

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission Community Living (CL) Services

The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) Community Living Division is comprised of a variety of programs, supports, and services that address the diverse needs of adults and transition age youth with disabilities in order to promote their independence, self-sufficiency and participation in the community. The following describes programs and services that are provided by the MRC Community Living Division. Please call the listed numbers for more info.

BRAIN INJURY & STATEWIDE SPECIALIZED COMMUNITY SERVICES

- **Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP)** – provides a range of services for people with traumatic brain injury. This includes individual supports for community living, regional service centers, residential supports, case management, recreation programs, substance abuse services, technical assistance and consultation. For further information, call (617) 204-3852.
- **Nursing Home Initiative** – serves people with developmental disabilities (not eligible for Department of Developmental Services) who are in nursing homes and want to move out. This is in accordance with the Rolland Class settlement. For further information, call (617) 204-3852.
- **Transition for Youth with Disabilities** – coordinates MRC's Chapter 688 activities for youth with disabilities who are transitioning out of special education into the adult world of community life and employment. For further information, call (617) 204-3852.

INDEPENDENT LIVING & ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission contracts with eleven **Independent Living Centers (ILCs)** across the state, serving people of all ages regardless of the type of disability. At least 51% of the board and staff of ILCs are persons with disabilities. ILCs provide Peer Counseling, Skills Training, Information and Referral, Advocacy, Community Services and more. For further information call (617) 204-3851.
- **The Adult Supported Living Program** - The Adult Supported Living Program provides case coordination services to individuals with a physical disability and an additional secondary disability to assist in managing and organizing their day-to-day life, including PCA management. For further information call (617) 204-3851.
- **Turning 22** – The Turning 22 Program provides transition services for young people who have a severe physical disability with mobility impairment and need support services after graduating high school or turning 22. The program is based on the independent living philosophy that consumers are empowered to make their own decisions about their lives based on informed choice. The T22 program works closely with staff of special education departments to coordinate services for students who will be graduating and needing MRC's supported living services. For further information call (617) 204-3851.

- **Assistive Technology – Independent Living Program (AT-IL)** – The AT-IL program provides Assistive Technology devices and services to individuals with severe disabilities so that they may maximize control over their environment and achieve self-determined goals. The program provides assessments, purchase and set-up of equipment, training and follow-up. For further information please call (617) 204-3851.
- **Home Modification Loan Program** – This program provides loans to modify the primary, permanent residence of elders, adults with disabilities and families with children with disabilities, in order to improve accessibility and safety for individuals with disabilities or to allow individuals with disabilities to live more independently in the community. For further information please call (617) 204-3851.
- **The Community Based Housing Program** – This program provides capital funding for the development of integrated housing for people with disabilities, with priority for individuals who are in institutions or at risk of institutionalization. For further information please call (617) 204-3851.
- Mandated by federal law, **The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)** provides input to MRC and the Commission for the Blind regarding independent living services in Massachusetts. This Council maintains a membership of at least 51% consumers of Independent Living (IL) services. For further information regarding SILC, please call (617) 204-3851.
- The **MassMATCH** program, one of 56 state-level Assistive Technology (AT) initiatives in the United States, promotes the use of AT services to enhance the independence of people with disabilities. This is done through Assistive Technology Regional Centers, an AT Loan program, an on-line AT swap service (www.GetATStuff.com), and many other activities. For further information please call (617) 204-3851.

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY (ABI) WAIVER PROGRAMS

- The **Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver** programs are designed to transition and support individuals with ABI from nursing facilities and other long-stay hospital settings into community placements. There are two federally regulated ABI Waiver programs: the ABI Residential Habilitation (ABI-RH) Waiver – for individuals who need supervision and staffing 24 hours a day, seven days a week in a provider-operated residence; and the ABI Non-Residential Habilitation (ABI-N) Waiver – for individuals who can move to their own home or apartment or to the home of someone else. Through these waiver programs, individuals can receive 24/7 residential supports or non-residential supports that enable them to move to their own home or to the home of family or someone else of their choosing.

As of 2015, MRC is responsible for the operation, oversight and monitoring of the ABI Non-Residential Waiver (ABI-N) program in Massachusetts. Staff of the MRC Community Living Division Waiver Unit oversee case management activities and a service provider network to insure that ABI-N Waiver participants remain healthy and safe while receiving person-centered and high quality services. In addition, the MRC also oversees the waiver eligibility process and provider network credentialing conducted by the University of Massachusetts Medical School. For more information the ABI-N program, please call (617) 204-3747.

MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON DEMONSTRATION PROJECT/WAIVER SERVICES

- The **Money Follows the Person (MFP)** project is a five-year, federal Medicaid Demonstration Program designed to support elders and individuals with disabilities ages eighteen and older to successfully transition from institutional facilities to their own homes or other community settings. MRC is the state's designated operating agency for the MFP Demonstration Program and Home and Community Based Waivers, which will allow the Commonwealth to offer an expanded array of Medicaid funded community services to MFP participants. For further information, please call (617) 204-3827.

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(617) 204-3600; (800) 245-6543; TTY 1-(617) 204-3863

HOME CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The **Home Care Assistance Program (HCAP)** provides homemaking assistance, such as assistance with grocery shopping, meal preparation, housecleaning, and laundry, to adults with disabilities whose ability to continue living in the community is at risk without such assistance. Individuals must be between the ages of 18 and 59, living alone or with others who are also unable to perform tasks, have a medically documented disability or functional limitation, and meet financial criteria. For more information, call (617) 204-3853 or (800) 223-2559.

CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

The primary mission of the **Consumer Involvement Program** is to improve the MRC's services by soliciting input from current or former MRC consumers, their representatives, providers of services, employers and others active in the field of vocational rehabilitation and independent living, and by working cooperatively with members of the disability community and MRC stakeholders. For further information, call (617) 204-3665.

- The **State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)** is mandated by federal law and is charged with reviewing, analyzing and advising the MRC. The SRC meets with the MRC Commissioner and members of his staff a minimum of five times per year. Standing committees handle high priority issues and are directed by the full Council. Members are appointed by the Governor and include consumers, employers, providers, other state agency representatives, and ex-officio members.
- The **Consumer Involvement Program** facilitates an engaged public forum in MRC's three Vocational Rehabilitation Districts through the **District Consumer Advocacy Councils (DCAC)** for the purpose of improving disability policies and programs through community advocacy. Members of the DCAC meet quarterly to share new resources and opportunities, engage with community and program representatives, and collaborate in areas such as transportation, housing, education and health care.
- **Individual Consumer Consultant (ICC)** – The MRC Consumer Involvement Program maintains a statewide registry of available and qualified persons with disabilities to work as Individual Consumer Consultants (ICCs) providing consumer input in the development of agency programs, policies, regulations and practices.
- The **Annual Consumer Conference** is held each year for the purpose of information sharing, strategy setting, networking and creative plenary sessions geared to enrich the partnership between sister agencies in the State Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Representatives from the Sister agencies advisory councils, and the State Independent Living Council take an active part in planning and developing the agenda for this conference. For more information please call (617) 204-3665.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

- Under the authority and oversight of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission and per M.G.L. chapter 19c, the **Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission Protective Services Program** conducts civil investigations of allegations of abuse such as acts of physical, sexual, emotional, verbal abuse and omission by a caregiver of a person with a physical disability between the ages of 18 and 59. Protective services are provided when it is determined that the abused individual was seriously injured as a result of an act and/or omission by the caregiver. Protective Services offered to the abused individual are voluntary and short term, and are targeted to maintain the safety and independence of the individual.
- **To file a report of abuse to a person with a disability, the Disabled Persons Protection Commission Hotline can be contacted, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (800) 426-9009.**