In 2000, recidivism in Maryland peaked at more than 50 percent. When we took office in 2007, we set a goal to drive down Maryland’s recidivism rate and keep more ex-offenders with their families and in jobs rather than behind bars. Tools such as the MDCSL are essential to these efforts by enabling offenders to create post-release plans that will work for them and their families before they ever leave prison.”

~Governor Martin O’Malley

The database is thorough enough to provide even newcomers to the area with enough information to make appropriate referrals for their clients, while being user-friendly enough for clients to use themselves.”

~Systems Navigator, Charles County Family Resource Center

“ It is incredibly useful to have a central location where providers can access [resources] electronically, and search for things based on criteria. I have made MDCSL training a mandatory part of my orientation process, so that each of my case managers can competently use the site.”

~Community Support Supervisor, QCI Behavioral Health

What Is the Community Services Locator (CSL)?

The Community Services Locator is an online directory of community resources and services that can be used by professionals from community supervision agencies, reentry organizations, treatment centers, and other health and social service organizations to help their clients access local programs and resources.

What Makes the CSL Different?

Centralized: Programs from numerous agencies, including criminal justice, social service, and health, are available in one searchable online database.

Comprehensive: Many program details are included, allowing users to search for programs by the type of services provided, population served, payment options, and other criteria, such as accessibility to public transportation. This means referrals can be tailored to meet individual needs. Links to other resource information, such as hotlines, public transportation, community service directories, and local events, can also be included.

Current: Entries are updated and verified regularly.

Practical: Users can search, map, and obtain driving directions for resources by location and distance from any specified address, potentially improving program attendance and retention.

User-Friendly: The CSL’s user-friendly search interface allows it to be utilized by a broad audience—including those with limited computer experience.

Adaptable: The CSL can easily be adapted into a secure version (Inmate Community Services Locator) for use within correctional facilities, providing the same functionality to inmates while meeting strict security standards.

Launch Your Own Community Services Locator

The Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) at the University of Maryland, College Park offers assistance with all the tasks required to build and maintain a Community Services Locator.

- Technical development of the website
- Website maintenance
- Development of resource database

We will work with you to determine how to customize the locator to best meet your needs. Contact Erin Artigiani at 301-405-9794 or eartigia@umd.edu for additional information.

Maryland’s Successful CSL

- In 2007, Maryland’s Community Services Locator (MDCSL, www.mdcsl.org) was created by CESAR with funding from the Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention. It successfully links people to nearly 9,000 criminal justice, health, and social service programs.

- The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services provides access to a special secure version of the MDCSL (www.mdcsl-dpscs.org) inside 21 correctional facilities, allowing Maryland inmates to search for community resources prior to their release.

- MDCSL users say that they find this tool indispensable in helping them effectively serve their clients, particularly in providing individualized referrals that meet the specific needs of each client.

Sample search results from www.mdcsl.org.
Searching a CSL

User Friendly
Find Services in Three Easy Steps

STEP 1: Enter a location.
- Search by address, city/state or zip code:
  - Address or Intersection:
  - City or Town:
  - State:
  - Zip Code:
  - Show results within miles
  - Limit results to within county?

STEP 2: Check the one box that best describes the service for which you are looking. You can perform a more detailed search for specific types of programs by selecting Advanced Search.

STEP 3: Find Locations or Clear Form

Comprehensive
Tailored Referrals to Meet Individual Needs

Optional Advanced Search for Housing Programs
- Checking the boxes below will narrow your search and produce fewer results. Your search will only provide results for programs that meet all checked criteria. If you cannot find the program for which you are searching or want to expand your search results, try unchecking some of the boxes.

- Housing Programs (Check as applicable):
  - Drop-in Center
  - Emergency/Overnight Shelter
  - Transitional Housing
  - Supportive Permanent Housing
  - Inclement Weather Shelter

- Population Served (Check as applicable):
  - Females Only
  - Males Only
  - Children/Youth
  - Adults
  - Families
  - Women and Children
  - Women with Adolescent Males
  - Men with Children
  - Homeless
  - Clients with HIV/AIDS
  - Clients with Mental Illness
  - Clients with Substance Abuse Issues
  - Clients with Dual Diagnosis
  - Clients with Disabilities
  - Ex-Offenders
  - Sex Offenders

- Payment Options (Check as applicable):
  - No Fee
  - Sliding Scale
  - Medicaid
  - MD Medical Assistance (i.e., MfHSP)
  - Medicare
  - Private Insurance

- Special Services (Check as applicable):
  - LGBT Programs
  - Veterans Programs
  - Programs for Immigrants
  - Multi-lingual Services
  - On-site Child Care
  - Public Transportation Accessible
  - Disabled Accessible

Practical
Map Resources by Location and Distance

Sample Search Results
Detailed Information Provided for Each Listing

Other Features
Manage Listings and Find Additional Resources

Manage a Listing
- Add a Listing
- Update a Listing
- Confirm a Listing

Resource Info
- Resource Links
- Directories
- Resource Events
- Hotlines
- Transportation Links

The images above are examples from the Maryland Community Services Locator (www.mdcsl.org). Other locators may have different agencies and options listed based on the resources available in each locality.