
GRANDPARENT FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Description of Services

The University of Maryland Schools of Social Work has collaborated with the Baltimore community to reach out to vulnerable families, including grandparent – headed households, who have difficulty meeting their children's basic needs. We have now expanded our services to reach out to all of Baltimore City. Highlights of the available services include one or more of the following:

- **Community-based outreach** – Our program offices are at 1701 Madison Avenue. We work to effectively engage families and meet families when and where it works for them. This may include clients' homes, clinic waiting rooms, children's schools, church basements, front stoops, or our offices.
- **Family-focused, strengths based services** - We work with families as they define their own network. We help them to identify and build on their strengths to meet the needs of their families and children. We work with individual children and adults, dyads (parent-child, mates, sibling pairs), families, and groups.
- **Individualized services** - We conduct comprehensive assessments and develop intervention plans to help families meet their unique needs. Some of the problems that may need to be addressed include: lack of food, clothing, and housing; the need for employment and employment training; issues related to caregiver's and child's mental health and exposure to domestic violence; the need for parent education and support; child's school behaviors and performance; access to health care and the care of acute and chronic illness; legal issues; and child behavior in the home and community;
- **Service coordination** – We work with and on behalf of our families to enable them to access services from a wide variety of community providers. Further, we carefully coordinate those services to prevent duplication and to insure that identified needs are being met; and/or
- **Information & Referral** – We provide a brief assessment to determine families' needs and provide referrals to appropriate community resources.



University of Maryland School of Social Work

1701 Madison Avenue

Baltimore, Maryland 21217

Program Office Phone: 410-706-8716

Referrals: 410-706-3672

www.family.umaryland.edu

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REFERRAL CRITERIA

All of these criteria must be met:

- The family lives in Baltimore City
- OR
- Child attends a school in Baltimore City
 - There is a child between 5 and 14 year of age living in the household.
 - The child has lived with the primary caregiver for at least six months and is expected to remain with the primary caregiver. The primary caregiver is a grand-parent. Family Connections also works with biological parents, step-parents or a relative.
 - The family is not currently working with Child Protective Services
 - The family is willing to participate in family services.



At least one of the following basic needs are at risk of not being met:

- Inadequate/delayed health care
- Inadequate nutrition
- Poor personal hygiene
- Inadequate clothing
- Unsanitary household conditions
- Unsafe household conditions
- Unstable living conditions
- Shuttling
- Inadequate supervision
- Inappropriate substitute caregiver
- Inadequate nurturing
- Isolating
- Witnessing violence
- Permitting drug/alcohol use
- Permitting other maladaptive behavior
- Delay in obtaining needed mental health care
- Chronic truancy
- Unmet special education needs

At least two of the following must be present:

Caregiver

- Employment
 - A. Over Employed
 - B. Newly Employed
 - C. Unemployed
- Mental health problem
- Alcohol or drug problem
- Serious health challenges

Child

- Behavior or mental health problem (e.g., ADHD, truancy, vandalism, depression)
- Physical disability
- Developmental disability (e.g., speech and language disorder, mental retardation)
- Learning disability
- Alcohol or drug problem

Family

- Homelessness
- Domestic Violence
- More than 3 children in the household