

# Maryland Developmental Disabilities Community Services Waiting List **FACT SHEET<sup>1</sup>**

- In June 2009, the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) reported over 19,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities, such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and autism, were waiting for DDA-funded community services. DDA is the primary state agency that funds community services and supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Community services include: family support & respite, employment programs, residential services and other individualized supports that assist adults with significant disabilities with all aspects of daily living and help families care for their children at home.
- People on DDA's Waiting List are placed in priority categories based on how critical their needs are. Inadequate funding has resulted in even people in the highest priority category, Crisis Resolution, waiting many years for essential services.
- DDA has begun a process to ensure that Waiting List information is accurate, including the number of people waiting, the services they need, and their priority of need. As a result, the number of people waiting will decrease but thousands of people and their families will continue to be in critical need of services.<sup>2</sup>
- 94% of people on the Waiting List said they need at least one service now.
- Thousands of families have already waited well over a decade for needed services and supports, and many caregivers are elderly. Families worry how much longer they can hold on.
- Every county in Maryland has people waiting for DDA community services.
- The number of people on the Community Services Waiting List has grown 96% between January 2004 and June 2009.
- From FY 2003 - FY 2010, there has been no substantial new funding for people on the DDA Community Services Waiting List, with the exception of funding for transitioning youth. As a result, the Waiting List has grown from 8,000 to over 19,000 children and adults.
- Maryland is the wealthiest state in the nation yet ranks 43rd in terms of state spending on developmental disability services. Only eight states rank lower: Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Nevada, Texas and Virginia. Maryland devotes 21% less resources for community services than the average state.<sup>3</sup>

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**MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION**  
September 2009

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<sup>1</sup> Developmental Disabilities Administration, June 2009 data.

<sup>2</sup> Until this process is complete and DDA can ensure accuracy, we report June 2009 data here.

<sup>3</sup> David Braddock, PhD, Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities, University of Colorado, 2008.