About the TESS Center

The TESS Center was established as part of the Montgomery County Community Action Agency to address the needs of low-income County residents. The TESS Center is a walk-in DHHS site which provides information and referrals to residents seeking government and private resources and services. Its bilingual staff and volunteers (English, and Spanish or Amharic) serve a diverse community, including clients speaking other languages. As a Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NON) Site, Community Connectors and NON partners complement the TESS staff in providing services to residents. Montgomery County residents are connected to resources to address critical needs, such as food and nutrition, child care, housing, and emergency support services. TESS serves over 8,000 clients each year.

www.mc311.com
Call 311 in Montgomery County or 240-777-0311 outside of the County.

To request this information in alternative formats, please call 240-773-8260. TTY users, please call MD Relay (711).

Last Updated: December 2015

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Uma S. Ahluwalia
Director

TESS CENTER

Takoma-East Silver Spring
Community Service Center

A Community Action Agency Program
And Neighborhood Opportunity Network Site

8513 Piney Branch Road
Silver Spring MD 20901

240-773-8260 (main)
301-565-5713 (fax)

TTY Users, please call MD Relay: 711

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday, 9 AM – 3 PM
Walk-Ins: 9 AM – 11 AM
Appointments: Scheduled 1 PM – 3 PM

TESS Community Service Center's Mission:

To reduce poverty, increase self-sufficiency and empower County residents by providing or linking them with services and resources.

Services Offered at the TESS Center

- **Information and Referrals:** Includes information on government and community programs and resources, referrals for food, clothing, dental and medical care, assistance with completing public and private benefits applications, voter registration, and notary services.

- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Partnership:** Educates about "EITC" and other tax credits and provides free tax preparation services to assure returns are filed accurately. (Late January through October). 240-777-1123

- **Pro Bono Program**: Volunteer attorneys from the Montgomery County Bar Foundation Pro Bono Program provide free legal advice for civil cases. Eligibility requirements apply. Service available the first & third Wednesday of the month. Registration: 6 pm -7 pm 301-424-7651/ 301-424-7652

- **The Judy Center:** Play-literacy groups for young children improve school readiness. Offered Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 AM – 11:30 AM. 301-230-0691

- **Senior Social Group**: Monthly program for seniors includes guest speakers, presentations, and special activities. Offered the last Friday of the month, 11 AM – 1 PM.

- **ESOL Classes**: In partnership with IMPACT Silver Spring, the TESS Center offers ESOL classes for beginners and intermediate-level English language learners. 301-298-5117

- **Summer Meals**: In partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools, TESS serves as summer meals site, providing over 1,300 free lunches to children during the summer months when school is out of session.

- **Holiday Giving:** As part of the County's Holiday Giving Coalition, families are referred to community sponsors and partners providing food, toys, coats and family resources. The "Adopt a Family" program allows members of the community to purchase holiday gifts for low-income families in the County.

- **Services Provided by Our Partners:** Mary's Center, CHEER, and DHHS Programs, including Aging and Disability Services, the Latino Health Initiative, and Income Supports