



Maryland Department of Disabilities  
**2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

# ABOUT MDOD

## **Maryland Department of Disabilities**

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is the voice within government for people with disabilities. Created in 2004, it is the only department in the United States that represents people with all disabilities at the cabinet-level of state government. MDOD works in partnership with many other State agencies to assure that government services used by people with disabilities meet their needs. MDOD's agenda is expansive and designed to promote educational and employment opportunities. The State Disabilities Plan developed by MDOD and its partner agencies encompasses all supports and services, including transportation and housing, needed by people with various disabilities if they are to succeed in the workforce.

## **Maryland Commission on Disabilities**

The Maryland Commission on Disabilities (MCOB), serving in an advisory role to the Maryland Department of Disabilities, recommends changes to improve, reorganize or streamline services for people with disabilities. As a part of its community outreach efforts, the Commission provides information to the public about the Department of Disabilities, other state agencies and programs to assist with disabilities. In addition to acting as a liaison with local commissions and committees that serve people with disabilities, MCOB also provides a forum for the public to communicate recommendations for changes to State disabilities policies.

## **Maryland Disabilities Plan**

The Maryland State Disabilities Plan is the blueprint for disability support services in Maryland. The Maryland Department of Disabilities has partnered with consumers, families, providers and State Agency staff to develop the State Disabilities Plan to reflect the needs and preferences of Maryland citizens with disabilities. The State Disabilities Plan addresses the following issues: Community Living, Employment and Training, Housing, Education and Family Support, Health and Behavioral Health, Transportation and Assistive Technology.



**Martin O'Malley**  
Governor

**Anthony G. Brown**  
Lt. Governor

**Catherine A. Raggio**  
Secretary

**George P. Failla, Jr.**  
Deputy Secretary

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### **OUR MISSION**

The Maryland Department of Disabilities advances the rights and interests of people with disabilities so they may fully participate in their communities.

### **OUR VISION**

ALL Marylanders are valued and respected and have the knowledge, opportunity, and power to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.



## MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to present the Maryland Department of Disabilities Annual Report.

In 2013, we expanded programs and services for Marylanders with disabilities. We invested an additional \$9.3 million to support over 600 transitioning youth with developmental disabilities. These investments will ensure that our young people have access to quality employment, day activities, or higher education opportunities as they transition out of high school. We expanded Development Disabilities Administration funding to over 200 additional people, who were previously on the waiting list, and through the Autism Waiver program we expanded home and community based services to 100 additional children with autism.

Maryland competed for and won \$10.9 million in U.S. HUD funds to provide 150 permanent supportive housing units for low income people with disabilities. By working with our partners in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Housing and Community Development, we will quickly move people with disabilities who need subsidized housing into these homes.

The O'Malley-Brown Administration is committed to protecting every citizen's right to live independently with equal access to all that our State has to offer. Thank you for your support and partnership to create new opportunities and remove barriers for people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin O'Malley".

Governor



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

We all know that work matters. Working enhances our image and our self-esteem, promotes social interaction and becomes woven into our identity. Above all it provides us with income to support our full participation in our communities.

We at MDOD continued in 2013 to promote employment in many different ways, some of which we have highlighted within our annual report. We were aided this year by the Chairperson of the National Governor's Association

(NGA), Governor Jack Markell of neighboring Delaware who made the employment of people with disabilities his priority. We took a team to an Institute on Employment convened by the NGA. Our team continues to pursue priorities and opportunities that we learned about at the Institute.

Transportation continues to be a major obstacle to employment for people with disabilities. During 2013, we continued to see improvement in on-time performance with paratransit and expanded mobility training so that people can enjoy the greater spontaneity of being able to ride fixed route buses, light rail and Metro in the major metropolitan areas of the state. (Transportation Accomplishments, page 28)

We know that when people advance their educational level they earn more. To that end, our Attendant Care Program featured in a story on page 22 supports some Maryland students with physical disabilities, enabling them to pursue college degrees.

Along those same lines, a program known as the Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative (MSTC) reached a successful conclusion and is featured on page 12. The MSTC project connected the expertise of TransCen, a non-profit organization, with Local Education Agencies and adult service providers in 11 jurisdictions over the past five years. Much, of course, remains to be done. With Governor O'Malley's leadership and high expectations and the strong commitment by all of our State agency partners, we will continue to expand opportunities for people with disabilities.

Catherine A. Raggio

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine A. Raggio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Secretary



*Sharing personal experiences is just one of the communications tools peer outreach and support workers use to assist Marylanders with disabilities to learn about home and community-based service options and work through the transition process from nursing facilities into the community.*

## COMMUNITY LIVING

In 2007, Maryland received funding through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Project; an opportunity for states to rebalance long-term care systems so individuals have the ability to choose where they live and receive services. Awarded to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), the MFP program provides Maryland the opportunity to address the institutional bias in the long-term care system by improving the availability and quality of community-based services. The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD), through an agreement with DHMH, is responsible for the Peer Outreach and Peer Support efforts to assist with successful transi-

tions into the community. In Fiscal Year 2013, 336 Marylanders successfully transitioned from nursing facilities into community living.

**Peer Outreach** staff meet, either one-on-one or as part of a group, with nursing facility residents, family members, personal representatives, and/or friends to share information and promote awareness about community-based options for receiving services and supports. Peer outreach workers will share personal stories to relate how community living has successfully been implemented in their lives and explain, in general terms, the types of supports available and how to access them.

**Peer Support** provides nursing facility residents one-on-one assistance in understanding and navigating the complex process of transitioning from a nursing facility to community living. Support activities may include preparing a resident for options counseling and application assistance meetings, identifying and locating community-based public or private resources, establishing linkages with natural or non-traditional supports, providing information about the transition process and/or living in the community, setting realistic expectations, being an advocate and teaching the resident how to become his/her own self-advocate and/or develop the necessary

skills for community living. Peer support is designed to help address and minimize a resident's sense of being alone and cut off from others, promote a connection with others of similar backgrounds and encourage residents to progress from viewing themselves as an isolated outsider to being an active and contributing member of their community. Eight regional Peer Outreach and Support contracts were awarded to the following providers: Independence Now (Prince George's and Montgomery counties); Resources for Independence (Allegany, Washington and Garrett counties); The Freedom Center (Frederick and Carroll counties); Southern MD Center for Independent Living

*Advocate Mary Kemp provides peer support to Sean Harris (facing page) and Jeffery Knight (below) as part of their transition to their own homes in the Frederick area.*



(Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's counties); The IMAGE Center (Baltimore and Harford counties); Holly Community, Inc. (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Worcester and Wicomico counties); Public Service Consultants (Baltimore City); and Accessible Resources for Independence (Anne Arundel and Howard counties).



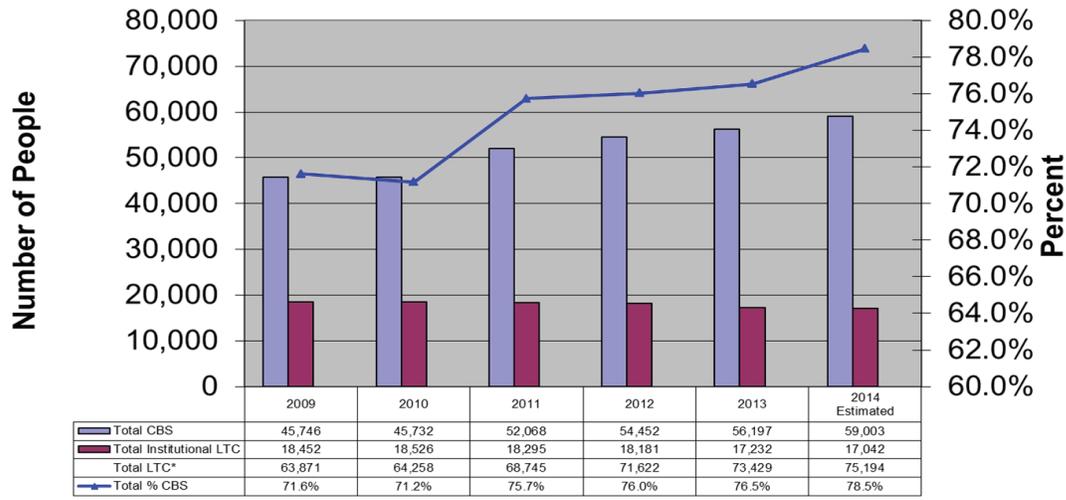
*LEFT: IMAGE Center Peer Advocate Kirsten Robb-McGrath helps Caleb McConnell set up his email account and teaches him to navigate the email site for better communications with family, friends, and co-workers.*

*BELOW: Image Center Peer Advocates (from Left) Kathryn Wallace, Kirsten Robb-McGrath and Lisa Labre*

# COMMUNITY LIVING



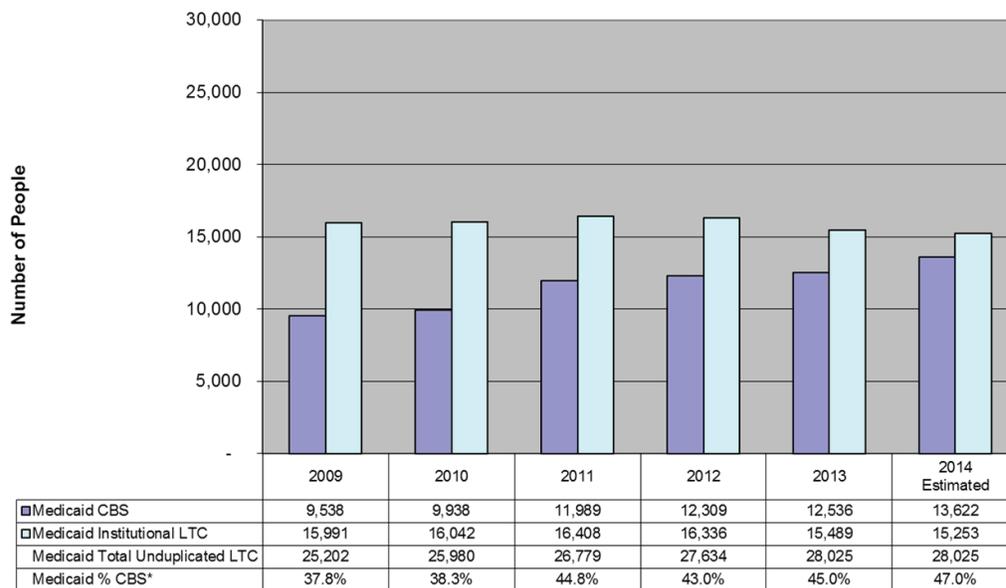
**Proportion of People Receiving Long-Term Supports in Community Based Services (CBS) versus Institutional LTC Services by all DHMH Programs**



\* includes unduplicated Medicaid LTC count.

Fiscal Years

**Proportion of People Receiving Long-Term Support in Community Based Services (CBS) versus Institutional LTC Services by the Medicaid Programs**



\* Percentage based on Medicaid unduplicated LTC

Fiscal Years



*Project SEARCH is an innovative one-year internship program designed for young adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities.*



# EMPLOYMENT

Two Maryland organizations – The Arc Baltimore and SEEC (Seeking Equality, Empowerment and Community for People with Developmental Disabilities) in Montgomery County – are working to bring job training and career opportunities to young people with disabilities. Project SEARCH is an innovative one-year internship program designed for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are either in their last year of high school or are recent graduates. Developed at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center in 1996, the Project SEARCH model has been duplicated more than 200 times nationwide and in five countries. The cornerstone of Project SEARCH is total workplace immersion in a host business and related agencies.

Participants are on site at the business each day for a minimum of six hours and receive support with on-the-job coaching, accommodations and adaptations. One of The Arc Baltimore’s Project SEARCH sites is done in partnership with MedStar Union Memorial Hospital. The program runs Monday through Friday from September to May with participants beginning and ending their day in the classroom at Union Memorial Hospital. During the remainder of the time, students participate in three unpaid 10-week internships that will allow them to gain marketable skills and increase their competitiveness as job applicants in the health care industry and other sectors. Over the past year, 11 Project SEARCH interns have graduated. Some of the graduates have since been hired by Union Memorial Hospital – a rehabilitation

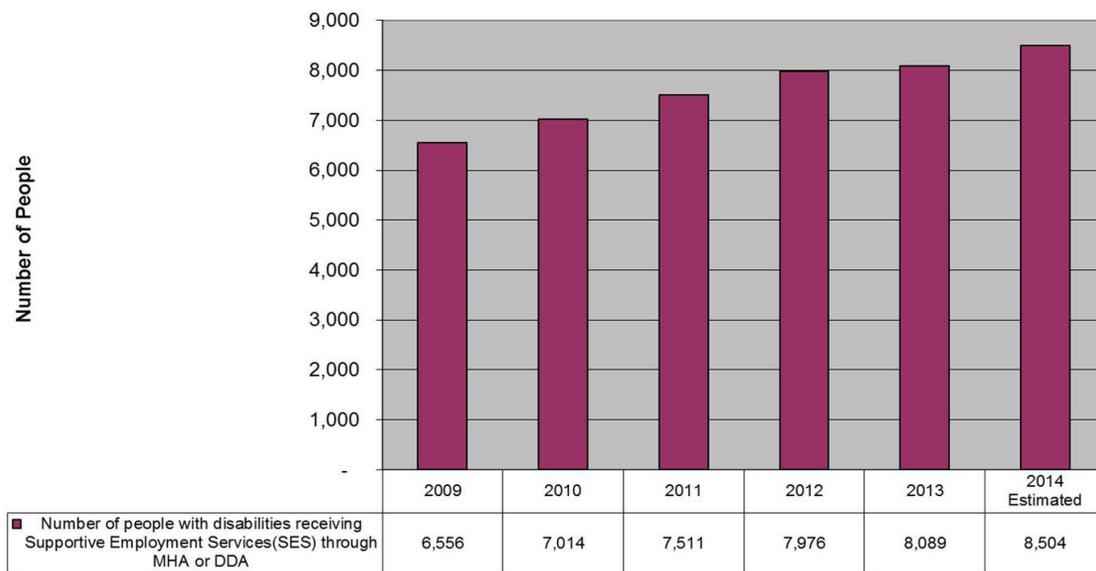
technician, environmental services associate, patient transportation services worker and a maintenance worker/dietary. The Arc Baltimore is working to find employment opportunities for the remainder of the graduates either in the MedStar network or in the community.

SEEC has partnered with Ivymount School, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Montgomery County Government and the Smithsonian Institute for its replications of this successful transition to work mode. Over the past year, 10 Project SEARCH interns have graduated from NIH and 12 from Montgomery County Government. Of the

23 graduates of the program, 18 have secured paid employment ranging from part-time minimum wage positions to one individual working full time as a GS-5 with NIH earning \$35,000 per year. The SEARCH graduates are working in a variety of positions as office clerk, pharmacy delivery clerk, mail clerk, IT supply clerk and fleet parts technician. Beyond the internship, SEEC continues to provide sustainable supports to the host employers through job clubs, ongoing coaching supports and strategic planning. Internships at the Smithsonian Institution will begin in fall of 2013.

*Damian Jackson (pictured on left) is a Project SEARCH graduate working at The Curtis National Hand Center at MedStar Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore. His colleagues at the hospital were so pleased with his job performance as an intern, the hospital hired him.*

**Employment Training or Services for People with Disabilities Provided by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and the Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA)**





*In 2013, the Maryland Transit Administration added 40 MV-1 sedans to the State's Mobility paratransit fleet.*



# TRANSPORTATION

In the spring of 2007, Thomas Curtis, Director of Transportation Policy at the Maryland Department of Disabilities, traveled to a Taxicab Summit in New York City entitled “Providing Effective Accessible Taxicab Service” sponsored by Easter Seals Project Action (ESPA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Featured at the Taxicab Summit was a prototype for a new “Standard Taxicab,” a sedan designed and built with a retracting ramp that would accommodate one or two passengers using wheelchairs, as well as three or four ambulatory passengers and the driver. The brainchild of taxicab fleet owners from Chicago and New York City, the MV-1 would fill a well-defined niche in the field of accessible transportation. It was apparent to Curtis and others attending the

Taxicab Summit – the late Lawrence Hawkins (former member of the Maryland Commission on Disabilities), Terry Moakley of the United Spinal Association and the Association of Travel Instruction (ATI) and Al Abeson, then President of Easter Seals Project Action – that the new Standard Taxicab was more than just the most accessible sedan taxicab at the New York Auto Show.

The sedan had multiple utility as a paratransit vehicle providing transportation for passengers with a range of disabilities and for veterans, the aging and other categories of prospective passengers requiring accessible transport. The vehicle would also be ideal as a family car for a family which includes a

wheelchair user. Adapting the vehicle by adding a swiveling driver’s seat would also enable a wheelchair user to do the driving according to family necessity. Curtis’ visit to the Taxicab Summit confirmed the impression of the wide utility, adaptability and overall superiority of the purpose built accessible sedan. None of the other accessible vehicles – generally regular production model sedans, hatchbacks, sport utility vehicles or station wagons converted and retrofitted after manufacture for wheelchair accessibility – could match the Standard Taxicab. Curtis arranged for the prototype to be brought

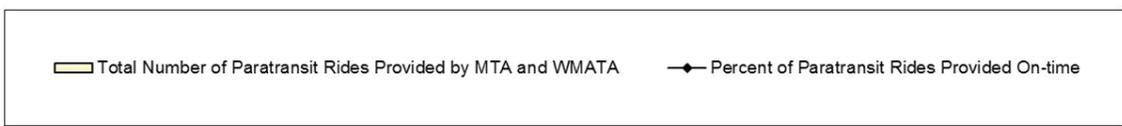
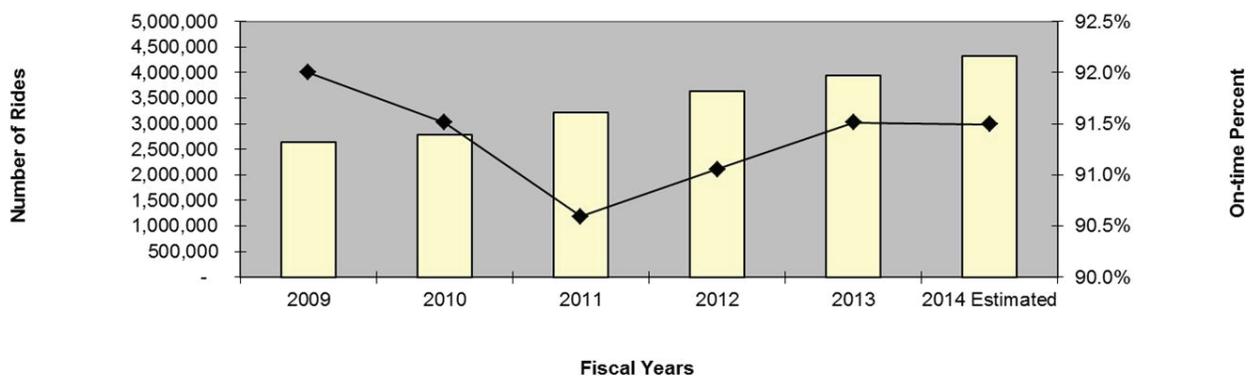
to the Maryland in order for Maryland MTA professionals to have a look at what has now been renamed the MV-1 and try it out.

**Fast forward to the present**

Once the upgraded MV-1 accessible vehicle was in production, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) added 40 of these sedans to its Mobility paratransit fleet; 35 of the vehicles are in service during each weekday. If the MV-1 sedan proves successful in paratransit service, MTA may purchase additional vehicles as the existing fleet vehicles reach the end of their useful life and are replaced.

*MTA employees Charles Blue and Steven Glasscho demonstrate the improved accessibility of the new MV-1 sedan.*

**Level of Service and Performance Provided to Maryland Paratransit Customers (MTA and WMATA)**





*The MSTC Project provides a seamless transition for secondary school students.*

## EDUCATION

For 365 Maryland students with disabilities, the Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative (MSTC) Project gave them a plan for the future – a future that included employment opportunities in their community or continuing their studies at a college or university.

A five-year special demonstration project awarded to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), MSTC was designed to improve post-school outcomes for students with disabilities. DORS collaborated with TransCen, Inc., which had a key role in implementation of the grant. The Maryland Department of Disabilities and members of the Governor's Interagency Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities –

consisting of representatives from State and local agencies, families, service providers, and advocates – served as the Advisory Committee to the MSTC project.

Funded by a \$2.9 million grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the MSTC project was designed to provide a seamless transition for secondary school students, braiding resources needed by each student with resources available from MSTC's public-private partners. Components of the MSTC Model include individualized, student-driven transition planning and services; family support and participation; an array of individualized work experiences during secondary education years; interagency braided resources based on the participating student's Individualized Transition

Plan; paid employment experience; as well as state and local systems change related to policies, procedures, and practices. Charles County Public Schools, which served as the model site with TransCen, Inc., assisted in the development and improvement of the model. By the close of the MSTC grant on September 30, 2012, there were 11 local jurisdictions with MSTC projects: Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Harford, St. Mary's, Somerset, Washington, and Wicomico counties. Among the 11 project sites, 347 students successfully participated at the close of the grant. In addition, RSA has granted Maryland a one-

year extension to enable some of the newer sites to achieve their goals. While the MSTC project ended in September 2012, DORS continued to provide several initiatives to sustain the project through a Fee for Service model. As of September 30, 2012 (when data collection for MSTC ended):

- 365 active students (over the 5 year period)
- 288 participated in summer employment
- 204 completers (2009-2012)
- 66 had paid inclusive employment upon exit
- 46 enrolled in post secondary education
- 25 in paid inclusive employment & post secondary education.

*A partnership between the Wicomico County Board of Education and the Eastern Shore Business Leadership Network Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce, MSTC students learn a number of skills that will assist them transitioning from secondary school.*



Mary Scott



Tanya Churchfield



*The Maryland Healthy Transitions Initiative project provides comprehensive services for transition age youth with mental health and co-occurring disorders.*

# HEALTH & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Maryland Healthy Transitions Initiative (HTI) is a five-year systems change project that provides comprehensive services for transition age youth with mental health and co-occurring disorders. Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), HTI is a state/community partnership aimed at addressing issues transition-age youth encounter as they transition to adulthood. This initiative creates developmentally appropriate and effective youth-guided local systems of care to improve outcomes in the areas of education, employment, and housing. In addition, the goal is to decrease youth contact with the juvenile and criminal justice systems towards a goal of effecting statewide policy change and replication.

Maryland HTI serves transition age youth between the ages of 16 and 25 with serious mental health conditions and their families. The project is currently administered by the Mental Hygiene Administration in Frederick and Washington Counties in partnership with the Frederick County Mental Health Management Agency, Washington County Mental Health Management Agency, and Way Station, Inc.

As part of Maryland HTI, young people with mental health and co-occurring disorders have the opportunity to:

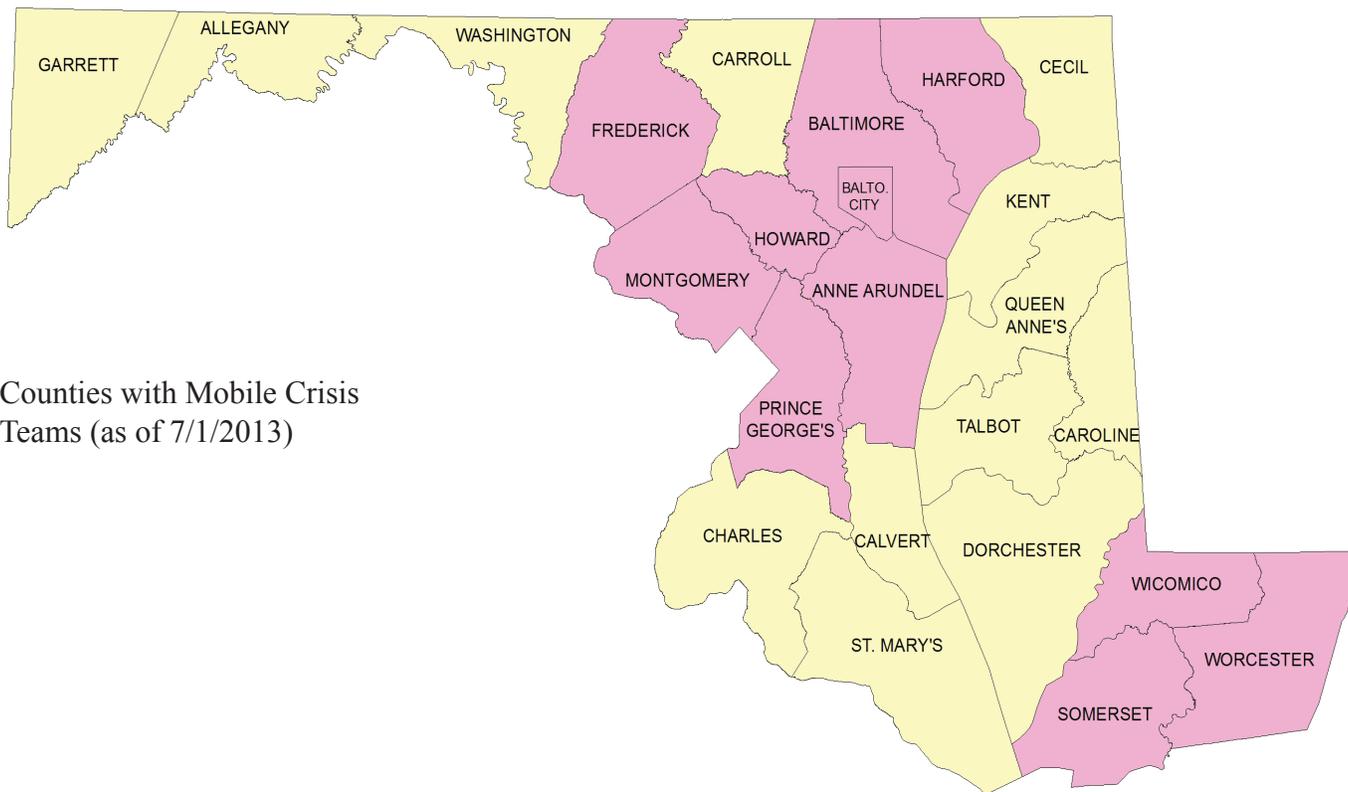
- Experience a quality of life that includes satisfactory housing, adequate income, positive social relationships, and healthy recreation opportunities.

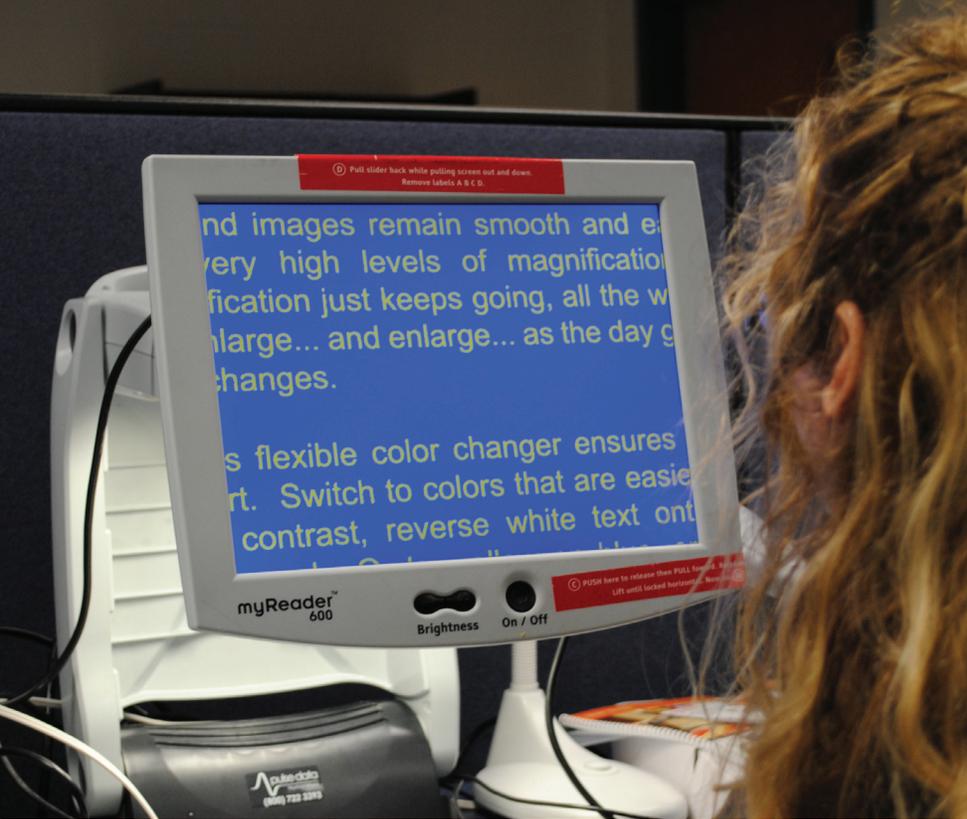
- Feel empowered and supported throughout the process.
- Receive strengths based coordinated care for a more seamless transition to adulthood.
- Be involved in normative activities including employment and/or continuing education.
- Learn self-advocacy skills and build confidence as they transition to adulthood and independent living.
- Increase capacity, motivation, and opportunity through active engagement in personal and social change efforts.
- Contribute to policy level decision making.

Maryland HTI is entering the final year of its five-year funding period. In Fiscal Year 2013, 139 individuals and their families were assisted.



*Way Station Facilitator Cassie Murray helps Laci find prices online for the household items she will need when she moves into her own apartment for the first time; part of the support Way Station provides to help clients prepare and plan a budget and apply for additional funding through HTI to help with move-in costs.*





*Everyday, new technology is being developed that opens the doors and eliminates barriers for individuals with disabilities.*



# TECHNOLOGY

Assistive Technology (AT) improves the quality of life and increases the independence and productivity of persons with disabilities by helping them to work, operate a business, excel in school, live in safe and accessible homes, enjoy independent transportation and gain greater access to their communities.

Every day new technology is being developed that opens doors and eliminates barriers.

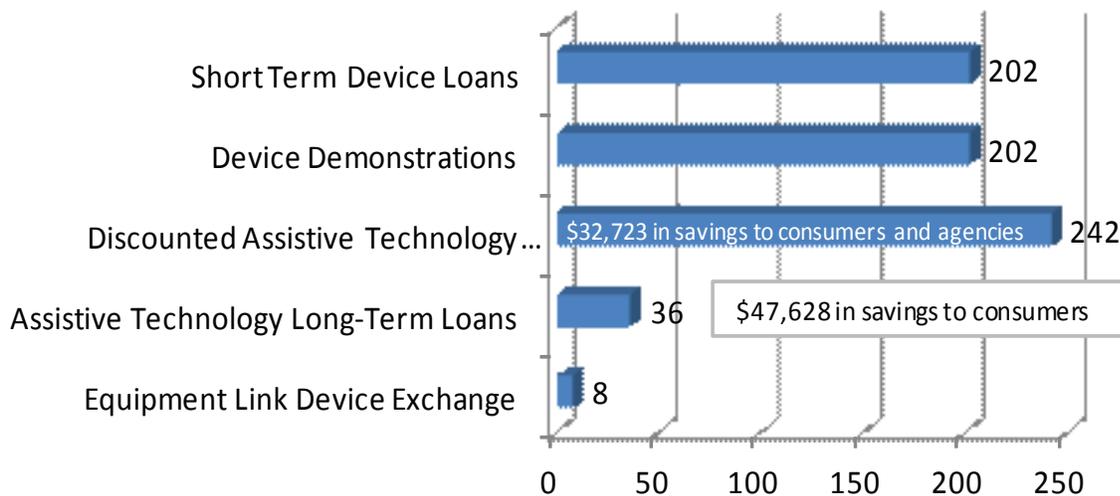
- Assistive technology for individuals with blindness or low vision has improved much over the years. Magnifiers are smaller, lighter and stronger than ever. There is more competition, so the prices on many types of devices are decreasing.

High Definition displays are used more widely now, making for clearer screens and many CCTV-types of devices now have OCR (optical character recognition) capabilities. OCR and magnification apps can be found for both iOS and Android platforms for portability. Braille note takers are becoming smaller and lighter as well.

- Talking prescription bottles, pill organizers with alerting timers, cushions that lift individuals out of the chair, and other technological advances have made it possible for individuals with disabilities and seniors to better manage the tasks of daily living and remain independent in the home.

- From audio sedation systems that improve focus to recording and scanning smart pens, technology has changed the landscape of how individuals with cognition, learning or memory impairments interact with the world. Other items such as voice activated calendars, pens that provide audio feedback and pronunciation, and more make it easier to manage tasks and accomplish goals.
- Computer access for many individuals with disabilities goes beyond just a monitor, keyboard and mouse. For many who cannot use or navigate the computer traditionally, technology has changed the landscape of computer access. People can now use eye-gaze systems to control a computer with their eyes, or a sip & puff system to navigate an on-screen mouse, or speech-to-text software to type documents and send emails simply by speaking into the computer microphone.
- Technology for those who are deaf and hard of hearing has continued to evolve in the recent iDevice trend with advances that include apps for ASL translation and personal amplification systems.

## MDTAP - Device Demonstrations, Device Loans, and Financing - FY 2013





# HOUSING

*Housing opportunities for Marylanders with disabilities are expanding with increased accessible housing and rental assistance programs.*



Housing opportunities for Marylanders with disabilities have expanded significantly in the past year. Through partnerships with local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), non-profit organizations, and state agencies including the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) successfully contributed to Maryland's accessible and affordable housing stock.

### **Harry & Jeannette Weinberg Foundation**

In January 2013, the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation announced that it would expand its initial funding for the Maryland Affordable Rental Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities initiative, providing an additional \$1 million investment in the

program. The Initiative, designed to build upon the strengths of the Foundation and the State's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC), seeks to increase accessible, affordable, and independent housing opportunities. Through these efforts, two Maryland families successfully transitioned into new homes at Hudson Townhomes, a 48-unit townhome community located in Cambridge this spring. Five additional Weinberg-funded units have been planned and are currently undergoing renovations at Parkview Towers, a 125-unit apartment community in Takoma Park. Another development to be located in Salisbury is planned for construction in the winter of 2014.

### **HUD Section 811 Rental Assistance Project**

In February 2013, the U.S. Department of Housing

and Urban Development announced that Maryland will receive \$11 million to implement the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Demonstration. These funds will assist people with disabilities, many transitioning from institutional settings and or at risk of homelessness, to live independently in the community of their choice by providing affordable housing coupled with voluntary supports and services. Over five years, Section 811 Project Rental Assistance will create 150 long-term affordable units for persons with disabilities statewide. To expand the impact of the Demonstration, nine local Public Housing Authorities pledged to set-aside 102 Housing Choice Vouchers for persons who are Section

811-eligible. These local PHAs include: Baltimore County Housing, College Park Housing Authority, Housing Authority of the City of Frederick, Housing Authority of the City of Hagerstown, Housing Authority of Prince George's County, Housing Authority of St. Mary's County, Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County, Rockville Housing Enterprises, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Fifty people were trained to effectively prepare consumers for their transition and subsequent tenancies in the community.

### **Bridge Subsidy Program**

As the year closes, the Department is gearing up to administer the Bridge Subsidy Program to assist persons with disabilities to obtain permanent housing. Through a partnership between DHCD and MDOD, the state will provide rental assistance to households for up to five years. At the conclusion of the five-year term, each participant will receive permanent assistance through the local Public Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher or in public housing program. Bridge is expected to begin accepting applications January 2014.

### **Maryland Partnership for Affordable Housing**

As a part of Maryland's continued commitment to increasing housing opportunities for people

with disabilities, DHCD and DHMH, in partnership with MDOD, have established the Maryland Partnership for Affordable Housing (MPAH). The inter-agency partnership is the embodiment of a decade long effort that has matured into a forum where human service and housing providers have meaningful discussions about how to work within the affordable housing system to provide the deep rental subsidies needed to overcome the housing challenges faced by Maryland's most economically vulnerable citizens. MPAH recognizes that housing is not a luxury, but a necessity and that we must rely on the respective strengths of our partners to tackle coming issues in a way that is proactive and forward thinking.

# Constituent Services

In early April, Community Living Policy Director Kelli Cummings received a call that would reunite a family with a brother they had not seen in more than 40 years. Nora Rice is the sister of a man who had been placed in a Maryland institution approximately 50 years ago by their parents.

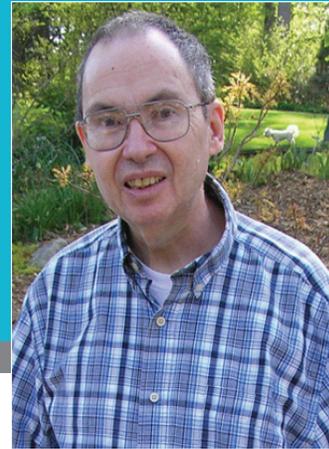
Nora and her other brothers had no idea where he was placed or exactly when. She wasn't even certain of his exact date of birth. In fact, none of her siblings had seen the missing brother once he was placed in an institution. Nora and her brothers tried to find out what had happened to their brother, but in spite of making many calls they were unsuccessful in their attempts. They even considered hiring a professional investigator to help find him. She was hoping that the Maryland Department of Disabilities might be able to help her and her other siblings reconnect with their brother.

Given the brother's name and estimated date of birth, Kelli immediately got in touch with one of her contacts in Medicaid. They were able to determine the man was currently a participant in one of the Developmental Disabilities Administration waiver programs and provided the name of his current residential service provider. With that information, Kelli was then able to contact the executive director of that program. When told of the family's search for their brother, he asked Kelli to have Nora Rice contact him directly so he could personally assist with coordinating the family reunion.



*Kelli Cummings*  
*Director of Community Living Policy*

Within 45 minutes, Kelli was able find Nora's brother and give her his current address and the provider's contact information. According to Kelli, Nora was shocked and delighted with how quickly her search had ended calling Kelli a "miracle worker."



## Epilogue

Nora Rice contacted Kelli about a month later. She and her brother Lewis Kozlosky were able to meet their brother Albert and his care provider. Nora and her brother were pleased with the care her brother received. She requested other assistance and information regarding trusts, etc.



*Nora and her brother Lewis Kozlosky stop for a photo with their brother Albert (center) during a visit to Brookside Gardens.*

# Attendant Care Program

## SUPPORTING TWO MARYLANDERS IN POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Attendant Care Program (ACP) provides financial reimbursement to eligible individuals with severe chronic or permanent physical disabilities so they can meet their personal assistance needs. The goal of the Program is to supplement the cost of attendant services so individuals with disabilities living in the community can maintain employment, seek employment, attend an institution of post secondary education, or avoid placement in a nursing facility. This self-directed approach to community-based services assists individuals with disabilities to identify their service needs, decide who will provide services, and establish the frequency by which services will be received. A total of 188 Marylanders were provided financial reimbursement to meet their personal assistance needs in Fiscal Year 2013.

Individuals enrolled in ACP generally range in age from 18 years old to 64 years old, though a few participants are older. Two of ACPs younger participants are Maryland students enrolled at Edinboro University, one of only four “full service” colleges in the United States and the only one on the East Coast. As a full service college, Edinboro provides students with disabilities access to personal care attendants, van transportation, wheelchair maintenance, learning disability support services, a life skills center, tactile laboratory (to meet the needs of visually impaired or blind students), an assistive technology center, and an academic aide system (assists students who cannot read or write independently).

Charlotte Ferrigno-Whitaker of Crofton, Maryland is a senior at Edinboro working on her Bachelor’s Degree in World Languages and Culture. With her studies in Spanish, Arabic and Russian, Charlotte describes herself as someone who wants to know everything about everything and hopes to travel when she finishes school.



*Charlotte Ferrigno-Whitaker  
from Crofton*

The ACP funds help Charlotte with supports that Edinboro doesn't provide such as organizing her room at school, grocery shopping, and making and assisting with meals. In addition to her language studies, she also enjoys math, physics and creating designs and art on her computer; some of her designs have become logos for t-shirts and water bottles. After graduation, Charlotte wants to use her language skills as an analyst for an intelligence agency.

In her first year at Edinboro, Stacey Shumaker from Mt. Airy Maryland is studying psychology and hopes to work as a counselor someday using her own experiences with traumatic injuries to help others. Only 12 years old when she was injured, Stacey began this career path after she became an "ambassador" for the Kennedy Krieger Institute following her own rehabilitation program there. For the next six years, Stacey helped other children, especially young girls like herself, answering questions, sharing stories, giving them hope and understanding about the future. Described as very "chill" (laid back) and funny by her friends, Stacey enjoys going to concerts and movies and watching television with her friends.

*Stacey Shumaker from Mt. Airy*



# Access Maryland

**Martinak State Park** on Maryland's Eastern Shore was one of Maryland's oldest state parks, dating back to the 1940s. The park featured one small cabin overlooking the Choptank River, a camping area with a bathhouse, a day use/picnic area, pavilions, a playground, boating ramp, fishing access and an amphitheater located on the water. All of the facilities were inaccessible to wheelchair users and others with disabilities. In two phases over three years, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received approximately \$640,000 in funding from the Access Maryland program to improve access to the camping, fishing and picnic areas, the park amphitheater, boat ramps, information kiosk and a fitness trail.

As part of the access modifications, DNR renovated the cabin's kitchen and bathroom areas and added an elevated deck and timber access ramp to provide an accessible entrance to the cabin; created or improved accessible paths from the picnic areas to comfort stations; renovated existing comfort stations adding accessible doors and faucets; improved driveways to camping pads, added wheelchair accessible seating areas and accessible parking spaces to the amphitheatre; and paved the park's existing gravel surfaced fitness trail. Accessible improvements were also made in the boat ramp area, improving and connecting trails to various buildings, site features and amenities.

Martinak State Park, bordered by the Choptank River and Watts Creek, offers a variety of activities including hiking, fishing and boating, camping, picnicking and a nature center.

*Individuals from Benedictine recently visited Martinak to see the accessibility improvements made to the park*



*Ted Grigonis*



*Mary Nelson*



*Josh Maloney*

The Access Maryland Program brings state-owned facilities into compliance with State and Federal mandates requiring access for persons with disabilities. Access Maryland funds are capital funds and thus are limited to “brick and mortar” projects. Access Maryland funds are used to modify facilities ranging from state office and legislative complexes, state parks and campuses in the University System of Maryland. Projects are diverse, spanning everything from rest room modifications to construction of elevator towers to replacement of door hardware. State projects receiving funding for Fiscal Year 2013:

**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services**

- Central Maryland Correctional Facility - Entrance Modifications - \$105,650
- Central Maryland Correctional Facility - Housing Unit Ramp - \$100,000

**Historic St. Mary’s City**

- Chancellor's Point Parking and Access Routes - \$96,700

**Morgan State University**

- Chapel Exterior Access Route - \$47,000

**University of Maryland Baltimore**

- Multiple Buildings Door Closers - \$65,000
- 100 North Greene Street - Doors and Door Closers - \$27,500
- Biomedical Research Facility - Entrance and Door Closers - \$9,500
- Frank C. Bressler Research Building - Restrooms, Signage and Door Hardware - \$12,600
- School of Law and Social Work Building - Door Closers, Accessible Route, and Signage - \$8,300
- School of Nursing - Door Closers and Hardware and Signage - \$15,050
- School of Social Work - Door Closers, Signage, Restroom, Ramp, Handrail Modification - \$29,800

**Towson University**

- Media Center- Elevator Improvements - \$369,600

**University of Maryland Baltimore County**

- Academic IV Building - Restroom Modifications – Phase 1 - \$116,500
- Math and Psychology Building - Restroom Modifications – Phase 1 - \$116,500
- Walker Avenue Accessible Route - \$291,000

**University of Maryland College Park**

- Potomac Building – Design Entrance and Elevator - \$79,760
- Hornbake Library - Restroom Modifications - \$94,100
- Neutral Buoyance Facility - Unisex Restroom - \$13,000
- Tydings Hall - Restroom Modifications - \$65,000

- \$1.2 million increase to serve 100 additional children under Maryland’s Autism Waiver.

The Governor’s Interagency Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities (IATC) hosted a conference on November 17, 2012 and included information on preparing for employment, postsecondary education and independence. The event was attended by 163 participants comprised of transition age youth, parents/guardians and professionals.

## **HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

- Senate Bill 632 was signed into law on May 16, 2013 by Governor Martin O’Malley creating a State Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund that will help fund medical needs and other supports for Maryland residents who acquire traumatic brain injuries. In the long run it is expected that this trust fund will save the State money.
- Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) supported consumer initiatives including Consumer Quality Teams (CQT) and adult and child leadership institutes reflecting the State’s continued commitment to increase the availability of consumer and family-operated support services. The CQT continues to conduct unannounced visits to mental health service providers. Over the past year, the CQT conducted 300 site visits, interviewing more than 1,100 consumers. Results of these site visits are shared with MHA, the Core Service Agency, and providers.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

- In Federal Fiscal Year 2013, the Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MD TAP) provided 405 hands-on demonstrations and loans of devices to individuals with disabilities and their families, as well as education, employment, and community living professionals.
- During Fiscal Year 2013, the Assistive Technology Loan Program received 113 applications for review and approved 35 loans. Additionally, the program managed 176 open loans during this period.

- Approximately \$11 million in funding will be used to provide project rental assistance for up to 150 units over the next five years. The program will continue indefinitely contingent upon HUD funding.

## EMPLOYMENT

- Six students completed their first year in SUCCESS at University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and eight new students were selected to start the program in September 2013.
- MDOD partnered with Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services (DSE/EIS) and Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), Maryland Departments of Human Resources (DHR), Labor, Licensing and Regulations (DLLR), Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), Juvenile Services (DJS) and private sector disability organizations to prepare a grant proposal for a Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income (PROMISE) grant from the U.S. Departments of Education, Labor and Health, and Human Resources. In September 2013, Maryland was awarded a five year, \$31 million PROMISE grant to improve the education and career options of youth with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI).



*Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown served as keynote speaker at the State's Annual Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration on July 26, 2013 at UMBC.*

# Accomplishments

## TRANSPORTATION

- Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMA-TA) achieved a routine on-time performance in paratransit above 90 percent.
- MDOD worked with MTA to facilitate changes to the Taxi Access Program in the Baltimore metropolitan area which provides over 1,000 rides every day through private contracts with 17 Maryland companies. Taxi Access II is more cost effective than its predecessor, while remaining the most patron-favorable such program in the nation.
- Taxi Center Card is a new service of the MTA offered to dialysis customers specifically for trips to and from their dialysis centers. Dialysis patients are provided with a direct, non-shared trip, and flexibility for occasions when health problems after dialysis cause a scheduled paratransit pick-up time to be missed. Approximately 400 patrons participate in this program with a resulting 8,000 trips.

## EDUCATION/CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

- The percentage of students ages 6-21 with disabilities being educated in general education settings (LRE A-with general education peers 80 percent of the time or more) increased slightly over the past two years to 67.97 percent in 2012 from 67.12 percent in 2011 and 66.75 percent in 2010.
- The Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative (MSTC), administered by the Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), concluded the five year grant from the U.S. Department of Education on September 30, 2012. Three hundred sixty five (365) students actively participated among 11 local school systems project sites. A majority of students participated in work experiences:
  - 288 in summer employment (paid internship)
  - 77 through unpaid internships
  - 66 in paid inclusive employment

# Accomplishments

One of the guiding principles of the O'Malley-Brown Administration is that individuals with disabilities can live independent, productive and full lives in their communities when provided with the right supports, training and opportunities. Over the past seven years, there have been a number of significant accomplishments that benefit Marylanders with disabilities and their families. These accomplishments involve the work of several State agencies, not just the Maryland Department of Disabilities. Accomplishments for 2013 include:

## COMMUNITY LIVING

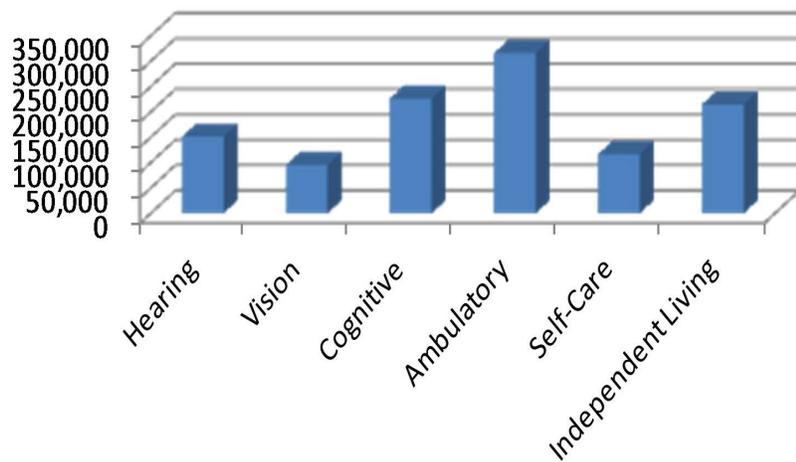
- Maryland Department of Disabilities' (MDOD) Attendant Care Program (ACP) served 188 unduplicated individuals during Fiscal Year 2013, an increase over the 170 served in Fiscal Year 2012. In addition, a total of 17 new participants were enrolled throughout the year to include 12 participants who were employed, looking for work or enrolled in school. The Program had 86 individuals on the waiting list at the end of the fiscal year, all of whom are in the at-risk eligibility category.
- In Fiscal Year 2013, 336 individuals transitioned back to the community through the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program, for a total of 1,688 transitions since the program's initial implementation in Fiscal Year 2008.
- Maryland's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs served a combined total of 24,924 individuals throughout Fiscal Year 2013. The Living at Home (LAH) and Older Adults Waiver (OAW) programs served 991 and 4,031, respectively. Both waivers were able to utilize an increased number of community-funded slots in this fiscal year (180 for LAH and 300 for OAW).

## HOUSING

- Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD), Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) collaborated to apply for the HUD Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Demonstration Program. As a result of this effort, Maryland was one of 13 states awarded funding to provide permanent supportive housing to very-low income people with disabilities who would otherwise be priced out of the market.

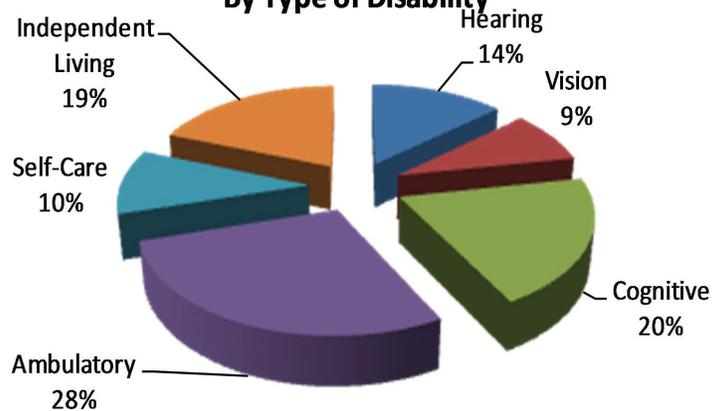
# Demographics

**State of Maryland  
Individuals with Disabilities  
By Type of Disability**



State of Maryland Individuals with Disabilities By Disability 2012 American Community Survey	
Disability	Total
Hearing	151,394
Vision	95,648
Cognitive	226,917
Ambulatory	316,089
Self-Care	116,644
Independent Living	215,041

**State of Maryland  
Individuals with Disabilities  
By Type of Disability**



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# Special Thank You

**Special thanks to the following individuals and organizations for providing information, photographs and other assistance with the 2013 MDOD Annual Report.**

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The Arc Baltimore  
Benedictine  
Eastern Shore Business Leadership Network  
Edinboro University  
The Freedom Center  
IMAGE Center of Maryland  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council  
Maryland Transit Administration  
SEEC  
Way Station  
Wicomico County Board of Education

Featured on the front cover (from lower left): Nicholas Logan (SEEC), Marisa Burnett (Benedictine), James Crumpler (MSTC) and Damian Jackson (Project SEARCH).

Featured on back cover (from lower left): Amy Lydanne (SEEC), Dale Cross (MDTAP), Ella Nieberding (MSTC) and individuals from Benedictine.

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