



Prince George's County Department of Social Services Health, Human Services, Public Safety Committee Briefing

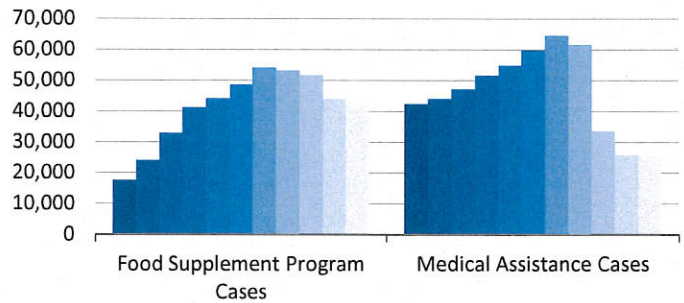
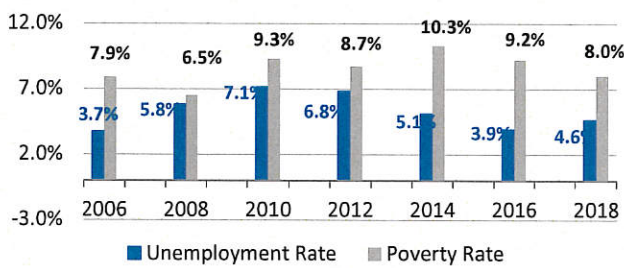
Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

Our Community

Our Mission

Prince George's County Department of Social Services' mission is to create opportunities for residents to become independent, responsible and stable members of the community by providing intervention services that strengthen families, protect children and vulnerable adults, while encouraging self-sufficiency and promoting personal responsibility.

Relationship between Economic Conditions and the Department of Social Services



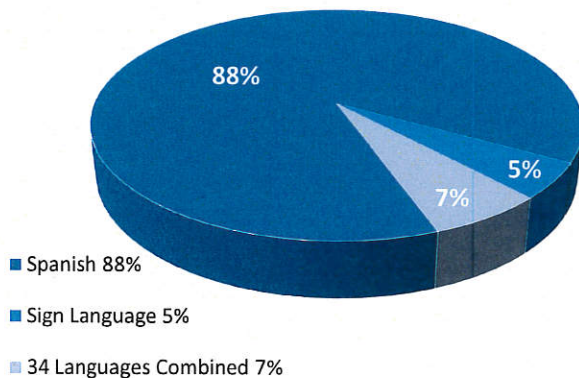
Multi-Cultural Community

County Population 912,756*	
Race & Ethnicity*	
Black	64.6%
White	26.8%
Asian	4.6%
Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, American Indian, Alaska Native, 2+ Races	4.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin	18.5%

Residents Below Poverty Level 8.6%*	
Age*	
Under 18 years of age	22.2%
Under 5 years of age	6.5%
18 – 64 years of age	65.0%
65 years and over	12.8%

*USA Census Bureau Quick Facts Prince George's County as of July 1, 2017 from the American Community Survey Estimate

Translation Requests



Agency Priorities

1. Simplify service access with timely, accurate and quality interactions to all community stakeholders.
2. Lead the shift in the public's focus to intervention and prevention services for youth at risk of experiencing homelessness or entering the child welfare system.
3. Improve and expand access to home and community-based services for older adults.
4. Support efforts to build county residents' awareness and education about specific family violence and human trafficking issues.
5. Increasingly, provide quality LGBTQ affirming services and practices.

Services to Benefit Children

Prevention & Intervention Services

Child Protection Services Responses

Child Protective Services (CPS) is a federally mandated service responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of children and families in the community through the receipt and investigation of allegations of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and mental injury of children under the age of 18 years. Access to services is provided on a 24/7 basis, with an after-hours coverage hotline number and staff.

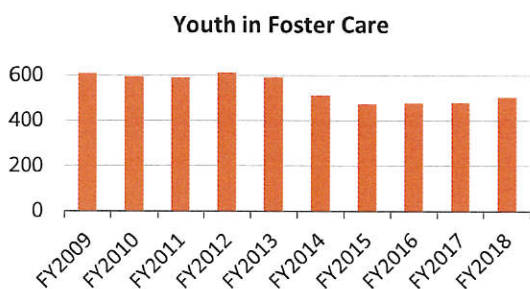
Family Preservation

Family Preservation Services are based upon a philosophy that emphasizes respect for the family's strengths and diversity. This is intensive home-based service designed to meet the specific needs of individual families whose children are at imminent or high risk of an out-of-home placement as a result of abuse or neglect. The primary goals are as follows: to enhance the parent's ability to create a safe, stable and nurturing home environment that promotes healthy child development; to prevent out-of-home placement where safety can be promoted; and to provide, refer to, and coordinate services needed to achieve or maintain safety, stability, independence, and unity for the family.

TNI@School

The partnership between the Office of the County Executive, PGCPSS and DSS to implement the Community Resource Advocate program (CRA) serving as the centerpiece program of the larger Prince George's Community Schools Network (formerly referred to as TNI@Schools) with placement of a DSS staff person, referred to as a CRA, and a behavioral health provider in 40 schools located in high need schools within the County. This project targets at-risk youth based on needs related to attendance, academic performance, and a school progress index. The goal is to improve school performance by ensuring that at-risk students in identified schools are resilient, successful, and ready to learn. In school year 2018, the CRA Program provided services to 1,727 students and to date, in SY 2019, 885 have been served. Using strategic plans for each school, in addition to departmental services, The Community School Network has leveraged extensive community partnerships to serve just over 10,000 individuals since its inception.

Foster Care & Adoption

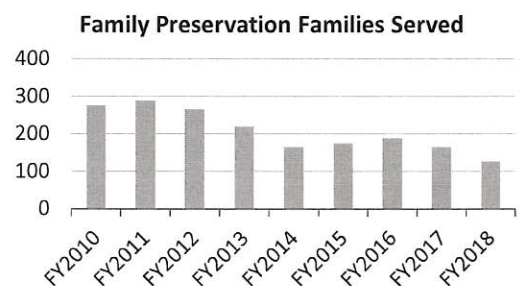
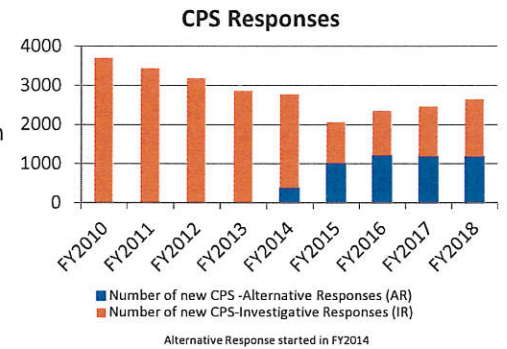


The Judiciary, Department of Social Services, and Department of Juvenile Services Youth Initiative Collaboration implemented the Crossover Youth Practice Model to provide better care for all children who are involved with social and juvenile services departments. Of the 152 youth served since inception, the Crossover Youth program has successfully diverted 55% of youth (83) from subsequent court involvement in FY2019. There has been a noticeable reduction in the number of child welfare youth arrested and significant increase in joint case planning between the systems for youth formally adjudicated.

Out of Home Placement

Foster Care and Adoption provides short-term care and supportive services to children who are unable to live at home due to child abuse and neglect. Children are placed in family foster homes, kinship care, or, congregate care. In order to connect children with their families, the Department utilizes Family Finding Services to locate relatives of children in foster care. The objective is to identify family and facilitate a child's return to their parent or relative. When these efforts fail, parents' rights are either terminated or guardianship arrangements are pursued.

Crossover Youth Initiative



AFFIRM

The Department is in the second year of the QIC-LGBTQ2S grant that is designed to improve placement stability, well-being, and permanency for children and youth in foster care with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and expression (SOGIE). The All Children - All Families (ACAF) Cultural Competency Training and the AFFIRM Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Model, have been implemented and are expected to enhance staff, caregiver, and provider knowledge, skills, and competency in providing safe, affirming, and supportive environments for LGBTQ youth in foster care. To date, 275 staff and community partners have received the ACAF foundation-level training, and 83 staff have participated in higher-level training. Ten (10) staff have been trained to facilitate the ACAF training and three (3) staff have been trained to facilitate the AFFIRM program. The project has received 15 youth referrals to participate in the program. The AFFIRM staff are also leaders in the statewide training efforts and serve as master trainers.

Mitigating Poor Outcomes for Former and Aging-out Foster Youth

Youth Experiencing Success: Improving services to mitigate poor outcomes for former foster youth is a priority for the Department. A new initiative, the Bridge to Y.E.S. (Youth Experiencing Success) Proclamation, is led by the Circuit Court in which they seeking to create a resource center for youth who have aged out of care. This governmental and community-based collaboration is working toward developing an innovative program/service model that has drop-in and residential-based services. The primary focus of this initiative is to build a center that will assist youth who have exited foster care with a comprehensive array of services addressing youth health and wellbeing, education, employment, housing, legal issues, and transportation, as well as identifying ways to assist youth in establishing permanent connections with other adults and youth who have aged out.



Ready by 21: Transitional Youth Planning and Independent Living Services are provided for youth who are in the custody of the agency, transitional planning and independent living preparation are a part of the youth service plan beginning at age 14. Transition services are provided to ensure that all youth make a successful transition from foster care to living independently. Focus is on education and on helping youth develop a network of supportive adults to assist them in the future.

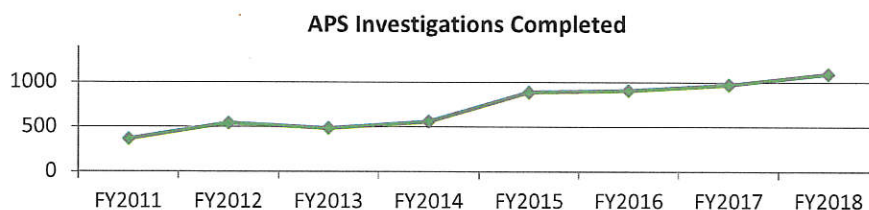
Promise Place

Promise Place is an emergency youth shelter that provides homeless, abandoned, abused, neglected and runaway youth a safe place to stay as alternative to the streets and/or unstable housing. Operated in partnership with Sasha Bruce, Inc., Promise Place is open 24 hours a day and serves up to 20 youth at one time. By providing a safe place to stay and intensive counseling services, Promise Place helps most youth reunite with their families and works to return all young people to stable and safe environments. On-site services include crisis intervention; individual, group, and family counseling; case management, support for shelter graduates, and temporary respite care. From FY2015 to FY2019, 185 youth and young adults were served in Promise Place.

Services to Protect Vulnerable Adults

Adult Protective Services

This is a mandated service which serves vulnerable adults age 18 and over. The purpose of the program is to investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation of adults who are unable to protect their own interest and are at risk of harm. The program provides continuing case management services to protect the health, safety, and welfare of vulnerable adults.



Adult Public Guardianship Program

Adult public guardianship occurs when adults who are determined to be legally incompetent between the ages of 18 and 64 are appointed a legal guardian by the courts. If they have no concerned individual willing to assume guardianship, the Director of the Department of Social Services is appointed as guardian and the Department assumes responsibility to ensure the ward's well-being.

In-Home Aide Services

This service provides assistance with personal care, chores, and/or activities of daily living for clients who either live alone or with their families. Clients include children, families with disabled adults and the elderly. Ongoing case management is provided as well.

Social Services to Adults

Social Services to Adults (SSTA): Assists and enables clients with the maintenance of self-sufficiency, economic self-support, and prevention of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Our services include assessments, the development of individualized service plans, services coordination and community linkages.

Adult Public Guardianship Review Board (APGRB)

The APGRB conducts a semi-annual review of guardianship cases held by public agencies on the first Tuesday of every month. The board is advisory to the court and makes recommendations to the court to continue, modify, or terminate a guardianship. The local department cooperates with the board in the review of guardianship cases. In all public guardianship cases, the client has been deemed incompetent by the court, and therefore requires someone to make decisions on their behalf. Most guardianship clients have various physical, developmental, and mental health diagnoses; however, the overall goal for each client is to have an opportunity to live to their fullest potential.



The Project Home

This program is a supportive housing program for persons with mental illness or other disabilities offering an adult foster family model of care that provides a stable, family-like living arrangement in the community. Project Home provides a more home-like and less costly alternative to nursing homes, psychiatric hospitals and other institutional settings. Residents living in our program are provided with opportunities for growth, stimulation and change in the least restrictive environment. Where appropriate, clients are encouraged to develop independent living skills. Case management services are offered to our residents linking each resident with

appropriate community activities and supports.

Senior Care Program

This service enables individuals 65 and older who are at risk in the community to receive gap filling services to enable them to remain in the community and avoid nursing home placement. Program gap-filing services include chore services, personal care, medical supplies, incontinent supplies, nutrition supplies, adult day care services, and emergency response system monitoring.

Respite Care

Adult Services - Respite Care is a supportive service to developmentally and functionally disabled adults. It is intended to provide short term, temporary relief to the primary caregiver of an individual with a persistent or chronic physical or emotional disability. The relief is typically in the form of home health care, day care, or assisted living, up to 164 hours per year.



Services to Stabilize the Household

Food Assistance

Emergency Food Assistance Program

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is administered by USDA. State agencies receive federal food commodities and supervise overall distribution. Annually, USDA provides funds to each state for the purchase of commodities, which includes meats, vegetables, fruits, juices, etc.

Farmers Market Program

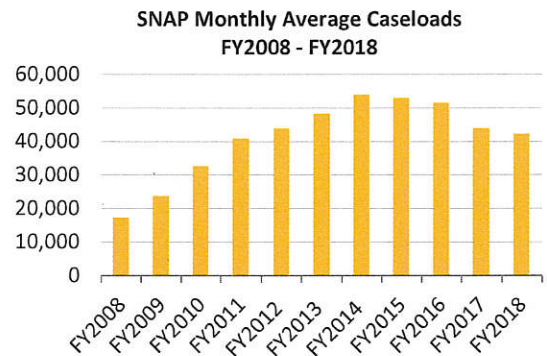
Leverages local and state resources with Federal benefits to support SNAP beneficiaries and expand their spending power, through for dollar matching, at local farmers markets. In addition, this program supports bringing healthy eating options to food deserts and sites where fresh foods are not readily available. This program expands the customer base for local farmers and contributes to the economic development of the community.

Mission: Nutrition

A program launched in August 2010, as a partnership between the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) and the Department of Social Services, to address the issue of hunger and poor nutrition within our community. The goal of the program is to provide fresh produce to underserved communities. Additional supportive partners include Prince George’s County Department of Corrections - Community Service Division and U. S. Army Recruiters and recruits.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

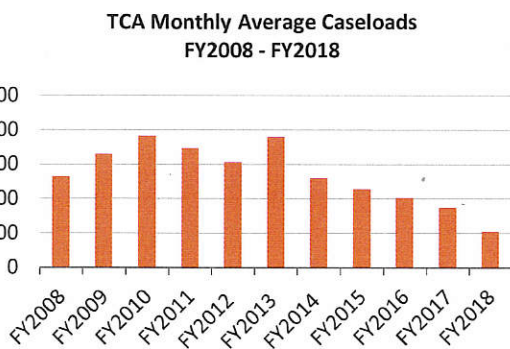
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the Federal Program for Maryland's Food Supplement Program, SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. The Food Supplement Program (FSP) formerly known as Food Stamps helps low-income households buy the food they need for good health. Everyone has the right to apply for FSP. For many applicants, we do not look at assets or resources when determining eligibility for FSP.



Cash Assistance

Temporary Cash Assistance and Temporary Disability Assistance

Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) provides need-based supportive services to families with minor children; it has a requirement that all work mandatory applicants seek employment and be involved in work activities from the day they apply. The Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP) is available to help low-income, disabled Marylanders through a period of short-term disability or while they are awaiting approval of federal disability support.



Employment and Training Assistance

Prince George's Works is designed to help TCA and qualifying SNAP customers move towards self-sufficiency through employment. Customers are assessed and a personal work plan is developed for each adult customer to identify needs and establish a course of action to obtain self-sufficiency through employment.

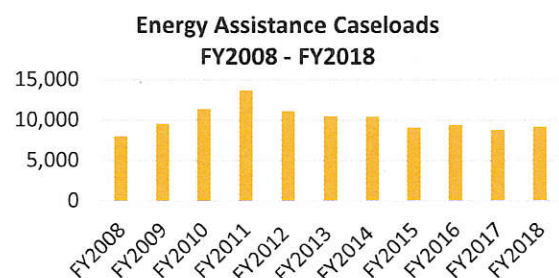
Emergency Assistance

Emergency Assistance to Families with Children

Emergency Assistance to Families with Children (EAFC) provides emergency cash assistance to families who need emergency help paying rent, utilities, or other emergency bills. Customers may only receive one grant within a 24-month period. Each family situation is assessed to determine the type of emergency help needed. Families must have one or more children under 21 and living with them.

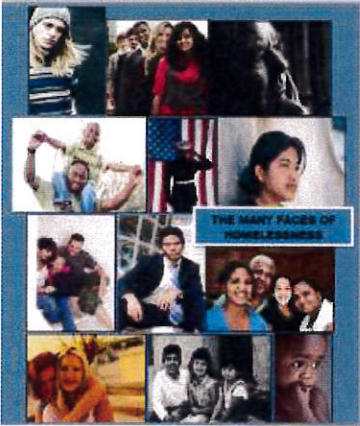
Energy Assistance

Social Services helps residents who meet eligibility criteria pay their utility bills, minimize heating crises, and make energy costs more affordable.



Homeless & Eviction Prevention Services

Homeless Services



Prince George’s County is committed to preventing and eliminating homelessness whenever and wherever possible and ensuring that when homelessness does occur, those episodes are rare, brief and non-recurring. The Department and Continuum of Care operates shelters for families, women and children, men, and unaccompanied youth who are homeless.

Warm Nights Hypothermia Shelter Program

The County operates a continuous overnight hypothermia shelter program from the second week of November through the middle of April each year (7 p.m. - 7 a.m.) in partnership with CCSI, Inc. and a network of Faith-Based Entities. Known as “Warm Nights”, this program is accessed through the County’s homeless hotline which is toll-free and answered 24/7/365. All providers are familiar with the plan and are provided with a schedule at the beginning of each cycle.

Mass Care & Emergency Response

The department, along with the American Red Cross and other county agencies, stand up and operate emergency shelter evacuees in the event of a man-made or natural disaster. The response is based on the emergency length and severity and includes case management and connection to eligible resources as needed.

Eviction Prevention and Rapid Re-housing

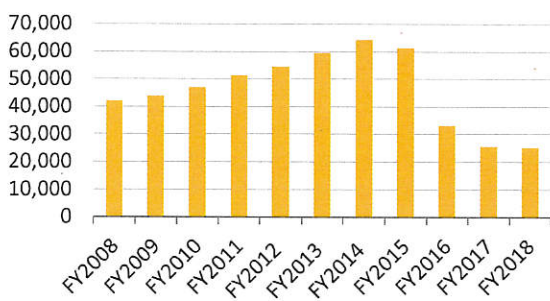
These interventions are designed to help individuals and families avoid eviction or quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is offered without preconditions — like employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety — and the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household. Similarly, eviction prevention has flexibility in eligibility however, the individual or family must be facing eviction.

Health Care

Prince George’s County Health Connect (PGCHC)

PGCHC is the administrator of Maryland’s health insurance marketplace, to provide enrollment assistance, education and outreach to Prince George’s County residents. The program is comprised of four primary partners: the Prince George’s Health Department, the Primary Care Coalition (PCC), Mary’s Center, and Healthcare Dynamics International (HCDI). The partner organizations utilize certified navigators to provide in-person assistance to help residents learn about, apply for and enroll in health insurance, including Medicaid (MA), Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP), and private insurers. Navigators and community health workers also educate residents on insurance usage. As of September 2018 the number of residents enrolled in Maryland Health Connection is approximately 201,000 individuals in Medicaid (includes applications and redeterminations) and over 23,000 individuals in QHP (includes new enrollments and renewals of current enrollment).

**Medicaid Monthly Average Caseloads
FY2008 - FY2018**

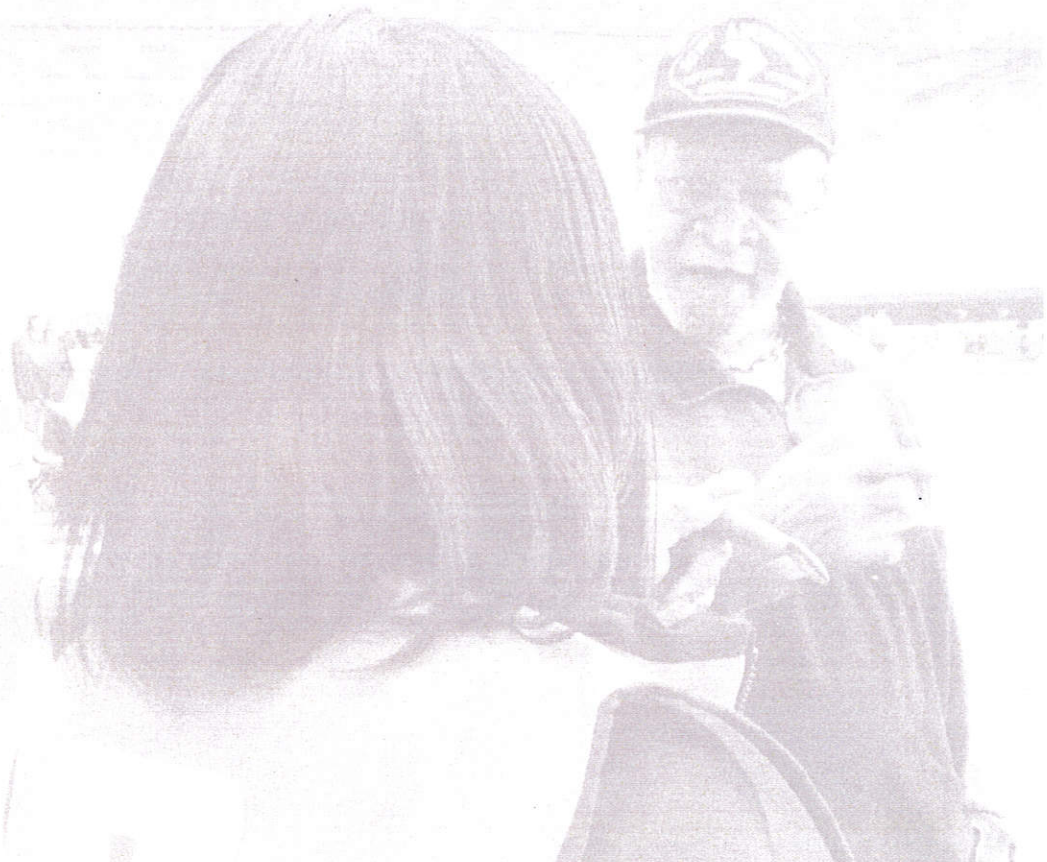
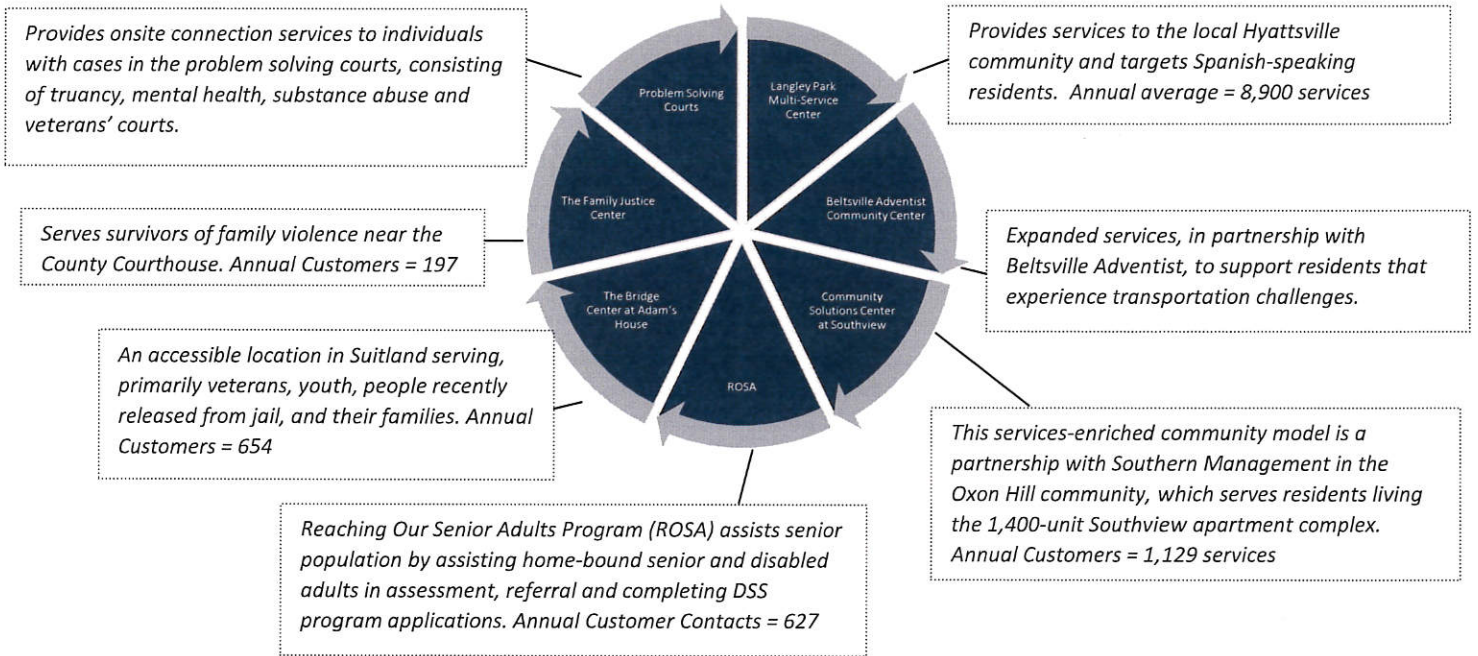


Medicaid

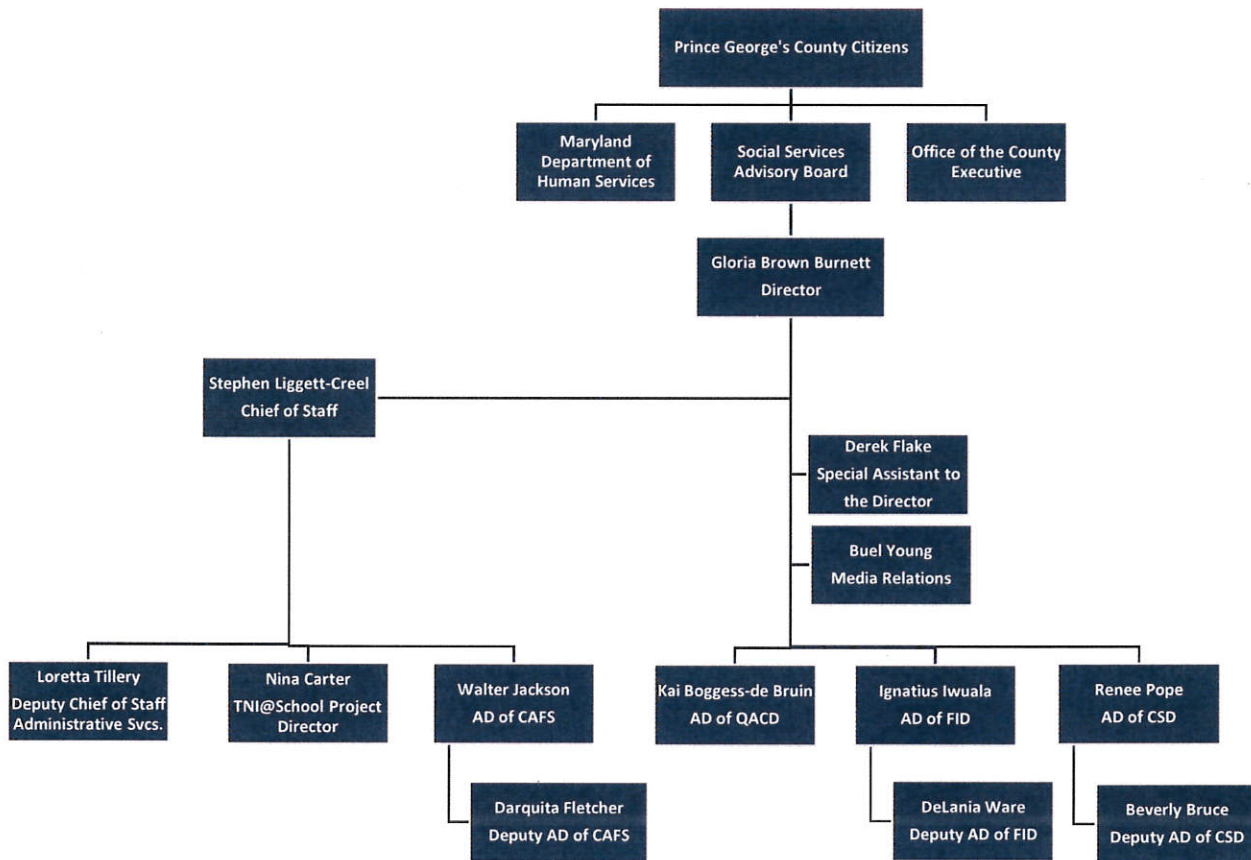
Medicaid is a program that pays the medical bills of certain low-income individuals. Administered by the State, it pays medical bills with Federal and State funds. While the vast majority of Medicaid applications are handled through the Maryland Health Connection, the Department remains responsible for eligibility and management of special populations such as individuals 65 or older; Medicare recipients irrespective of age; children in foster care and juvenile justice systems, Long-Term Care recipients; emergency services for ineligible aliens; and SSI recipients.

Community-based Services Model

The Department has collaborated with governmental and community partners to create community-based service centers and one-stop shops throughout the County. In addition to the five (5) sites below, there are currently staff strategically located in 15 other community locations and the Problem Solving Courts throughout the County.



Leadership Team



Key

- Child, Adult & Family Services Division (CAFS)
- Quality Assurance & Compliance Division (QACD)
- Family Investment Division (FID)
- Community Service Division (CSD)
- Assistant Director (AD)
- *Community Schools Network Project – Formerly TNI@School

