

**DDA’s Waiting List**

December 2014

Over 8,000 people are waiting for DDA services. Another 2,727 have been found eligible, but because DDA believes they do not currently need services, they are on a “Future Needs Registry.”

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| DDA’s budget is almost one billion dollars ($997,317,511 in FY15). Most of these funds pay for the annual costs of over 14,000 individuals who are already enrolled in DDA’s Medicaid waiver. Each year, the Governor decides how much funding DDA will receive to enroll new individuals into services.  DDA can only serve | |  |  | | --- | --- | | DDA Waiting List (March 2014)[[1]](#footnote-1) | | | **Priority Category** | **Number waiting** | | Crisis Resolution | 110 | | Crisis Prevention  Current Request | 1,300  6,830 | | Total | 8,240 | | Future Needs Registry | 2,727 | | Total Eligible Individuals without DDA Services | 10,967 | |
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a fraction of the eligible people

with developmental disabilities who are waiting for services. Most of the new people receiving funding each year are transitioning youth. That is why DRM urges all transitioning youth to take advantage of the opportunity to obtain services from DDA.

**Individuals with developmental disabilities and other advocates can change this grim picture. In 2011, after two years of advocacy, the Maryland General Assembly enacted an increase in Maryland’s tax on alcoholic beverages.** As a result,DDA received $15 million in new funds.[[2]](#footnote-2) After these funds came into the state treasury, DDA was able to serve more people in 2012, and it began with the people in the highest priority category, crisis resolution.[[3]](#footnote-3)

As you can see in the following chart, DDA’s funding for people in crisis peaked with the infusion of alcohol tax money and is rapidly declining. **DDA needs more funds for the waiting list!** People who are not a transitioning youth or in crisis have little hope of getting DDA funding.

The Governor determines how much funding DDA will receive. Contact: <http://www.governor.maryland.gov/mail/> or

The Hon. [ADD GOVERNOR’S NAME]

State House

100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 2140

You may also contact your state legislator to ask for support for the annual DDA budget and to ask for more revenues for DDA. In Maryland, the legislature cannot add funds to the DDA budget unless it raises revenues such as taxes. Find your legislators by visiting <http://mdelect.net> and entering your address.

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| DDA’s Fiscal Year Budget to Add New Individuals[[4]](#footnote-4) | | | | | | | |
|  | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Transitioning Youth | 625 | 608 | 608 | 608 | 608 | 608 | 596 |
| Crisis and Emergencies | 106 | 70 | 50 | 50 | 212 | 177 | 159 |
| Waiting List Equity Fund | 80 | 80 | 40 | 20 | 40 | 37 | 37 |
| Court-committed | 55 | 48 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 30 | 30 |
| Transition from psychiatric hospitals |  |  | 40 |  |  |  |  |
| Total number of new individuals budgeted to receive DDA funding | 866 | 806 | 763 | 723 | 885 | 852 | 832 |

For more information or advocacy opportunities, contact The Arc Maryland and see information about the End the Wait Now Campaign. See, <http://www.cqrcengage.com/thearcmd/Funding>.

For more information about applying for or accessing DDA services, see DRM’s web site at [www.DisabilityRightsMD.org](http://www.DisabilityRightsMD.org). For advice or technical assistance, call 410-727-6352, extension 0 and ask for intake.

1. State Stat, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, July 10, 2014. http://www.statestat.maryland.gov/reports/20140710\_DHMH\_Powerpoint.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. S.B. 994, 2011, Sales and Use Tax – Alcoholic Beverages – Supplementary Appropriation, Md. Code Ann., Tax Art., §11–104(g). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Letter from Frank W. Kirkland, DDA Executive Director, to the Joint Chairmen of the General Assembly Committees, January 30, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. From Department of Legislative Services, *Analysis of the Maryland Executive Budget*. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)