
People with Special Needs

COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED (CDHI)

Program Description:

The Commission provides advocacy, support and direct services to deaf and hearing impaired persons of all ages. Services include information and referral, sign language interpreting, personal, family and job counseling for the deaf or hard of hearing persons and their family members as well as consultation services and community programs.

Sign language interpreters are available to meet client communication needs for a variety of venues including but not limited to doctor appointments, meetings with attorneys, or financial transactions. Routine requests for interpreting services must be made through the service provider at least seven working days in advance.

The commission maintains a statewide registration for all sign language interpreters working in the State of Connecticut.

Eligibility Requirements:

To qualify, the consumer must be deaf or hard of hearing, be a close family member of a deaf or hard of hearing person, or be someone who encounters deaf persons in the course of his/her work. No fees are charged to any deaf or hard of hearing Connecticut resident for counseling or job placement services. Fees for interpreting services are charged to the requesting entity.

For More Information Contact:

COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED

1245 Farmington Ave.

West Hartford, CT 06107-2667

Phone: (860) 566-7414 (Voice and TDD) Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Emergency Phone/TDD: (860) 242-7698

FAX: (860) 561-0162

Website: WWW.STATE.CT.US/CDHI/INDEX.HTM

E-mail: CDHI@PO.STATE.CT.US

CDHI's second floor offices and consultation room are accessible by elevator. Staff members are fluent in sign language.

Emergency Interpreting Services are available 24 hours a day.

1-800-708-6796 from 8:30-5:00, Monday through Friday or
(860) 242-7698 on weekends and after 4:30 pm weekdays.

CONNECTICUT BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

Program Description:

The State of Connecticut, Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) provides statewide comprehensive, community-based programs through a continuum of individualized educational, rehabilitation and social services programs to adults who are legally blind and to children who are legally blind or visually impaired. The agency works with individuals and families to assist them in acquiring the life skills and support services necessary to function with independence in their homes, community, social avocational and vocational environments. Services include;

- Counseling and referral
- broad educational services
- legal benefits - certificates of legal blindness (property/handicapped parking)
- mobility instruction
- rehabilitation teaching
- supplementary relief
- low vision services/low vision centers
- vocational rehabilitation (occupational instruction)
- rehabilitation engineering/computer instruction (braille, large print, speech)
- industries and sales
- vending facilities
- preventive eye care
- public relations/education
- assisting in establishing support groups
- arranging for volunteers
- Connecticut Radio Information Service
- Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (talking book program).

Eligibility Requirements:

To qualify, the person must be legally blind according to State Statute 10-305 or a visually impaired child (birth through 21 years).

For More Information Contact:

Board of Education and Services for the Blind
184 Windsor Avenue
Windsor, CT 06095
Phone: (860) 602-4000 or 1(800) 842-4510
TDD: (860) 602-4002

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES (DMHAS)

Program Description: Office of Behavioral Health

The Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) offers hospital and community programs for older citizens. Inpatient psychiatric hospitalization is available at Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown, Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven, Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center in Bridgeport, and Cedarcrest Hospital in Newington.

Eligibility Requirements:

Community support and outpatient services include various therapies, medication, assistance in obtaining housing, performing skills of daily living and psychosocial programs. There are many community based programs throughout the State.

To qualify for DMHAS services, a person must:

1. have a severe and persistent mental illness
2. be at risk of hospitalization
3. have no medical insurance benefits, or
4. be 18 years of age or older



For More Information:

Services are provided according to catchment areas. For further information, contact one of the Behavioral Health Specialists or Jennifer Glick (860) 418-6643 at the DMHAS Office of the Commissioner.

DMHAS Office of the Commissioner

410 Capitol Avenue

MS #14COM

P.O. Box 341431

Hartford, CT 06134

Phone:(860)418-7000

Toll-free in CT: (800) 446-7348

Website: www.dmhas.ct.us

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES (DMHAS)

Program Description: Addiction Services Division

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, (DMHAS) is concerned with the behavioral health of senior citizens from a prevention, intervention and treatment perspective. This program's purpose is to assure that senior specific service is available in order to respond to the mental health and substance abuse needs of infected and affected individuals. DMHAS coordinates efforts to offer accessible and appropriate treatment both in traditional settings, as well as in their own homes.

Services available are a statewide array of substance abuse intervention and treatment programs from detoxification to long-term residential care. There is also a senior outreach worker in each of the five regions of the state that provide prevention through education, support and treatment. The outreach workers are available for consultation and will come to the person in need or to the service agency without charge. They will assist in assessments, interventions and referrals.

DMHAS is dedicated to search out new and meaningful approaches in behavioral health to assist seniors in a more effective and understanding way. DMHAS offers training to providers, prescription consultations, and outreach to nursing homes and senior centers. DMHAS has initiated a senior support group that meets weekly via telephone conference calling, preserving the anonymity and dignity of the individual.

Eligibility Requirements:

To qualify, the person must be 60 or older.

For More Information Contact:

James M. Donagher
Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services
410 Capitol Ave., MS #14 SSO
Box 341431
Hartford, CT 06134
Phone: (860) 418-6830
Fax: (860) 418-6792
Website: www.dmhas.state.ct.us
Email: james.donagher@po.state.ct.us

OFFICE OF PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Program Description:

The Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities was established in 1977 to promote the rights of children and adults with disabilities. The Office:

- Provides information on disability rights and services
- advocates for people with disabilities who have been discriminated against or who are experiencing difficulty securing relevant supports and services
- provides legal assistance within existing resources
- investigates complaints of abuse and neglect of adults with mental retardation and psychiatric disabilities
- provides training and technical assistance and
- supports the development of community advocacy groups.

Eligibility Requirements:

The Consumer Information and Referral Unit provides information and referral services to any caller. In order to receive advocacy services from the Office of Protection and Advocacy you must be a person with a disability.

For More Information Contact:

Consumer Information Unit
Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities
60 B Weston Street
Hartford, CT 06120-1551
Phone: (860) 297-4300
TDD: (860) 566-2102
Toll free: 1-800-842-7303
Fax: (860) 566-8714
Email: ctopapd@connix.com
Website: www.state.ct.us/opapd