

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

CESAR Launches Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL) Beta Website

Service providers and the general public now have an easy-to-use tool to locate criminal justice and social service programs and resources within Maryland—the Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL). The interactive MDCSL website (<http://www.mdcsl.org>) allows users to quickly find detailed resource listings, including maps and directions to program sites, for a variety of community services. The current beta MDCSL website includes listings of 1) substance abuse treatment services; 2) Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous referral centers; 3) buprenorphine providers; and 4) housing services (such as drop-in centers and shelters), all of which can be searched by proximity to a given address.

In the future, the MDCSL's program service listings will be expanded to include other community services, including:

- abuse/domestic violence services (e.g., shelters, counseling)
- after school programs
- child care services
- victims' services
- health/mental health services (e.g., hospitals, clinics, health departments, counseling)
- parole/probation offices
- education/job readiness programs

In addition, the search criteria will be expanded to include such options as locating programs by population served (e.g., female only, youth, homeless, developmentally disabled) or that have specific program characteristics, such as on-site child care, public transportation accessibility, or bilingual services.

While the goal in creating this site is to help Maryland residents and service providers easily access local programs and resources, an additional benefit is that it can serve as a model for other states interested in implementing a similar service. To that end, we invite feedback not only from potential users of the site from Maryland, but also questions and feedback from interested persons in other states. Additionally, if your state has developed a similar website, we are interested in receiving information on those sites and lessons learned during development and implementation. Please send your inquiries and comments to mdcsl@cesar.umd.edu.

NOTES: The MDCSL was developed by CESAR with funding from the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention. This website is a beta version and is currently under development.

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