

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Maryland Community Services Locator (www.mdcs.org) to Expand Statewide

In FY09, CESAR will expand the Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL) website (www.mdcs.org) to include additional statewide services. Originally focused on Baltimore City, the MDCSL is an interactive online directory developed to assist professionals in making referrals for clients to community services. The MDCSL allows users to get organizational contact information and other details, map resources by location, and get instant directions to programs.

Since its launch in October 2007, the number of visitors to the MDCSL has increased each month, reaching more than 8,000 in July 2008 (see figure).

The MDCSL has been expanded to include more than 2,200 services and programs that are periodically verified by staff for accuracy. In addition to the resources included when the MDCSL first launched (e.g., substance abuse services, short-term housing), it now also includes listings for:

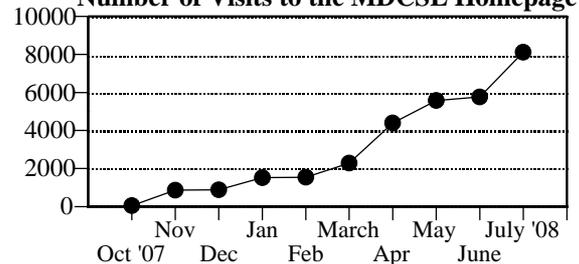
- disability services
- emergency food assistance
- family assistance programs
- health services
- HIV/AIDS resources
- job readiness/adult education services
- juvenile services offices
- mental health services
- needle exchange programs
- parole/probation offices
- primary/secondary public schools
- public internet access sites
- senior citizen resources
- substance abuse prevention
- victim services

We need your help to ensure that this public service remains a useful, comprehensive resource for Maryland residents. Please support the MDCSL project by:

- Emailing resource directories and databases to MDCSL staff (mdcs@cesar.umd.edu).
- Adding a listing for your program to the MDCSL website using our online tool.
- Visiting the website and sharing it with your clients and colleagues.
- Establishing a link to the MDCSL site on your organization's website.
- Placing an announcement or article about the website in program publications or newsletters.
- Ordering FREE promotional materials, such as posters and pamphlets, to distribute at your site (available online at www.mdcs.org/avjsc/csl_info.asp).

SOURCE: CESAR, The Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL). Funded by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention under grant number BJAG-2007-1265. For more information, or to share resource information, please contact Amy Billing at 301-405-9796 or mdcs@cesar.umd.edu.

Number of Visits to the MDCSL Homepage



Interested in Establishing a Community Services Locator in Your County or State?

CESAR can share lessons learned during the development and implementation of the MDCSL, provide consultant services, or manage the development of your program. Please send inquiries to mdcs@cesar.umd.edu.