetings are subject to change without advance notice. Please call to confirm day and time of meetings and to request any special accommodations. As possible, we adjust meeting dates in order to accommodate days of major religious observances. You can view the Commission meeting minutes or check meeting schedules times online at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022 - 2023

Full Commission Meeting
2nd Wednesday of the month,
except for July and August
Via Zoom
6pm - 7:30pm

Steering Committee Meeting
3rd Wednesday of the month
Via Zoom
5:30pm - 6:30pm

Workgroups

Meet, as needed, at differing locations.

COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Commission operates through a structure that is re-evaluated annually to respond to changing needs. The Steering Committee is responsible for planning and directing the activities of the Commission and for overseeing the activities of the committees.

The work of the Commission is done by Commission members and interested persons from the community. In addition, coordinators are assigned to take lead responsibility for public relations and legislation. The Nominating and Selection Committees, required for administration purposes, were also established.

The Commission encourages that all residents with disabilities and their families communicate with their elected officials about their needs for programs and services. Go to the Office of Governmental Relations website for information on how to contact your elected officials: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIR.

INCLUSION MONTGOMERY

Dedicated to the inclusion of people with disabilities in our community. We believe that people with disabilities have a right to equitable treatment, a fair allocation of community resources and social connectedness through engagement in the community at the level of their choice. Self-determination and supporting caregiver families should be at the core of short or long-term support planning. Individuals indicate their need for transportation, medical, legal, housing, respite, employment, volunteerism and leisure activities and the activities that will make for a meaningful day. We are dedicated to planning with, for, and serving the whole community regardless of disability, race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic status, family responsibilities, gender identity, presence of children, and family structure or any other characteristic.



Sign up for eSubscribe to receive emails about disability information and resources:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/govdelivery

COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2022 - 2023

- October 2022:** **Employment Initiatives for Promoting the Hiring People with Disabilities** - *Beth Lash, Regional Director, Division of Rehabilitation Services; Linda Hoyt, Employment Specialist, Autism Hiring Program, Howard County Autism Society; Cynthia Grissom, Director Business Solutions, WorkSource Montgomery, Inc.; and Darryl Gorman, Senior Advisor, Office of Human Resources, Montgomery County Government*
- Sensory Trail at Fairview Urban Park, Silver Spring Perspectives and Comments** - *Bob Green, ADA Design & Construction Project Manager II, M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks, Park Development Division*
-
- November 2022:** **Commission Discussion on FY24 Operating Budget Priorities and Planning for Upcoming Year**
-
- December 2022:** **Update on Design for Life Montgomery Property Tax Incentive Program** - *Gail M. Lucas, Permitting Services Manager, and Simin Rasolee, Permitting Services Manager, Department of Permitting Services*
- South Germantown Recreation Park - Reimagining the Adventure Playground** - *Bob Green, ADA Design & Construction Project Manager II, M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks, Park Development Division*
-
- January 2023:** **Planning Department's University Boulevard Project** – *Nikosi Yearwood, Community Planner, Montgomery County Planning Department*
-
- February 2023:** **Inter-Acc/DD Request for Additional Supplement for Providers of Development Disability Services** *Rick Callahan, Executive Director, Compassion Maryland and Patricia A. Ritter, Ph.D., Executive Director - The Treatment and Learning Centers*
- Update on the Developmental Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC) and the Establishment of a Commission on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities** – *Beth Shuman, LCSW-C, Chief of Staff, Councilmember Gabe Albornoz; Ken Hartman-Espada, M.P.A., Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive, Montgomery County, Maryland; Eric Salzano and Karen Morgret, Co-Chairs, DDAC Committee; and Odile Brunetto, Chief, Aging & Disability Services*
-
- March 2023:** **The Work of Rebuilding Together, Montgomery County – Repair and Assisting Making Homes Accessible** – *Maury Peterson, Executive Director, Rebuilding Together, and Shelby Badge, AmeriCorps Client Outreach Coordinator*
-
- April 2023:** **Crosswalks and Pedestrian Safety** – *Wade Holland, Vision Zero Coordinator and Khursheed Bilgrami, Sidewalk Program, Montgomery County Department of Transportation*
- Commission Meetings and ADA Compliance with Title II** – *Karen Goss, Commissioner*
-
- May 2023:** **Status of the Accessibility Project - Feedback from Members of the Commission** - *Matt Johnson, AICP, Bikeways Coordinator, Division of Transportation Engineering, Montgomery County Department of Transportation*
- Ride On Changes and Updates** – *Phil Mclaughlin, Chief of Operations, Division of Operations, Division of Transit Services, Montgomery County Department of Transportation*
-
- June 2023:** **Parks Playhouse** – *Saron Tewolde, Inclusive Programs and Events Assistant, Program Access Office, Montgomery Parks*
- Affordable and Accessible Housing Options in Montgomery County** - *Rebecca Grayson, MSW, Coordinator, Services for Persons with Disabilities, Housing Opportunities Commission*
- Update – County's Early Intervention Screening Initiative** – *Avner Shapiro, Commissioner*
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- July 2023:** **Special Meeting on Shared Streets / Montgomery County Department of Transportation and Montgomery Planning** - *James Elliot, AICP, Senior Planner, Toole Design*
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- Sept 2023:** **Accessibility and Streetscape in Silver Spring** – *Atara Margolies, AIA, LEED AP Planner III, Down County Planning, Montgomery County Planning Department*

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, October 2023 marks the 78th anniversary of the National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which was established to advance access and equity for residents with disabilities, recognize their diverse talents and valuable skills that contribute to our local workforce, and play a key role in the economic development of our community; and

WHEREAS, our thriving network of local community-based organizations are committed to creating rich and rewarding employment opportunities for our residents with disabilities, while also assisting our local employers by tapping into the unique workforce potential that exists within our communities; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the many workplaces that welcome the talents of all people, including our residents with disabilities, and who understand the immense value that comes from building an inclusive community; and

WHEREAS, National Disability Employment Awareness Month is an opportunity to remind our residents to honor the important contributions of people with disabilities, as well as those who support, encourage, and employ them, which leads to a stronger economy and a more welcoming community where all can thrive.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, hereby honors our workers with disabilities and the organizations who support and employ them, by declaring October 2023 as

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Montgomery County Government Office of Human Resources employment initiatives for persons with disabilities: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hr/recruitment/employment-initiatives.html

Watch Proclamation (YouTube): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GUu_2GXft0



On Oct. 3, 2023, Councilmember Gabe Albornoz presented a proclamation for National Disability Employment Awareness Month #NDEAM to honor the important contributions of people with disabilities, as well as those who support, encourage, and employ them, which leads to a stronger economy and a more welcoming community where all can thrive.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Proclamation

Montgomery County Maryland

WHEREAS The most essential piece of legislation protecting the civil rights of people with disabilities in American history, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), was signed into law 33 years ago on July 26, 1990. The ADA protects people with disabilities from discrimination in the areas such as employment, public accommodations and state and local government programs and facilities. Despite the passage of the ADA 33 years ago, rates of poverty, unemployment, and discrimination continue to disproportionately effect people with disabilities.

WHEREAS We celebrate the abundant accomplishments people with disabilities have made since the passage of the ADA, but recognize that there is still much to be done to ensure that people with disabilities have the same opportunity to make their dreams a reality as their non-disabled peers. One fifth of the population of the United States is considered disabled under the ADA by the U.S. Census Bureau, including more than 200 thousand residents of Montgomery County. Every Montgomery County resident will be impacted by a disability at some point in his/her lifetime, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, income, age, economic or social status.

WHEREAS The Commission on People with Disabilities advises Montgomery County on promoting policies, procedures and practices that successfully demonstrate equal access for people with disabilities and are better for everyone. Montgomery County MD is fully committed to inclusion and equality for ALL of its residents to reach their full potential, especially people with disabilities.

WHEREAS Montgomery County continues to be a nationally-renowned destination for people with disabilities to live, work and recreate, as exemplified by Montgomery County Parks commitment to promote access and inclusion within the public places, facilities, and programs the department manages. The Program Access Office (Inclusion Services) has made a variety of adaptive equipment available throughout the county for people at no additional cost to the user. Special recognition is deserved for the successful design, installation and operation of the accessible boat launch and dock at Seneca Landing at Riley's Lock that provides for inclusion and benefits people with disabilities, disabled Veterans and the general public.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland hereby recognizes the month of July 2023, in Montgomery County as the



33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we celebrate the accomplishments that Americans with disabilities have made to enrich our community as we re-commit ourselves to fully realizing the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act by ensuring that people with disabilities have equal access to all the wonderful programs and services that Montgomery County has to offer.

WHAT THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT MEANS

Montgomery County, MD Commission on People with Disabilities What the Americans with Disabilities Act Means July 22, 2023

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is landmark civil rights legislation that was signed into law 32 years ago on July 26, 1990. But, the history of the disability movement and the ADA did not begin at the signing ceremony at the White House in 1990.

The fight for disability rights began more than 70 years ago in the 1950's when parent groups throughout the country refused to accept that institutionalization was the only option for their children who had a disability. They wanted their children to lead fulfilling lives in the community and not shuttered away in dark institutions.

In the 1960s, people with disabilities began to take charge of their own advocacy organizations and moved away from the patriarchal and charity-based model that dominated many existing disability organizations. Additionally, people with various types of disabilities began to join together in their advocacy efforts. It became apparent that the old system of single disability organizations had separated people with disabilities from each other resulting in advocacy that too often contradicted each other.

The wave of self-advocacy led to the establishment of local groups like the Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities, established in 1978, to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. The history of the ADA and the Commission is a testament to the movement's commitment to solidarity among people with different disabilities. The Commission was established to be a cross disability group and has members who have a developmental, psychiatric, sensory or physical disability. It also includes parents, and agencies that serve people with disabilities. The Commission addresses county policy issues such as transportation, housing, health care, mental wellness, telecommunications, and recreation. Cross disability input is critical to best advising the County Executive and County Council on what programs and services have barriers or meet the needs of all people with disabilities.

The Commission has for years advised the Recreation Department and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning on such things as the development of the accessible floating fishing pier, ramps and boats at Black Hills Regional Park and working with Recreation on the development of Hadley's Park. At this time, the Commission is advising the County and Park and Planning on the safety issues posed to individuals who are blind or who have a physical disability regarding bike lanes and floating bus stops. The Commission advises the Montgomery County, MD and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission in establishing priorities to come into compliance with the settlement agreement with Project Civic Access of the Department of Justice. https://www.ada.gov/montgomery_co_pca/montgomery_co_sa.htm

Therapeutic Recreation has had a long-time member of the Commission and seeks advice on many programs. We know that the Montgomery County Recreation Department is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and provides reasonable accommodations upon request.

Within Montgomery County, people with disabilities have been preferentially able to gain employment, receive tax incentives to make homes accessible, access safe public transportation, recreational programs and facilities previously unavailable to them.

Thus, the importance of the ADA is readily apparent: by specifically prohibiting discrimination and mandating equal opportunity and access for both employment and public services. The ADA has empowered individuals with disabilities and enabled people with disabilities to take an active role in society and make choices for themselves in how they live their life. The saying goes "Nothing about us, without us."

Thank you for your role in ensuring that County agencies comply and celebrate the ADA!

Betsy Tolbert Luecking, Community Outreach Manager
Commission on People with Disabilities - Commission on Veterans Affairs

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MARCH AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH



On March 7, 2023, Councilmember Gabe Albornoz was joined by County Executive Elrich to commemorate March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. In Montgomery County there are an estimated 40,000 individuals of all ages living with a developmental disability. This month serves as a reminder for residents about how classrooms, workplaces and communities are stronger when they include people of all abilities.

Watch the proclamation presentation: www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJzTn1crlhs

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL ENACTS BILL 10-23 TO ESTABLISH AN INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMISSION

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, March 28, 2023

From the Office of Councilmember Gabe Albornoz

Today the Montgomery County Council enacted [legislation](#) to establish an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission. The legislation is supported by the full Council, the Executive Branch, as well as the Commission on People with Disabilities. The purpose of this bill is to better coordinate services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

“Addressing the complex system navigation needs, gaps in services, and state and County challenges impacts more than 40,000 people of all ages who have an intellectual and developmental disability in our County. An independent commission that will promote communication with families, advocates and providers is critical,” said Councilmember Gabe Albornoz, chair of the Health and Human Services Committee.

“I applaud the unanimous vote of the County Council today to approve the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission. I greatly appreciate the leadership of Councilmember Albornoz and was pleased to work with him on this important legislation. As a parent of an adult foster child with IDD, I know that people in the community with direct experiences can help us. We will begin the task of recruitment for the members of the commission and look forward to the commission beginning the tasks of identifying and advocating for the unique needs of people with IDD and fostering dialogue with families and caregivers,” said County Executive Marc Elrich.

As enacted, the new IDD Commission includes 25 members, including individuals from the intellectual and developmental disability community, service providers and service agencies, and the Commission on People with Disabilities, who will be focusing on promoting direct communication among families, support staff, private and public organizations and the public about programs and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The commission will also provide educational programs, identify current gaps in services and provide advice and recommendations on best practices to the County and the County Executive.

FY25 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES



**Commission on People with Disabilities
Montgomery County Council
FY25 Operating Budget Priorities for October 12, 2023
Patricia A. Gallalee, Chair**

1. **Montgomery County Department of Transportation Safety Concerns Pedestrian, biker, and driver safety issues continue to be a problem.** Downtown Silver Spring and Old Georgetown Road installation of bike lanes has had a negative impact on pedestrians and drivers. The Commission is happy to continue to provide input into County plans and we recently had a presentation by the Planning Board on September 13, 2023, to discuss Accessibility and Streetscapes in Silver Spring.

We recommend that the County prioritize pedestrian safety over all other MCDOT projects (such as installation of bicycle lanes and floating bus stops). Sidewalk installation should be a top priority in all parts of the County with an emphasis on pedestrian safety above all modes of transportation on all MCDOT projects. This emphasis must begin especially on roads leading to schools where there is no bus service and must continue until all roads in the County are safe for all pedestrians. This will require the County to take legislative action to make sidewalks mandatory, preventing homeowners from blocking sidewalk installation. In most neighborhoods, the lack of sidewalks forces pedestrians, including children, to walk in the street amongst car traffic and this is an intolerable situation. The County needs to immediately address the number of severe pedestrian injuries since they are higher than bicycle accident injuries.

The Commission will continue to monitor the County's Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF).

2. **Commission Reviewing the Scarcity of Personal Care Attendants and the Caregiver Crisis.** The Commission has been told that there are thousands of people who do not qualify or have applied for subsidy or are not eligible they are over the income level. The Commission will develop recommendations on this issue. The County currently provides a subsidy to developmental disability providers. Individuals with I/DD and funded by DDA that are in self-directed services do not receive the County subsidy. There are 30,000 individuals waiting for homecare on Maryland's DDA waiting list.
3. **County Established Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission.** In October 2022, the Commission recommended establishing an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission. The County Executive and Council approved the new Commission and confirmed new members on September 12, 2023. Thank you for this important action. This important legislation will give this Commission the authority to advise the State Developmental Disability Administration and the federal government. The Commission for People with Disabilities has a seat on this Commission, and we look forward to a close working relationship.
4. **Support for Programs Serving People with Developmental Disabilities.** The Commission supports the funding of the Developmental Disability Supplement. There needs to be increased support for more services for transitioning youth, mental and behavioral health services for younger children and teens with disabilities including co-occurring disabilities. The County needs to ask DDA to provide increased education regarding self-directed services by the Coordinators of Community Services agencies.
5. **Commission Continues to Monitor the Implementation of the Early Intervention Screening Program.** Early diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in childhood has been shown to significantly decrease the lifelong severity of disabling deficits caused by this disorder in up to half of children treated. There is an urgent need to make tools needed to screen and treat ASD in infants available especially in socioeconomically disadvantaged populations in the County. We request the continued funding that was approved last May to monitor the implementation for the early intervention screening initiative in this year's budget of \$121,325 (\$621,148 over five years). The Council approved but has not implemented the Early Intervention Screening Program for Children ages 0-3 for funding for Early diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. We believe this is due to staff turnover.
6. **County to Amend Moderately Priced Dwelling Units to Have a Percentage Be Accessible.** The Commission recommends increasing the number of the accessible Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDU) by requiring that 10% to 20% of new construction of these units to be accessible. No standards currently exist.

FY24 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES



**Commission on People with Disabilities
Montgomery County Council
FY24 Operating Budget Priorities
Patricia Gallalee, Chair
November 15, 2022**

1) Transportation

- We recommend that the County prioritize pedestrian safety over all other MCDOT projects (such as installation of bicycle lanes and floating bus stops). **Sidewalk installation should be the top priority in all parts of the County with pedestrian safety being the prime emphasis of all MCDOT projects.** This emphasis must begin especially on roads leading to schools where there is no bus service and must continue until all roads in the County are made safe for all pedestrians. This will require the County to take legislative action to make sidewalks mandatory preventing homeowners from blocking sidewalk installation. Pedestrians being forced to walk in the street amongst car traffic should not be tolerated.
- Given the high pedestrian severe injury and death figures from vehicular accidents published by MCDOT, sidewalk installation must be accomplished before efforts at opening up County roads to bicycles. By and far, the number of severe pedestrian injuries outstrip those of bicycle accident injuries in number and must be addressed immediately.
- Provide funds to conduct the nationally recognized “Passenger Assistance Safety and Sensitivity” certification training to Montgomery County drivers of taxicabs and wheelchair accessible vehicles.
- Provide gap-filling transportation services to older adults and residents with disabilities to prevent missed medical and other vital appointments. (\$120,000)

2) County to Establish DD Advisory Council to the County Executive and County Council

The Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities has voted to respectfully request the establishment of a County Developmental Disability (DD) Advisory Council independent of the Commission on People with Disabilities given the estimated over 40,000 persons of all ages who have a developmental disability living in our County. Of note, this includes addressing the racial equity and social issues surrounding the increase in the number of students by race who have a disability and are enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) special education. The County needs to ensure that there is a plan for engaging all families to ensure a positive transition to adult services. Of the 20,585 number of students in 2020 who were in MCPS special education, there was the following increases: Hispanic enrollment increased by 36.9%, African American by 26.5%, Asian by 7.9%, White students by 24.9% and for students who reported two or more races an increase of 4.5%. In the fall of 2020, total enrollment of students in MCPS was 160,561. The concerns and barriers faced by the entire DD population and their loved ones and caregivers overlap local and Statewide consideration and are complex. A dedicated, independent Advisory Council is needed to better educate and advise the County Government and allow better coordination at the State level. The State DDA has made ever growing changes to the waivers and services they provide; however, there are still significant gaps in services for those in the DD population with complex medical, behavioral, and mental health needs. This Council could also work to address the high unemployment rates of this population. The advisory group enabling legislation should give this Council the authority to advise the State DDA and other State agencies as appropriate. The legislation should also include a full-time staff person to support the work of this group and include the number of meetings required to be held per year.

3) Support for Programs Serving People with Developmental Disabilities

The Commission supports the funding of the Developmental Disability Supplement. There needs to be increased support for more services for transitioning youth, mental and behavioral health services for younger children and teens with disabilities including co-occurring disabilities. The County needs to ask DDA to provide increased education regarding self-directed services by the Coordinators of Community Services agencies. should also include a full-time staff person to support the work of this group and include the number of meetings required to be held per year.

FY24 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES CONTINUED

- 4) **Support for Increased Access to Health and Mental health Care**
The County should plan and conduct a Telecare/Telehealth demonstration project to improve access to healthcare and support services for older adults (\$250,000). Increase funding for mental health outreach for older adults (Senior Outreach Team) and people with disabilities to eliminate the waiting list for services and assist people to access proper referrals and care.
- 5) **Early Intervention Screening Program for Children ages 0 - 3**
Early diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in childhood has been shown to significantly decrease the lifelong severity of disabling deficits caused by this disorder in up to half of children treated. Availability of tools needed to screen and treat ASD in infants is most urgently needed especially in socioeconomically disadvantaged populations in the County. We request the continued funding that was approved last May to monitored in its implementation for early intervention screening initiative for this year's budget of \$121,325 (\$621,148 over five years).
- 6) **Establish a County Interagency Board for Employment of People with Disabilities and Designate Manager to Oversee Employment Programs and Outcomes for Contractors**
People with disabilities face disproportionate barriers to employment. There is a need to coordinate/oversee the outcomes for all County funded employment programs under an interagency committee and County staff person with overall goals and results monitoring. We recommend that each County funded organization have the goal to have 3-5 performance measures related to outcomes for each contract, along with annual budget amount, so that better, more coordinated decisions can be made in the budgeting and contracting process for the employment of people with disabilities. Currently, there is a County special assistant that oversees Worksource Montgomery but does not oversee all employment contractors/agencies serving people with disabilities. The County spends over a million dollars per year to employ people with disabilities through AP 1-10 contracts in departments such as corrections and libraries. We recommend oversight of funding used for the purpose of employment for all populations.
- 7) **Fund a Shelter for Riley's Lock for Protection near Accessible Canoe/Kayak Launch**
The Commission applauds Montgomery Parks for the installation of the accessible launch for kayakers/canoers and other users at Riley's Lock (Seneca Landing Special Park). It is heavily used daily by the general public but is especially benefits people with disabilities (including severely disabled Veterans who were hospitalized at Walter Reed) for access to Seneca Creek and the Potomac River. It used to take an hour to get in the water for some and now about 1 minute. We recommend the County Council provide needed funding through the Parks CIP for the design and construction of a shelter for the picnic area for all but especially for people who have significant disabilities and who have temperature regulation issues to be safer and more comfortable while using and enjoying the park.
- 8) **Communication Barriers in the Court System**
Richard Shermanski, Esq would like to evaluate the communication barriers for people with disabilities in the court system and address what steps can be taken. Other interested Commissioner to work with him.
- 9) **Lack of compliance with Section 508 of the Telecommunications Act**
Cindy LaBon has identified that Worksource Montgomery does not have an accessible website. Need to identify which agencies and develop a plan to address it.
- 10) **Voting Access is a Barrier at Some County voting places.**
Jeneva Stone has identified a MCPS building that lacks accessibility. Need to evaluate voter access and develop a plan.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THRIVE 2050



October 24, 2022

The Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive
The Honorable Gabe Alborno, President, County Council

Via: Electronically

On behalf of the Commission on People with Disabilities, I am writing to you to express some recommendations regarding the Thrive 2050 plan for the County. Over the years the Commission has discussed and made recommendations regarding many issues that present barriers for people with disabilities. We recommend that people with disabilities be an equal part of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility planning for all County programs. We would like to focus on the need for more planning on these two critical issues:

- 1) Affordable and Accessible Housing
- 2) Safer Design and Maintenance of Sidewalks and Streets/Roads

People with disabilities need to have the same various housing choices such as apartments, condos, single family homes, duplexes, triplexes or group homes that are available to everyone. Housing must also be affordable and be built to accommodate persons who require them to be accessible to people who use wheelchairs and other types of access. The Thrive report addresses the need for affordable housing, and we recommend that it term always be addressed as affordable and accessible housing. The Commission worked for over 10 years to develop the Design for Life Montgomery Tax Incentive Program. We recommend that the Council determine what portion of new housing built should have to comply with the accessibility standards of the program. With 65,000 housing units still to be built we need to ensure accessibility requirements. The incorporation of Universal Design is also recommended to be included in the Thrive plan. Accessible housing addresses the need for persons with disabilities and the needs of all County residents who at some point may need accessibility due to illness or age-related disability. Accessible housing allows residents to stay and thrive in their community.

The most important priority of the Commission regarding transportation is to ensure pedestrian safety for everyone, including children/students, people with disabilities, older adults, and the general public. Currently, the County has numerous transportation plans and projects which affect pedestrian safety, including:

- Bicycle Master Plan
- Safe Streets to Schools
- Pedestrian Master plan
- Vision Zero
- Visually Impaired Urban Navigation Study and Pilot Design
- Complete Streets Design Draft

This fragmented approach is not only confusing for the public, but also leads to haphazard design that puts people of all ages and abilities at risk. We are asking the County to align the plans to have a consistent and comprehensive approach to pedestrian safety. This will result in effective transportation planning with the goal of preventing serious or fatal accidents resulting in making the County a safer community. There is a saying that "less is more" but with the current street and sidewalk designs that include designated bike lanes, floating bus stops, sidewalk restaurants, scooters, narrowed driver lanes, and less accessible street parking the County has now adopted "more is less" planning. This planning includes unfortunate unintended over-design consequences for people who are blind or have mobility issues. Current changes are making people with disabilities reconsider their safety in their participation with the communities they live in. Unfortunately, fear of injuries caused by the infrastructure changes being made to our communities may result in a fear-related, self-imposed isolation that harkens back to the pre-Americans with Disabilities Act era. The fundamental redesign of our streets has a significant impact on everyone's daily lives, safety, and ability to get to work. The once

Continued on next page...

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THRIVE 2050 CONT.

simple task of safely exiting a vehicle and getting safely to a sidewalk to shop or visit a doctor is now a high-risk situation. It appears that in some cases these plans consider pedestrians last in the equation.

Here are some more specifics for your consideration:

1. Bus stops should be located on the sidewalk curb, not a floating bus stop, so the location is predictable and consistent with the most common design standards nationally and internationally. The design of the floating bus stops poses a severe safety risk to peoples who are blind, have low vision, or who have a mobility limitation. We strongly recommend that a moratorium be placed on the installation of floating bus stops and that the existing ones be removed based on the concerns raised by numerous individuals who are blind and advocacy and support organizations.
2. The Commission is not averse to making bike riding safer. The US Census American Community Survey indicates that 1.1% of the population commutes to work. The County should consider locating bike paths on roads that do not have bus routes. This would maintain the use of sidewalks by pedestrians of all stages of life who need them to participate and be included in community life. Consideration should be given to not having designated bike lanes in heavily congested urban areas.
3. Continuous sidewalks should exist on main arteries to schools. As you know, over the years there were injuries and fatalities regarding grade school and high school students, and it is noted that school safety issues should be more addressed in future planning.
4. For passengers of taxis, paratransit/MetroAccess and other vehicles there needs to be safe pick- up and drop-off zones.
5. There is a need for more accessible street parking. The current reduction in road width makes it difficult if not impossible for the average person to safely get out of their car without being hit by an oncoming vehicle. It is impossible for drivers who exit their car on the driver side with their wheelchair and a service animal.
6. We recommend that all transportation plans be vetted ahead of time and be signed off on by agency American with Disabilities Act Compliance Managers and the Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities. There is a saying "Nothing for us, without us". And surely not after it is done, but in the pre-planning stages. This will save both lives and resources.
7. The Commission has observed that most current sidewalks, roads and streets are in serious need of ongoing repairs and maintenance. Many of Montgomery County sidewalks are not well- maintained, streets and road have potholes and are in need for resurfacing. Hopefully, the Council will make a more of priority of ongoing repairs and maintenance of streets and sidewalks for the planning of the next 30 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to comments. We offer our assistance to you in building a more inclusive and accessible community for all of our residents.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Gallalee, Chair

c: Raymond Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health, and Human Services (DHHS)
Odile Brunetto, Ed.D., Chief, Aging and Disability Services, DHHS

SECOND ACCESSIBLE FLOATING LAUNCH INSTALLED AT SENECA LANDING SPECIAL PARK (RILEYS LOCK)



The site, located in Poolesville, is one of the busiest access points to the Potomac River and adjoins the National Park Service's popular C&O Canal. Prior to the new floating launch, motorized and non-motorized boats were sharing the same ramp, causing conflict and safety issues. The ramp was also not ADA accessible presenting numerous challenges for users with disabilities.

Montgomery Parks, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, has completed construction of a second floating launch for non-motorized boats improving accessibility and safety for kayakers, canoeists and paddle boarders at Seneca Landing Special Park Riley's Lock.



Photos courtesy of Betsy Luecking

NEW ADAPTIVE PADDLING PROGRAM WITH MONTGOMERY PARKS AT SENECA LANDING SPECIAL PARK (RILEYS LOCK)

Enjoy an inclusive evening on the water with Montgomery Parks' new Adaptive Paddling Program in partnership with Team River Runner. This program is designed for individuals with disabilities and their family or friends and provides an accessible and accommodating experience. Trained staff or volunteers will accompany you on the water to ensure a safe and enjoyable program. Please register the individual with a disability and indicate the number of guests accompanying them during the registration process. Participants will be contacted prior to the program to discuss specific modifications necessary to ensure your success on the water. To request other reasonable modifications or for any questions, please contact 301-495-2581 (Voice), MD Relay 7-1-1 or 1-800-552-7724 or email program access - ProgramAccess@MontgomeryParks.org.

<https://montgomeryparks.org/about/parks/accessibility/inclusive-special-events-and-programs/>

PROGRAM
ACCESS



TEAM RIVER RUNNER
river to recovery



Transfer Bench and Chariot Launch to assist individuals in safely transferring in and out of a kayak.



Stabilizing Outriggers mount to the back of the boat to provide extra balance and buoyancy.



Seating System provides additional support and balance where needed.



Paddle Pivot provides a pivot point around which the paddle stroke can happen and allows one handed paddling.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OPENS DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT COLLECTION SITE AT SHADY GROVE TRANSFER STATION IN DERWOOD

For Immediate Release: Thursday, April 27, 2023

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection is now accepting durable medical equipment (DME) at the Shady Grove Transfer Station and Recycling Center. The collection site will have a formal dedication this afternoon led by County Executive Marc Elrich as part of the County's Earth Month celebration.

The County is participating in the statewide Department of Aging's Maryland Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Re-Use program that promotes the refurbishing and reuse of wheelchairs, canes, shower chairs, and other gently used medical equipment.

The Shady Grove Transfer Station is located at 16101 Frederick Road in Derwood.

In addition to County Executive Elrich, among those attending the dedication ceremonies were Maryland State Senator Ben Kramer, Maryland Department of Aging Durable Medical Equipment Re-Use Director Ian Edwards, County Department of Environmental Protection Acting Director Willie Wainer, County Department of Health and Human Services Area Agency on Aging Director Patrice L. McGhee and Maryland Environmental Service Maryland Environmental Service Director Charles Glass.

"There is an ongoing need for medical equipment in our County," said County Executive Elrich. "Many of us have medical equipment in our basements, garages or attics that is no longer used, but is too good to throw away. This program helps our County's efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle, while providing critical assistance to those in need. I encourage everyone to donate if they have any equipment that can still be used. This program isn't just helping our planet—it is also helping our neighbors."

The average wheelchair or walker has a usable life span of more than five years. However, this type of equipment is often only used for a few months before being discarded, taking up valuable landfill space while leaving many without resources to obtain the medical equipment they desperately need.

The collection site at the Shady Grove Transfer Station is the eighth satellite collection container put in place by Maryland DME Re-Use. The 20-foot container holds up to 95 pieces of equipment. Technicians with Maryland DME Re-Use will collect the equipment and transport it to a 56,000-square-foot facility located in Cheltenham, where it will be sanitized, repaired and stored for future distribution. Non-functional equipment will be broken down for parts that are saved and later used, further minimizing waste.

View report from Montgomery Community Media: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fgT3sA8LGo>



WHO HAS A DISABILITY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD? AN OVERVIEW

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, there are approximately **98,887 persons living in Montgomery County, MD with a disability**. These figures excluded individuals who reside in nursing homes or other institutions. **Please note:** Some individuals may have identified as having multiple disabilities and age population totals will not equal disability type totals. For cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, and self-care difficulty, the 'Population under 18 years' includes persons aged 5 to 17. Children under 5 are not included in these measures.

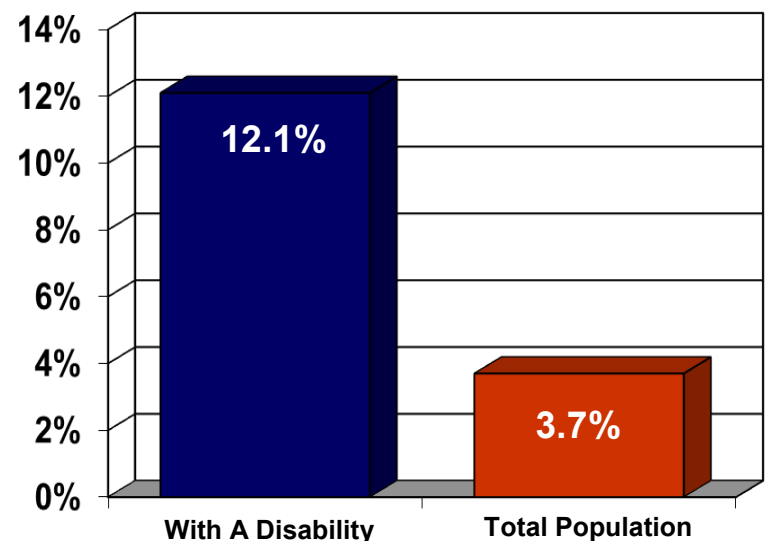
2022 Disability Characteristics - Montgomery County, MD

Total Population With A Disability: 98,887

Subject With A Disability	Total	Subject with a Disability	Total
Population under 5 years		Population 65 to 74 Years	
With a hearing difficulty	0	With a hearing difficulty	5,463
With a vision difficulty	213	With a vision difficulty	2,503
Population 5 to 17 years		With a cognitive difficulty	3,341
With a hearing difficulty	115	With an ambulatory difficulty	8,158
With a vision difficulty	1,209	With a self-care difficulty	2,889
Population under 18 years		With an independent living difficulty	5,693
With a cognitive difficulty	7,053	Population 75 and older	
With an ambulatory difficulty	860	With a hearing difficulty	13,304
With a self-care difficulty	2,441	With a vision difficulty	3,642
Population 18 to 34 Years		With a cognitive difficulty	7,210
With a hearing difficulty	832	With an ambulatory difficulty	18,967
With a vision difficulty	2,785	With a self-care difficulty	8,246
With a cognitive difficulty	8,348	With an independent living difficulty	18,540
With an ambulatory difficulty	2,212		
With a self-care difficulty	1,906		
With an independent living difficulty	4,109		
Population 35 to 64 years			
With a hearing difficulty	7,727		
With a vision difficulty	5,740		
With a cognitive difficulty	11,298		
With an ambulatory difficulty	10,697		
With a self-care difficulty	3,904		
With an independent living difficulty	8,447		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2022

Unemployment Rate - Montgomery County, MD 16 Years and Older - Labor Force Participation Non-Institutionalized Civilian Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2022

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION

Number of Montgomery County Public School Students with Disabilities Ages 3 - 21 Receiving Special Education Services

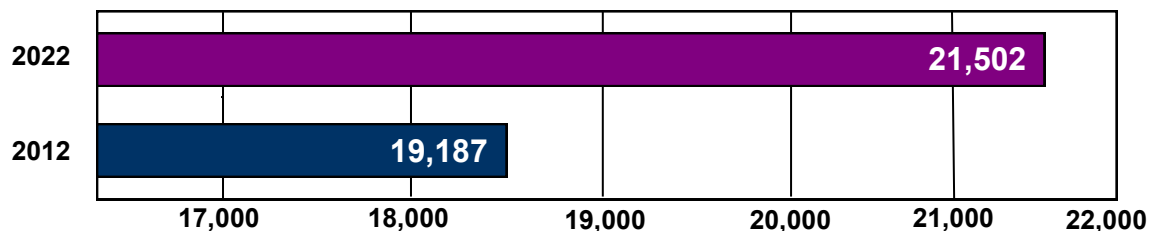
As of October 2022, there were **21,502** students with disabilities enrolled in Special Education. This population makes up **13.4%** of the County's total school enrollment of 158,231 students.

Disability Type	# of Students 2022	# of Students 2021	% Between 2022 and 2021
Autism	3,649	3,186	+ 13.5%
Deaf	61	69	- 12.3%
Deaf-Blind	3	3	0%
Developmental Delay	3,390	3,336	+ 1.6%
Developmental Delay (Extended IFSP)	144	160	- 10.5%
Emotional Disability	724	734	- 1.4%
Hearing Impairment	156	149	+ 4.6%
Intellectual Disability	596	561	+ 6.0%
Multiple Disabilities	591	558	+ 5.7%
Orthopedic Impairment	12	15	- 22.2%
Other Health Impairment	3,623	3,491	+ 3.7%
Specific Learning Disability	6,470	6,128	+ 5.4%
Speech and Language Impairment	2,016	1,963	+ 2.7%
Traumatic Brain Injury	13	13	0%
Visual Impairment	54	51	+ 5.7%
Total	21,502	20,417	

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2022 and 10/2021

Montgomery County School Enrollment - Special Education Ages 3 to 21

Special Education enrollment has **increased by 2,315 students or 12.1%** over the last ten years.



of students ages 3 - 21 enrolled in Special Education in Montgomery County Public Schools

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2022

Students with Disabilities By Race Compared with General Education Students By Race - Ages 3 to 21

SWD = Students with Disabilities / GE = General Education (includes students with disabilities)

	Grand Total	Asian		Black or African American		White		Hispanic		Two or More Races	
		Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
SWD	21,358	1,692	7.9%	5,645	26.4%	5,116	24.0%	7,842	36.7%	999	4.7%
GE	158,231	22,266	14.1%	34,627	21.9%	40,062	25.3%	52,853	33.4%	7,968	5.0%

Source: MSDE - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2022. Does not include Eligibility 3 students. Grand total includes American Native/Alaska Native (44 SWD) and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (24 SWD).

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

- [Developmental Disabilities - Montgomery County Disability Network Directory](#)
- [Autism Resources - Montgomery County Disability Network Directory](#)

Montgomery County Public Schools Programs for Children with Developmental Disabilities/Delays

- [Infants & Toddlers](#)
- [Child Find](#)
- [Autism Waiver](#)
- [School to Work Transition Services Unit](#)
- [Connecting School and Adult Life Brochure](#) (PDF)

[Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration \(DDA\)](#)

301-362-1500 (Voice) • 301-362-5131 (TTY) • 1-888-207-2479 (Toll Free)

To determine eligibility for DDA funded services, individuals must apply to Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration for these programs that are then administered by local [Coordination of Community Services Agencies](#).

- Behavior Support
- Individual and Family Support
- Coordination of Community Services
- Employment
- Housing
- Low Intensity Support Services
- Nursing
- Self-Directed Services
- Transitioning Youth with Disabilities



Step-by-Step Guide to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Process

Potomac Community Resources, in collaboration with DDA, has produced five short videos to help families and developmental disability professionals throughout the State of Maryland learn about the services and supports offered by DDA and how to access them. All videos include ASL simultaneous interpretation.

www.pcr-inc.org/step-by-step-guide-to-the-developmental-disabilities-administration-process

Update - DDA - Skilled Nursing Care and Adult Medical Day Care Meeting - From Carol Beatty, Secretary, Maryland Department of Disabilities - October 4, 2023

A mapping session with relevant internal stakeholders occurred in April 2023 and was facilitated by an external consultant, the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS). Immediately following that initial mapping session, NASDDDS led an external stakeholder opportunity that was open to the public and allowed people with disabilities, their families and care providers to share their experiences accessing medically complex care. Most recently, another meeting was held in September 2023 with those same internal stakeholders from MDH and the Board of Nursing to specifically focus on the gaps in services and programs that are available. NASDDDS was instrumental in leading that discussion among partners as well and will issue a report later on in October. The report will include a summary of existing services, the gaps in care across the different programs, and recommendations for addressing them. Information gathered from the public will also be included in the final report.

Revenue for County DD Providers—Data from Kim Mayo, Administrator, Community Support Network - October 4, 2023

For the FY24 budget development process, the County began using DDA revenue actuals as part of its distribution calculation. The FY22 total DDA revenue received for all 41 providers is \$226,345,274. The County supplements these providers with \$21.06 million in funding.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

Community Support Network - Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Aging and Disability Services — 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20850 — 240-777-1216 (Voice)
Community Support Network for People with Disabilities (CSN) provides services that enable individuals to remain in their home or in the least restrictive environment and provides general support, guidance, and assistance to clients with developmental disabilities and their families. This program area coordinates and monitors services and supports (including crisis management, intervention, and school-to-work transition assistance) to people with developmental disabilities eligible to receive services through the State Developmental Disabilities Administration (Coordination of Community Services Program); provides service coordination to eligible young people funded under the Maryland Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Children (ages 0-21) with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autism Waiver Program); and provides financial assistance to State-funded providers who serve adults with developmental disabilities.

- The **My Turn program** provides support and assistance to families with children ages three to thirteen who have developmental disabilities and are not connected with State of Maryland resources. Services include outreach, assistance with summer camp placements and other programmatic and financial assistance.
- CSN also **conducts site visits to group homes** that serve developmentally disabled clients in the County and monitors contracts that provide services to people with various disabilities including visual and hearing impairments.
- CSN **Autism Waiver** staff coordinate with Montgomery County Public Schools staff and monitor services for children (ages 0 - 21) in the program who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Through the Autism Waiver Program, students and families receive respite care, environmental accessibility adaptations, family training, supported adult life planning, and intensive individual support services in the home and community, therapeutic integration service, service coordination and, in some cases, residential habilitation.
- The **Coordination of Community Services (CCS)** program is one of six agencies in the County that provides case management services to eligible school to work transition students and adults people who have developmental disabilities and are eligible for the Maryland DDA Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver services.
- CSN provides County financial assistance to State-funded providers who serve adults with developmental disabilities.

MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION WAITING LIST

Data from Onesta Duke, Southern Maryland Regional Director, Developmental Disabilities Administration, Maryland Department of Health as of October 5, 2023 (Note: Developmentally Disabled only; Supports Only excluded)

764 people on the waiting list in Montgomery County (fluctuates day by day)

- 0 people in the Crisis Resolution priority category
- 705 people are categorized as Current Request, which means there are no immediate health or safety concerns
- 59 people are categorized as Crisis Prevention, which means the person is or will be in a health or safety crisis within the next year

AUTISM WAIVER WAITING LIST

The Autism Waiver is administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) through local schools. Data from Daniel Hammond, Coordinator, Medicaid Home & Community-Based Autism Waiver Program, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) as of October 4, 2023.

This is a very different year for the Autism Waiver program as a result of the End the Wait legislation. MSDE is trying to enroll 1,350 additional applicants this year, which will significantly reduce the wait time and the number of students on the registry. In addition, the Registry is changing from a "Registry" to a "Waitlist," which means that applicants will be screened and need to meet the technical eligibility before being added to the list.

Autism Waiver Registry - As of July 2023

Statewide number of students on the Registry: About 6,300

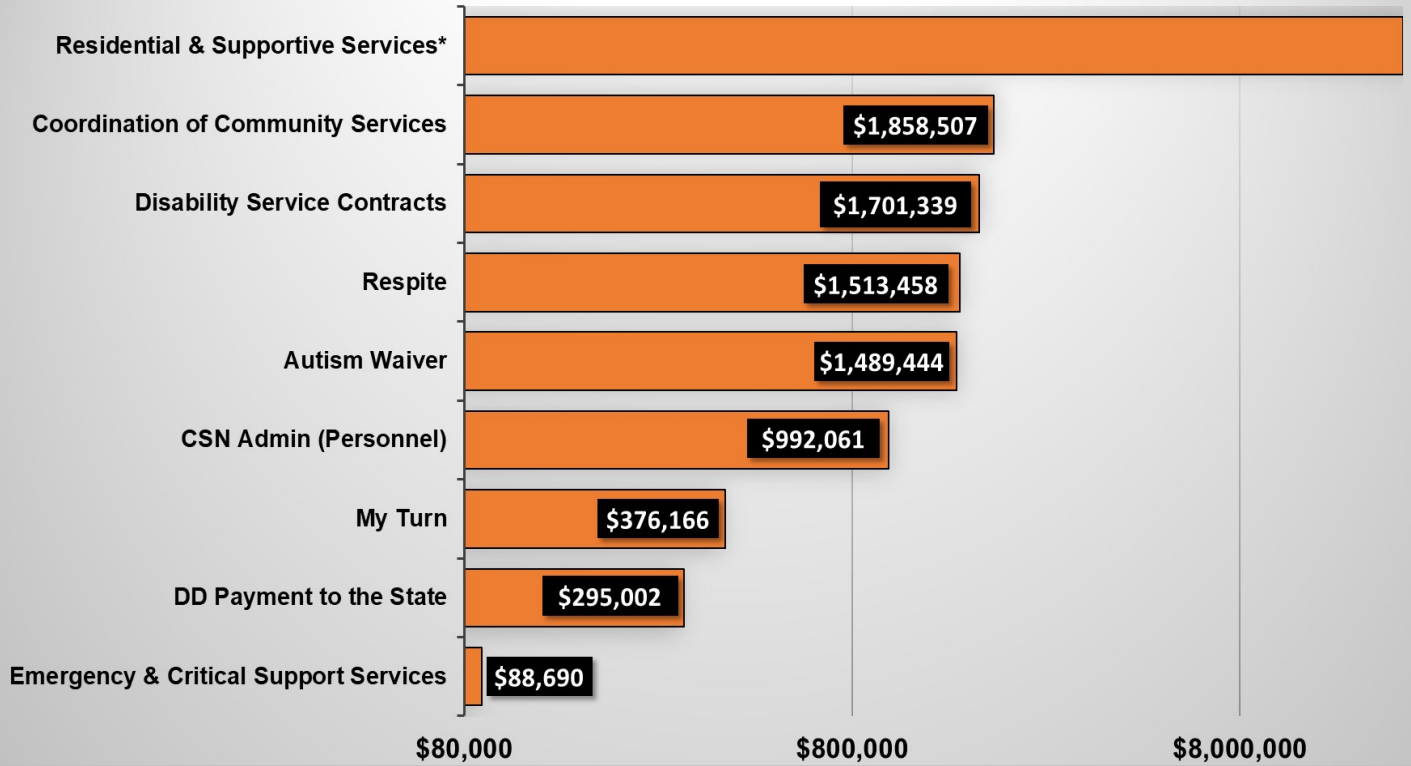
Registry for Montgomery County: 1,550 (This does not include enrolled students)

Note: Not all students on the Registry will qualify for the Autism Waiver Program and not all students on the Registry are enrolled in MCPS.

As of October 2022, the Montgomery County Autism Waiver Program currently has 360 participants and statewide there are 1,500 students in the program. No diagnosis is made prior to being put on the waiting list.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK (CSN) FY24 BUDGET BY PROGRAM

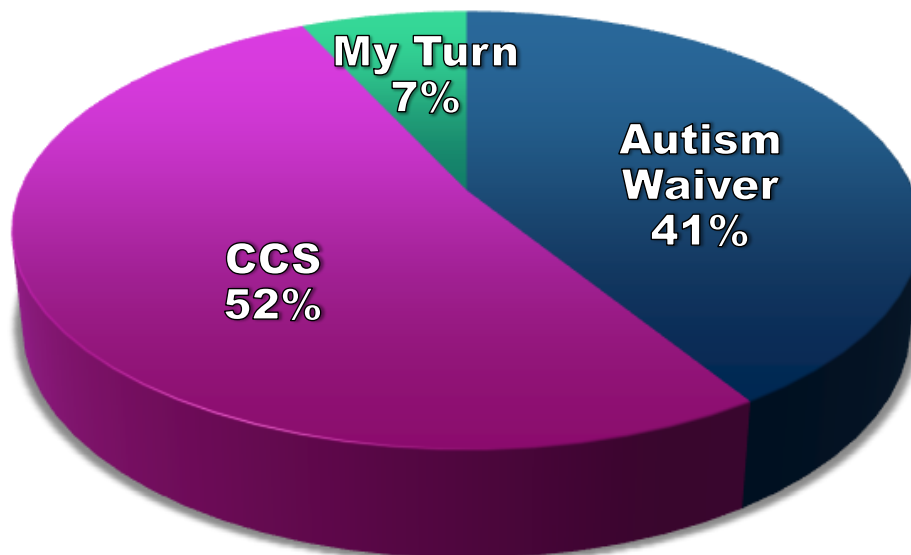
Total CSN Budget: \$29,419,399



*Residential & Support Services includes support to DD service providers.

CSN BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM

Total CSN Clients: 837
Coordination of Community Services (CCS): 435 clients
Autism Waiver: 343 clients
My Turn: 59 clients



Data from August 2023

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & CONTINUING EDUCATION

240-567-5188 (V) • Email: wdce@montgomerycollege.edu
www.montgomerycollege.edu/workforce-development-continuing-education

The Graduate Transition Program, (GTP)

The [Graduate Transition Program](#) at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, is a custom-tailored learning community program that offers students a unique post-secondary opportunity to further their formal education. The objective of the program is to enable students, while in a supportive college environment, to transition to greater independent living through developmentally appropriate educational, vocational, and life-skill services. This two-year, tuition-based, credit-free certificate program focuses on basic academic skills, and enhances students' potential success as productive citizens in the community.

The College schedule consists of two 14-week semesters, for two years. Students receive academic instruction 3 hours per day, Monday through Friday. Small class sizes, experienced faculty and staff, and individual classroom assistants encourage an interactive and dynamic learning environment designed specifically for students with special needs. Classes offered include Reading and Writing, Science, Health, Anatomy, World History and Current Events, Communications and Public Speaking, Art, Computers, and more. During the student's two-year period, Montgomery College works with the DDA providers to offer volunteer position, internships, and paid employment. This program is offered on the Rockville campus of Montgomery College.

Connecting Reading and Writing Program

This program connects [Reading and Writing Skills](#) students need to prepare for college level course work. The program is designed to enhance reading comprehension, writing skills, and build vocabulary. Students learn and practice reading and writing skills by enrolling in both courses.

During 25 sessions, students receive instruction in reading comprehension and vocabulary building. Students learn to identify the main idea, follow a sequence of events, and recognize supporting details. Students improve their writing and speaking skills when they learn to summarize and outline reading materials, take better notes, and build your vocabulary. The program offers students the tools necessary to develop better writing skills. Reading and writing skills are combined in this class in a comprehensive, systematic process. Students learn to write descriptive and narrative paragraphs, use punctuation correctly, and compose demonstration speeches. The program helps prepare students for the college's assessment test, Accuplacer.

This program is offered on the Rockville and Takoma Park campuses of Montgomery College.

Driver's Education with Additional Support

This course provides the exact same MVA curriculum as SFT-043 Driver Education, but with built-in supports. Montgomery College's Driving School and its instructors are Maryland MVA licensed and certified. Additional support instructors are dually certified in Special Education. This course, in a small classroom environment, prepares rookie drivers to test for a Maryland driver's license. Additional Supports include, but are not limited to:

- Differentiated instruction, supplemental aides and supports including a multi-sensory approach to learning.
- Behind the wheel is one-on-one instruction with a dually certified MVA and MSDE Special Education Educator
- Smaller class size
- Quizzes and tests are read aloud
- Extra time is granted to students for quizzes and tests
- Manipulatives (by cars) are used to better explain situations
- A copy of all PowerPoints and instructor notes are provided to the student.

If you have a Disability Support Request you need to call Natalie Martinez, Workforce Development and Continuing Education Counselor at 240-567-4118 (V) or email Natalie.Martinez@montgomerycollege.edu at least four weeks prior to the start of the class to arrange for accommodations and/or assistive technology.

DESIGN FOR LIFE PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Make your home accessible with a Montgomery County Tax Credit



DESIGN FOR LIFE

Every home accessible for everyone.



designforlifemc.org



View [Home Modification & Design Consultation](#) for a resource listing of Government /Building Codes, Assessment and Consultation, Architects, and Renovation and Construction

Design for Life, managed by the Department of Permitting Services, provides partial tax credits to property owners or home builders who install measures that improve accessibility, visit-ability and/or live-ability of residential homes. This legislation was promoted through efforts of the Commission for People with Disabilities and embraced by the County Council and the County Executive. For retrofits to existing single family homes, such accessibility measures can include things like installing entry doors wide enough for wheelchairs, providing a no-step entry into the home, improving bathroom access with grab bars or roll-in showers, wider doorways, etc. This model program was initiated in Montgomery County to improve the ability of all residents to manage more successfully in homes, to improve people's ability to age in place and to make homes more accessible to visitors of all ages.

Credits are available for accessibility features added to single family homes and condominiums. Tax credits for improvements that make a home qualify as a visitable or livable home are available for single family homes and townhouses. If you add a feature and it costs at least \$500 up to \$2,500 you get a 50% credit. If you make your home visitable the credit is \$3,000 and if you make it livable the credit is \$10,000, credit max is \$2,000 per year. For more information view www.montgomerycountymd.gov/design/Resources/Files/PDF/DFLTaxCreditIncentiveTable.pdf.

The process for building permits with Design for Life (DFL) features is as follows:

1. When a building permit with Design for Life (DFL) features has received the final inspection for the project from the Department of Permitting Services (DPS), the homeowner/applicant must complete and submit the DFL tax credit application (see attached).
2. The applicant must submit the required documentation along with tax credit application, which consists of contracts, receipts, and invoices to demonstrate the cost or amount of money spent for the project along with a complete list of features and costs of each feature.
3. The application is then reviewed and DPS signs off on the affidavit.
4. The tax credit application package is then sent to the Finance Office electronically to process the tax credit information.

Download Design for Life Property Tax Incentive application:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/design/Resources/Files/PDF/DesignForLifeApplicationforTaxCredit.pdf



Who Needs An Accessible Home? You Do!

1. Live longer in the home you love.
2. Welcome all guests with diverse mobility.
3. Increase the value of your home.
4. Qualify for property tax credits.
5. Make everyone feel welcome.

DESIGN FOR LIFE PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM - AT A GLANCE

Accessibility	Property Tax Credit—runs with property	School Impact Tax Credit	Applicability	Program annual limit	Type of residence ownership
<p>Feature</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> no-step front door entrance or a no-step entrance to another location providing access to the main living space ramp creating a no-step entrance interior doorway w/32-inch clear opening exterior doorway w/32-inch clear opening + exterior lighting controlled from inside the residence or automatic or continuously on; walls around a toilet, tub, or shower reinforced and properly installed grab bars maneuverable bathroom or kitchen an exterior or interior elevator or lift or stair glide unit; accessibility-enhanced bathroom, including a walk-in or roll-in shower or tub alarm, appliance, and control structurally integrated to assist with a sensory disability 	<p>50% of eligible costs</p> <p>Up to \$2500 less other subsidy</p> <p>Amount of credit that exceeds tax imposed carries over</p>	NA	<p>Expenditures in excess of \$500</p> <p>Incurred within 12 months of application</p>	\$100,000	<p>Multi-family condo</p> <p>Attached sf</p> <p>Detached sf</p>
<p>Level I (Visible)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> permanent addition single family residence at least one no-step entrance connected to an accessible route to a place to visit on the entry level a usable powder room or bathroom, and a 32-inch nominal clear width interior door 	<p>Up to \$3000 less other subsidy including school impact tax credit</p> <p>Maximum credit to be applied in any tax year is \$2000 and excess credit carries over</p>	<p>5% of the single family houses in project- \$500/Level I house</p> <p>10% of the single family houses in project- \$1,000/Level I house</p> <p>25% of the single family houses in project- \$1,500/Level I house</p> <p>30% of the single family houses in project- \$2,000/level I house</p> <p>Applies only where there is no bonus density for DFL units</p>	<p>Expenditures in excess of \$500</p> <p>Incurred within 12 months of application</p>	\$500,000	<p>Attached or detached single family</p>
<p>Level II (livable)</p> <p>Visible criteria above</p> <p>PLUS</p> <p>Accessible circulation path that connects the accessible entrance to an accessible kitchen, a full bath, and at least one accessible bedroom</p>	<p>Up to \$10,000 less other subsidy including school impact tax credit</p> <p>Maximum credit to be applied in any tax year is \$2000 and excess credit carries over</p>	NA	<p>Expenditures in excess of \$500</p> <p>Incurred within 12 months of application</p>	\$500,000	<p>Attached or detached single family</p>

DISABILITY NETWORK DIRECTORY



An online directory of providers, agencies, businesses and advocacy organizations.

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dnd

Find resources and information on the following topics:

- Access & ADA-Related Issues including Curb Cuts & Sidewalks
- Adaptive & Medical Equipment
- Adult Medical Day Centers
- Advocacy
- AIDS/HIV Resources
- Assistive Technology
- Autism Resources
- Behavioral Health, Counseling & Wellness Supports
- Blind/Low Vision Resources including Macular Degeneration
- Brain Injury Resources
- Camps - Day and Summer
- Caregiver Supports
- Case Management
- Centers for Independent Living
- Child Care including Arc Programs
- Children & Youth Services
- Clothing
- Commissions on People with Disabilities (Statewide & Regional)
- Computer Support/Training
- Conflict Resolution
- Consumer Protection
- Counseling
- Deaf Resources including Sign Language Interpreting Services & Cart Reporting
- Deaf-Blind Resources
- Dental Services
- Design for Life Property Tax Incentive
- Developmental Disabilities
- Disability Specific Resources
- Education Resources - Adults
- Education - Children & Youth including Assessment Services
- Emergency Resources
- Employment including Employment Funding, Business Assistance & Job Lines / Websites
- Estate Planning
- Evacuations & Disaster Resources
- Faith-Based Resources
- Financial including Financial Assistance, Financial Counseling & Financial Loans / Grants for Accessibility
- Food including HELP, Food Warehouses, Pantries and Soup Kitchens, Home Delivery & Preparation
- Furniture
- Government - Local Depts of Social Services
- Hard of Hearing Resources
- Health & Wellness
- Health Insurance
- Home Care Services - Funding Resources
- Home Care and Home Health Providers
- Hospice Services
- Hospitals
- Housing including Housing Advisors / Older Adults, Housing Providers, Financial Assistance, Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), Legal Issues, Home Modifications & Design Consultation, & Ramp, Lift, Elevator & Automated Door Providers/ Installation
- Independent Living Skills
- Learning Disabilities including Testing & Diagnostic Services
- Legal Services including Disability Law Attorneys, Estate Law Attorneys, & Free, Low Cost & Pro Bono
- Legislation
- Loan Closets
- Long Term Care
- Medicaid Waivers
- Medical Care Services
- Medication Resources
- Parenting Supports
- Parking
- Property Tax Credits - County, State & Federal
- Recreation
- Respite Care
- Service Animals
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Substance Abuse
- Support Groups including Sibling Support
- Transitioning Youth
- Transportation
- Veterans
- Volunteer Services

COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES COMMEMORATES 44TH YEAR

The County Commission on Handicapped Individuals was established by the County Council on October 17, 1978. In October of 1977, County Executive James Gleason established a Task Force on Concerns of the Handicapped. Their Task Force report in June, 1978 later led to the County Council taking this action. This month the Commission celebrates 41 years of advising the County on disability issues and concerns. The Commission was located in the Office of Family Resources and at that time Chuck Short was the Director of that Office.

Effective November 9, 1990, the Commission was renamed in Bill 49-90 to the Commission on People with Disabilities and added four more slots for people with disabilities. Over the years, the Commission has benefitted greatly from the strong support of all County Executives and County Council Members to have this County become a leader in the nation on disability issues. We have also benefitted greatly from our many citizens/former Commissioners who have worked for the federal government on disability issues. Former Commission member Larry Roffee went on to be the first Executive Director of the US Access Board, and now David Capozzi who is also a former Commissioner is now the Executive Director there. The Commission has served under County Executives James Gleason, Charles Gilchrist, Sidney Kramer, Neal Potter, Douglas Duncan and Isiah Leggett.

Commission's Key Advocacy/Advisory Highlights:

- [Bill 46-09 - Personnel - Regulations - Persons with Disabilities - Hiring Preference](#) (effective February 2, 2010 and applies to persons with disabilities, Veterans, and Veterans with disabilities) - **NACO 2014 Achievement Award Winner** - Mark Maxin, Assistant General Counsel for Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and former Commissioner was instrumental in making legal cases on both employment bills for the Commission
- [Bill 32-12 - Personnel - Regulations - Persons with Disabilities - Noncompetitive Appointment](#) (effective February 5, 2013 - 80% of voters voted to adopt) Noncompetitive hiring preference for people with severe disabilities
- [Bill 5-13 - Property Tax Credit - Accessibility Features](#) (enacted November 19, 2013 - **Design for Life Property Tax Incentive Program** that provides property tax credits up to \$10,000 for levels of accessibility installed in new construction and existing homes - **NACO 2018 Achievement Award Winner**
- HOC and Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital in the establishment of 6 accessible apartments at **Metro Pointe** for younger adults who were living in nursing homes **Montgomery's Best Honor Awards Recipient 2008**
- [Zoning Text Amendment 06-17](#) permits by right vs a zoning variance unroofed and open structure in an easement including a ramp and chairlift that allows a person with a physical disability access to a one family dwelling and is exterior to the one family dwelling
- [Resolution 16-931 - Policy Regarding the Use of Brick and Other Pavements in the Public Right-of-Way](#) for County sidewalks **particularly red brick pavers**
- County purchasing **accessible Ride On busses in 1978** before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- [Pedestrian Winter Safety Act of 2001](#) - Snow removal legislation
- [Respect the Space](#) program to assess proper parking signage so it can be enforced by the police department
- Establishment of a Center for Independent Living or **Independence Now**
- Installation of the **elevator at the Marc Train station** in Rockville

COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES COMMEMORATES 43RD YEAR CONTINUED

- **Scattered site housing** for people with mental illness and other disabilities.
- Department of Transportation on **access issues for people who are blind** in downtown Silver Spring.
- Evaluating and working closely with the **Strathmore** on making the Music Center and Mansion accessible and user-friendly for people with disabilities.
- Assessing ADA compliance in 200+ **polling places** in partnership with the Montgomery County Board of Elections.
- **Assistive Listening Systems** in County buildings. The Commission Sent a request to Strathmore Hall to make neck loops an option for guests. Strathmore responded that they have neck loops and that they will be training staff to ensure that patrons know that is an option. Initiated effort to have HHS install integrated audio loop systems in with public address system into designated meeting rooms. Pushed for a clause to be included in mental health service proposals that makes it clear that those services must be inclusive, i.e., must provide assistive listening devices for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, both for group sessions and one-on-one therapy. County contract now includes provision for CART (Computer Assisted Real-time Captioning) accommodations and other provisions.
- **Advocated for trial VRS/VRI installation** in two locations in the county, possibly in libraries. VRI would to allow people who are deaf and hard of hearing people who have not made an appointment to be provided access when they walk in for services. VRS would allow deaf and hard of hearing people to place phone calls using sign language. Montgomery County now has a free emergency notification system for the public which is a tremendous benefit for deaf and hard of hearing people who rely on their wireless devices or email. To sign up go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov and click on "Alert Montgomery".
- **Community Support Services** for people with developmental disabilities reinstated to provide 500 persons with Coordination of Community Services.
- Montgomery County Government on **compliance with the ADA**.
- **US Department of Justice Project Civic Access Settlement Agreement** including Montgomery Parks.
- **Waivers from the Maryland Accessibility Code** per State law as recognized local disability advisory group.
- Advising County on **pedestrian safety issues** and safety concerns about floating bus stops and bike lanes.
- **Bill 33-15 Transportation Service Improvement Fund**: Established the fund based on placing a 25 cent surcharge on all Transportation Network Companies (Uber, Lyft, etc.) for rides originating in Montgomery County with the fund designated to be used to promote accessible vehicle ride availability in the County In order to establish the fund, permission was sought and obtained from the Maryland State Government.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COVID-19 PANDEMIC INFORMATION PORTAL

The COVID-19 Pandemic has put a strain on all residents and especially on vulnerable populations including children and adults with disabilities. The County is committed to minimizing the detrimental effects on COVID-19 and to maintain long-term access to services, community engagement and social engagement. Many aspects of all of our lives have been impacted including the need for readily accessible reliable information and available resources on topics such as general medical care resources, mental wellness and behavioral health care, food security, safe housing, personal safety, freedom to worship without fear, etc. We encourage you to use the Montgomery County COVID-19 Information Portal:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/get-help/>

***Stay Positive, Test Negative
Go Outside, Call a Friend, Get Some Exercise, Stay Connected***

American Council of the Blind COVID-19 Resources

<https://acb.org/acb-covid19-response>

EveryMind COVID-19 Coping with Anxiety and Stress

<https://www.every-mind.org/7493-2/>

Maryland Department of Disabilities COVID-19 Resources

<http://mdod.maryland.gov/news/Pages/Covid-resources.aspx>

National Federation of the Blind

<https://www.nfb.org/resources/covid-19-resources>

National Deaf Center COVID-19 Resources

<https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/covid-19-information>

National Multiple Sclerosis COVID Resources

<https://www.nationalmssociety.org/coronavirus-covid-19-information>

COVID-19 Special Considerations for People with Spinal Cord Injury

<https://kesslerfoundation.org/info/covid-19-and-spinal-cord-injury-minimizing-risks-complications>

TEXT-TO-911 NOW AVAILABLE IN MARYLAND

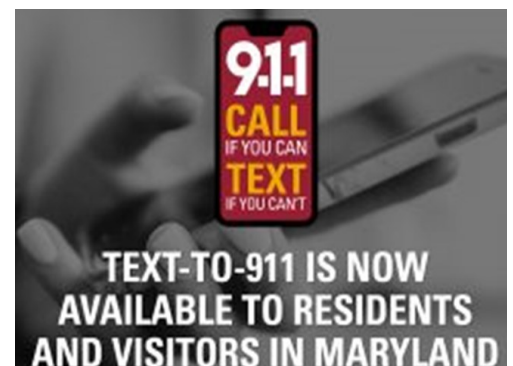
If you're experiencing an emergency and are unable to place a voice call, you can send a text to 911. Follow these steps to request emergency services:

Enter 911 in the "To" line.

1. Enter a brief message that includes the location of the emergency and type of service needed – police, fire, or ambulance.
2. Hit send.
3. Respond to questions from the responding 911 specialist and follow the instructions he or she provides.

Tips for using text-to-911:

- If text-to-911 is not available in your area, or if it is temporarily unavailable, you should receive a message from your carrier letting you know to place a phone or relay call.
- Pictures and/or videos cannot be received by 911 via text
- If you include another contact on your text it may not be received by 911
- English is the preferred language for text, however, some limited translation services may be available
- Text in short, simple messages; Do not use abbreviations or slang
- Do not text and drive



SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESOURCES

- [File of Life - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service](#)
- [Smoke Alarm Program - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service](#)
- [Fire Safety Checklist for Older Adults - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service](#)
- [Fire Safety for Children with Special Needs - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service](#)
- [Fire Safety for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(Visual Smoke Alarms\) - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service](#)
- [Falls Prevention - Free Home Safety Evaluations - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service](#)
- [Autism, Intellectual, Developmental Disabilities \(IDD\) and Alzheimer's Outreach Program – Montgomery County Police Department](#)

STAY ALERT!

You are encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts from **Alert Montgomery**. Montgomery County officials can use this alerting system to contact you before or during a major crisis, emergency, or severe weather alert. Alerts MAY be broadcast via the following delivery methods:

- Email account (work, home, other)
- Cell phone (SMS Text)
- Everbridge Mobile Member App
- Home phone (Voice)
- Cell phone (Voice)
- TTY device
- Twitter: Following “@ReadyMontgomery”
- Facebook: Add “Montgomery County MD Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security” in friends

While signing up for Alert Montgomery is free of charge, your wireless carrier may charge you a fee to receive text messages.

<https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>



Montgomery County encourages all residents to put together a plan for emergencies. The County has emergency response plans in place for dealing with emergencies from snow storms to terrorist attacks.

However, each person is strongly encouraged to develop their own personal plan. Montgomery County has developed the Plan 9 Guide for residents. It is a simple guide to nine essential items to help residents shelter in-place during emergencies.

We also encourage people to request a File of Life that allows you to fill out your medical history and rescue personnel are trained to look for this File on your refrigerator. To request a File of Life, call the Health and Human Services Aging and Disability Resource Unit: 240-777-3000 (V), 240-777-2545 (TTY), or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS



Collect these **nine essential items** to help you shelter-in-place in the event of an emergency.



1. Water: One gallon per person per day for three days. Replace the water every 6 months.



2. Food: Non-perishables such as canned or packaged food. Enough to last 3 to 5 days per person.



3. Clothes: One change of clothes and footwear per person. Consider packing blankets, rain-gear, and outerwear in case of severe weather.



4. Medications: Three days worth of prescription medications. Be sure to mark the expiration dates and change as needed.



5. Flashlight: A bright flashlight and extra batteries. Do not use candles as they are fire hazards.



6. Can Opener: Manual can opener in case there's no electric power. Buying foods with pull-open cans is also helpful.



7. Radio: Battery-powered radio and extra batteries. Crank operated or solar powered radios are also helpful.



8. Hygiene Items: Basics like soap, toilet paper and a toothbrush. Moist toiles are useful.



9. First Aid: Basics like antiseptic, gloves, bandages, and non-prescription medicines. Many stores have pre-made kits.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



**County Executive
Marc Elrich**

The **County Executive** can be reached at:

Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-0311 (V)
240-773-3556 (TTY)

County.Executive1Q@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County Council

Standing, left to right: Sidney Katz, Laurie-Anne Sayles, Andrew Friedson (Vice President), Natali Fani-González, and Gabe Albornoz. Seated, left to right: Will Jawando, Kristin Mink, Marilyn Balcombe, Evan Glass (President), Dawn Luedtke, and Kate Stewart.

The **County Council** can be reached at:

Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-7900 (V)
MD Relay 711 (TTY)
240-777-7989 (FAX)

county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Marc Elrich, County Executive
James C. Bridgers, Jr., Ph.D., MBA, Director
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Patrice L. McGhee, DPA, Chief, Aging and Disability Services
Commission on People with Disabilities
401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850
240-777-1252 (V) ♦ via MD Relay at 711
MCCPWD@montgomerycountymd.gov

**Language translation and alternative formats of this report are available upon request.
For additional information on the Commission,
please call the telephone numbers or email via the contact information listed above.**

Montgomery County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or in the admission or access to its programs or services.

2022 - 2023 ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED BY:

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