

# **The Massachusetts Department of Children and Families Worcester West Area Office Advisory Board**



## **2015 Service Guide**

Health • Parenting • Community  
After School • Vacation • Respite

In Support of



[www.mass.gov/dcf](http://www.mass.gov/dcf)

1-800-KIDS-508

# EMERGENCIES

**MSPCC's Kid's Net Connection/Helpline:  
1-800-486-3730**

For More Information:

<http://www.mspcc.org/our-services/foster-care-adoption/kidsnet/>

MSPCC offers an after-hours telephone helpline that provides emergency assistance to foster, kinship and pre-adoptive families when DCF offices are closed. The helpline is staffed by social workers experienced in foster care issues. They can provide telephone support to help resolve problems or, if necessary, arrange for an emergency home visit. The helpline is open 5 P.M. to 9 A.M., Monday-Friday and 24 hours on weekends and holidays  
For **mental health emergencies** – contact your regular mental health provider.

## **Community Healthlink Mobile Crisis Intervention Program**

**Lori Simkowitz-Lavigne, MA, LMHC:**

**1-866-549-2142** (Worcester) or

**1-800-977-5555** (North Worcester County)

- Community based crisis intervention, stabilization, and assessment services for youth under the age of 20.
- Accepts any **MassHealth** coverage or uninsured; and capacity for most languages.

## **UMass Memorial Emergency Mental Health**

24-hour psychiatric consultation & emergency services:

55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA

**(508) 856-3562 or 866-549-2142**

For More Information:

<http://www.umassmemorialhealthcare.org/umass-memorial-medical-center/services-treatments/psychiatry/services-we-provide/emergency-mental-health>

## **Youth Villages Emergency Services:**

To make a referral to Youth Villages contact:

**508-368-4300**

For More Information:

<http://www.youthvillages.org/>

- Provide 24/7 on-call support and a Transitional Living Specialist who will meet with them in the community one to two times per week.
- For young adults between the ages of 17.5 – 22
- Alternative funding is available for this program so can take outside referrals.

## MEDICAL

### **The FACES Program**

The FACES Clinic at UMASS Memorial Children's Center  
**774-443-7962**

For More Information:

<http://www.facesclinic.com/>

- As a foster parent, take comfort in knowing that your child's health and well-being are cared for by the FaCES (Foster Children Evaluation Services) Clinic. The clinic opened in 2003 to provide timely, high-quality health care evaluations for children in foster care in the Worcester area. Thanks to the collaboration between our Division of General Pediatrics and the Worcester's Department of Children and Families, foster health care is more coordinated.
- Children ages birth to 18 years old.
- All children enter care MUST have a health care screening within 7 calendar days and have a complete medical exam within 30 calendar days of placement.

### **How to Find Mass Health Providers:**

MassHealth Member Customer Service Center

**1-800-841-2900**

For More Information:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/provider/insurance/masshealth/>

MassHealth Dental Customer Service Center

**1-800-207-5019**

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Are you worried about the way your child is acting or feeling?

Mass Health has new Services for mental, emotional or substance abuse that can help:

### **The Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI)**

- Outpatient Therapy
- In Home Therapy
- Intensive Care Coordination
- Mobile Crisis Intervention
- In Home Behavioral Services
- Therapeutic Mentors
- Family Support and Training (Family Partners)

**Member Behavioral Health Services**

**(24 hours, seven days a week)**

**1-888-217-3501**

# RESPITE/CHILD CARE VOUCHERS

## MSPCC's Kid's Net Program

**508-753-2967**  
**1-800-442-3035**

psullivan@mspcc.org

For More Information:

<http://www.mspcc.org/our-services/foster-care-adoption/kidsnet/>

Everyone needs a break from parenting once in a while, and respite is an important way to ensure that parents are able to take care of themselves, so they can continue to care for their children. Family respite is a planned time-out or vacation for DCF foster and pre-adoptive parents. Families can receive up to ten days of paid respite each year. Available as needed.

### **Child Care Resources**

799 West Boylston Street (now part of Seven Hills Foundation)  
Worcester, MA 01606

**Hours:** M.T.Th.F., 7:00 am – 4:30 pm; W., 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

**508-856-7930**

Information and Referral Line: **508-796-1836**

For More Information:

<http://www.sevenhills.org/programs/child-care-resources>

Provides referrals to licensed child-care providers. Assists families who do not receive DTA benefits but need help paying child-care services. Families can apply to be --- by phone --- on a wait-list for child-care financial support.

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR WORCESTER

(For other towns, contact your local School Department)

Worcester Public Schools School Liaisons  
located at the Child Study Department of WPS,  
24 Chatham Street  
Worcester, MA 01609

**508-799-3652 or 508-799-3175**

Email: [RojasBE@worc.k12.ma.us](mailto:RojasBE@worc.k12.ma.us)

For More Information:

[http://childstudy.worcesterschools.org/modules/groups/integrated\\_home.phtml?gid=1580449&sessionid=9f1cae9a150db38aa09850eae6700f4b](http://childstudy.worcesterschools.org/modules/groups/integrated_home.phtml?gid=1580449&sessionid=9f1cae9a150db38aa09850eae6700f4b)

The Child Study Department Consists of School Psychologists and School Adjustment Counselors who provide services to all students in the Worcester Public Schools. These personnel, all of who have training to the Master's Degree level (at a minimum) and Department of Education licensure, provide support for successful educational experiences and the healthy emotional development of all students enrolled in our schools. They provide a wide variety of services that address academic, social-emotional or behavior difficulties and can be readily accessed, as needed, by students, parents, teachers and administrators. A referral to Child Study is a preventative action that neither constitutes nor precludes a referral for a Special Education Team Evaluation.

Assistance for families with school transfers, transportation arrangements, and can accompany families to TEAM meetings at the school.

### **Worcester Public School's Parent Information Center**

768 Main St.  
Worcester, MA 01610

**Hours:** Open year-round weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

**(508) 799-3194**

For More Information:

[http://pic.worcesterschools.org/modules/groups/integrated\\_home.phtml?&gid=1509176&printable=TRUE&portrait\\_or\\_landscape=portrait](http://pic.worcesterschools.org/modules/groups/integrated_home.phtml?&gid=1509176&printable=TRUE&portrait_or_landscape=portrait)

The Worcester Public Schools has a voluntary student assignment policy, utilizing its Magnet School Network and its school of choice options.

All elementary school students registering or transferring into the Worcester Public Schools are required to do so at the Parent Information Center. Staff at the Center assists parents in the selection of an educational environment that meets the academic needs of their child. This

allows parents the opportunity to take advantage of the diverse educational opportunities that exist within the Worcester Public Schools.

**The Parent Information Center continues to provide parents with:**

1. Information regarding the established Student Assignment Policy;
2. Assistance in obtaining access to specialized resources available in the Worcester Public Schools;
3. Assistance with on-site visits to all schools within the system;
4. Help in the initial stages of registration required by the school; i.e., proof of birth, immunization records and proof of Worcester Residency.
5. Assurance that all Worcester Public Schools parents are fully informed of all important news, events, and educational opportunities being offered by the school system.

The Parent Information Center serves as the main source of information and assistance to all new students entering the Worcester Public Schools. The goal of the Center is to provide parents with all information relative to the advantages and opportunities for their children in Magnet and Choice schools.

**Worcester Child Development Head Start**

770 Main Street

Worcester, MA 01610

**508-799-3608 or 508-799-3237**

**Hours:** Monday thru Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

[headstart.worcesterschools.org](http://headstart.worcesterschools.org)

A federal, educationally based pre-school program that provides both the child and family with education, social service, health, nutrition/dental, special needs services, and family involvement support:

- Acceptance based on Federal Income Guidelines.
- Children with **special needs** given special consideration.
- For children ages 3 and 4 years; 4 year old children receive priority placement.
- Must be a Worcester resident. (Documentation required, such as a utility bill).
- Must provide current immunization record, physical exam, birth certificate, or other documentation as required by funding source.
- Offers both half-day and full-day programs in four Worcester-area locations.
- Limited transportation may be available if qualified.

# SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

## PARENT RESOURCES

### **The Federation for Children with Special Needs**

**1-800-331-0688** (in MA)

For More Information:

[www.fcsn.org](http://www.fcsn.org)

Provides information, support, and assistance to parents of children with disabilities, their professional partners, and their communities.

**The Federation for Children with Special Needs** is committed to encouraging full participation in community life by all people, especially those with disabilities.

Call them to obtain a free copy of ***A Parent's Guide to Special Education***

### **Family Ties of Massachusetts**

180 Beaman Street

West Boylston, MA 01583

**1-800-905-8437 / 508-792-7880 x2337**

For More Information:

[www.massfamilyties.org](http://www.massfamilyties.org)

Provides information and emotional support to parents who have a child with a disability, chronic illness, or special needs. Includes a Parent-To-Parent support program.

***"Directory of Resources for Families of Children and Youth with Special Needs"*** is available for free download.

### **PAL: Parent/Professional Advocacy League**

51 Union Street

Suite 308

Worcester 01608

**508-767-9725**

For More Information:

[Ppal.net](http://Ppal.net)

The Massachusetts Family Voice for Children's Mental Health. Help in accessing treatments, services and supports. Individual and Public advocacy. Information exchange on education, legal and policy issues

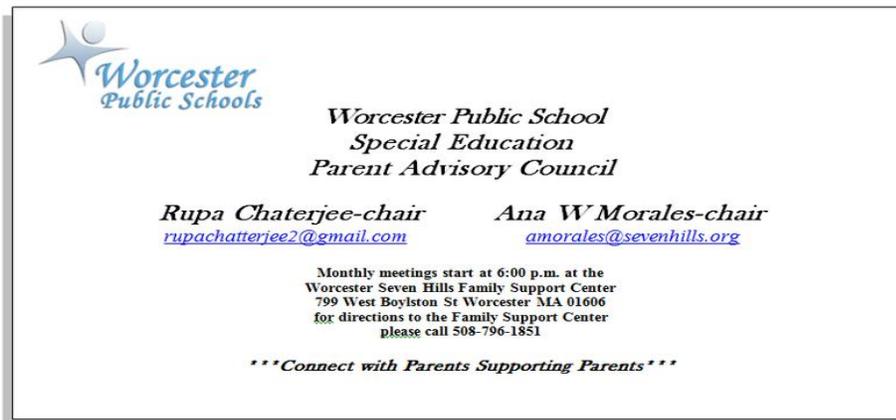
## **Special Education Parent Advisory Committees (SEPAC)**

### **Special Education Department**

Groups of Parents working to encourage an atmosphere of effective communication, understanding, and mutual respect among all students, parents, educators, the School Committee, and the community. They provide education to parents and the community on Special Education issues and services.

**SPEDPACS** work with Parents, School Administrators, and the School Committee to resolve systemic education issues and to ensure Massachusetts Special Education Laws and applicable regulations are being met.

**PAC meetings are open to the public, no registration required.**



For More Information:

[http://special-education.worcesterschools.org/modules/groups/integrated\\_home.phtml?gid=1022366&sessionid=ccfce73fe22af77eb0d563f2770ba908](http://special-education.worcesterschools.org/modules/groups/integrated_home.phtml?gid=1022366&sessionid=ccfce73fe22af77eb0d563f2770ba908)

### **Concord SEPAC**

For More Information:

[www.concordspedpac.org](http://www.concordspedpac.org)

### **Wrightslaw.com**

Parents, educators, advocates, and attorneys utilize [Wrightslaw](http://Wrightslaw.com) for accurate, reliable information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities.

### **FetaWeb.com**

Parents, advocates, educators, and attorneys use [FetaWeb.com](http://FetaWeb.com) to learn effective advocacy skills. Learn to recognize pitfalls and avoid mistakes that prevent parents from successfully advocating for their children.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM

*Please note that each year youth must complete the FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) in order to be eligible for the following programs.*

The Foster Child Tuition and Fee Waiver Program provides free undergraduate tuition and fees (at the in-state rate) to foster children at any one of Massachusetts' 29 state and community colleges and universities. Approved by the Board of Higher Education in June of 2000, this initiative was expanded to include fees in July of 2008. Youth eligible for the state college undergraduate or certificate tuition and fee waivers include:

A current or former foster child who was placed in the custody of the Department of Children and Families and remained in custody through age 18 without subsequently being returned home. The youth must have been in custody for at least six months prior to age 18; or Youth who had been in the custody of the Department of Children and Families and whose guardianship was sponsored by the Department of Children and Families through age 18.

**Please note:** prospective students must meet the admission criteria for the institution and must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Youth may use the waiver until age 25.

To apply, please send a copy of your birth certificate with a letter requesting the waiver that includes your name, social security number, date of birth, mailing address, and signature to:

The Foster Child Tuition and Fee Waiver Program at DCF  
600 Washington Street, 6th Floor  
Boston, MA 02111.

For more information please contact Kathy Martin at **617-748-2232**

For More Information Visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dcf/adolescent/education.html>

### **Foster Child Grant Program**

Foster Child Grant Program provides grant monies for youth attending public and private post-secondary school full time in a degree granting program. Eligible youth were in the custody of the Department of Children and Families until age 18 and unable to return home and were not adopted. Eligible youth must also meet the following conditions:

- Is a permanent legal resident of MA
- Is a US citizen or noncitizen eligible under Title IV regulations

- Is not over the age of 24
- Has not earned his or her baccalaureate degree
- Has signed a voluntary agreement with the Department of Children and Families establishing the terms and conditions for receiving such aid
- Is enrolled full time (12 credits or its equivalent)
- Has applied for financial aid, using the standard Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Is in compliance with applicable law regarding Selective Service
- Is not in default of any federal or state student loans for attendance at any institution or owe a refund for any previous financial aid received and
- Is in good standing and meets the institution's requirements for satisfactory academic progress.

The maximum award per academic year is \$6000 for eligible students enrolled in public institutions or private non-profit or private for profit institutions.

Youth must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and a Statement of Eligibility to qualify.

For more information regarding this program please call 617-748-2309.

For More Information Visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dcf/adolescent/education.html>

### **Educational and Training Voucher Program**

DCF Education and Training Voucher Program

The DCF Education and Training Voucher Program provides up to \$5000 per academic year for post-secondary educational or vocational training programs, including colleges and trade schools and related costs of attendance (tuition, fees, room and board, books, transportation, day care) as defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965. Eligible youth are:

- Youth who were adopted through DCF after attaining age 16;
- Youth who were in DCF custody (any type) until age 18, unable to return home and have not yet reached age 23 or
- Youth who were in DCF sponsored guardianships with kin after attaining age 16.

Youth must be US citizens or noncitizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence (a green card).

Youth must have achieved a high school diploma or GED certificate to be eligible for ETV funds. Youth must apply to the program before they turn 21 and can use the ETV Program until their 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

For further information please contact DCF at **617-748-2309**

For More Information Visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dcf/adolescent/education.html>

### **William Warren Scholarship**

The William Warren Scholarship Program provides scholarships for educational and vocational programs to any youth under age 25 who was in the care/custody of DCF for a minimum of one year. Scholarships range from \$250 to \$4000. Both current and former DCF youth are eligible.

For information call **(617) 748-2232**

For more information visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dcf/adolescent/education.html>

## **FOOD**

Included in care and maintenance stipend foster family receives.

### **Free Lunch Program**

Foster children are eligible to participate in free school lunch programs. Forms are provided by your child's school.

### **WIC**

WIC is a health and nutrition education program serving pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children under the age of five.

WIC provides vouchers for nutritious foods and infant formula.

Note: Foster families automatically qualify for WIC benefits.

### **New WIC office:**

199 Chandler St. Worcester, MA 01610

**NEW PHONE NUMBER:** (508) 762-5700

For program information visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/women-infants-and-children-wic>

### **SNAP**

(Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

**State Hotline at (866) 950-3663**

For more information:

[https://www.benefitscheckup.org/cf/snap\\_state.cfm?state=Massachusetts&partner\\_id=0&org\\_id=0](https://www.benefitscheckup.org/cf/snap_state.cfm?state=Massachusetts&partner_id=0&org_id=0)

This program helps you and your family buy food needed for good health. You can buy food from most grocery stores and other retailers that sell food. If you meet the program guidelines, you will get a special debit card (called an EBT Card). This debit card comes with a certain amount of money already on it to pay for food. The amount of money you get on the card may depend on three things:

- household income from all sources (earned and unearned) such as money you get from a job, Social Security, SSI, or interest
- how many people live in your household
- where you live

You can use the card at most grocery stores, certain senior centers, and some meal delivery services such as Meals on Wheels. It works just like a regular debit card. You buy your groceries using the card and the cost is taken out of the total amount on the card. More money is put on your debit card on a monthly basis.

## CLOTHING

May be available for emergencies only. Discuss with your DCF Family Resource Worker: **508-929-2000**

## RECREATION / AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

*Call programs early—to apply for financial aid for summer camp slots!*

### **Big Brothers and Big Sisters**

484 Main Street, Suite 360 Worcester

**508-752-7868**

For More Information:

<http://www.bbbscm.org/>

Mentoring Services to at risk children

### **Boys & Girls Club of Worcester**

65 Tainter Street  
Worcester, 01610

**508-753-3377**

The Boys & Girls Club of Worcester offers a free membership to children in foster care. There are three three clubs in Worcester.

**Email:** [questions@bgcworchester.org](mailto:questions@bgcworchester.org)

For more information:

<http://www.bgcworchester.org/>

### **East Side Community Develop. Corporation**

409 Shrewsbury Street

Worcester, MA 01604

**(508) 799-6942**

**Friendly House**

36 Wall Street  
Worcester, MA 01604

**(508) 755-4362**

For More Information:

<http://www.friendlyhousema.org/>

**Girls Inc.**

125 Providence Street  
Worcester, MA 01604

**(508) 755-6455**

For More Information:

<http://www.girlsincworchester.org/>

**Latino Educational Institute (LEI)**

Worcester State College  
537 Chandler Street  
Worcester, MA

**(508)798-6507**

For more information:

<http://www.worcester.edu/Latino-Education-Institute/>

**Oak Hill CDC**

74 Providence Street  
Worcester, MA 01604

**(508) 754-2858**

For More Information:

<http://www.oakhillcdc.org/>

**Pernet Family Health**

237 Millbury Street  
Worcester, MA 01610

**(508)755-1228**

Youth group for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7th, & 8th graders

For More Information:

<http://www.pernetfamilyhealth.org/>

**The City of Worcester's Wheels to Water Program**

Open swim time at neighborhood-based pools  
Includes bus transportation & free swim lessons

For More Information:

<http://www.worcestermass.org/neighborhoods/wheels-to-water>

**Worcester Youth Center**

326 Chandler Street  
Worcester, MA 01602

**508-791-4702**

Since 1994, the Worcester Youth Center has provided a safe space for education, health and recreation programs for inner city youth. The only free teen "drop-in" center with structured programs and support groups in Worcester, it serves more than 900 young people ages 14 to 24 each year, and nearly 400 are regular participants in its leadership and practical learning programs. The Center registers more the 15,000 visits a year.

For More Information:

[www.worcesteryouthcenter.org](http://www.worcesteryouthcenter.org)

**YMCA**

766 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01610

**(508) 755-6101**

75 Shore Drive  
Worcester, MA 01605

**(508)852-6694**

The Y is a cause-driven organization that is for youth development, for healthy living and for social responsibility. That's because a strong community can only be achieved when we invest in our kids, our health and our neighbors.

For More Information:

<http://www.ymcaofcm.org>

**YOU, Inc.**

81 Plantation Street  
Worcester, MA 01604

**(508) 849-5600**

Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc. is a private, non-profit child welfare and behavioural health organization serving troubled and at-risk children, adolescents and families in the Worcester county area since 1971. Throughout our more 41-year history, the agency has remained true to its founding mission to provide youth and families with opportunities to fulfill their potential and build a brighter future, while responding to changing community needs with appropriate growth and innovation.

***For More Information:***

<http://www.youinc.org/index.php>

**Youth Net (Girls Inc.)**

**508-755-6455**

YouthNet is a year-round program in collaboration with YOU Inc. for middle school girls. YouthNet girls help shape their own program here at Girls Inc. based on their interests. Offered after school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Activities include:

- Cooking
- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Swimming
- Arts
- and much more!

For More Information:

<http://www.girlsincworcester.org/programs-services/youthnet-year-round-program-0>

## **YWCA**

1 Salem Square  
Worcester, MA 01608

**(508) 767-2505**

## **Rise Above**

P.O. Box #174  
Northbridge, MA 01534

Rise Above Foundation is a nonprofit dedicated to providing Massachusetts children in foster care with enriching activities, opportunities, and experiences.

Founded in 2009, Rise Above is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was established to respond to the growing need to give youth in foster care opportunities that will give them a sense of normalcy, provide comfort, and build self-esteem.

Bundling individual wishes for requests like prom expenses, soccer registration, and clarinet lessons, Rise Above strives to provide positive experiences for foster children.

For More Information:

[www.weriseabove.org](http://www.weriseabove.org)

## **SUPPORT RESOURCES**

### **DCF Support Programs:**

#### **The Family Resource Liaison Program**

When you need someone to talk to, Family Resources Liaisons (FRLs) are experienced foster, adoptive or kinship parents who volunteer to provide information and support to other families. Contact: **MSPCC's Kid's Net Program**

**508-753-2967 or 1-800-442-3035**

E-mail Peter Sullivan at [psullivan@mspcc.org](mailto:psullivan@mspcc.org)

For More Information:

<http://www.mspcc.org/our-services/foster-care-adoption/kidsnet/>

### **Worcester Adoptive Families Together (AFT)**

Held at the MSPCC Office  
335 Chandler St.  
Worcester, MA  
3rd Tuesday of the month  
7 pm – 9 pm

**Deb Tambeau 508-769-9607**  
**Donna Warren 508-799-2347**

AFT is parent-run confidential support group to share personal concerns and needs around adoptive parenting. AFT provides education, advocacy, support; and, welcomes adopted individuals, birth parents, foster parents and all those with a connection to adoption. They are open to foster, pre and post adoptive parents, and kinship families. For further information on other AFT groups throughout the area go to: [www.mspcc.org](http://www.mspcc.org)

**N.Central DCF Foster/Adoptive/Guardian/Kin Parent Support Group**

Contact: Cheryl Haddad  
**978-297-4416**

Held at the Fitchburg Fire Department, 231 Fairmount St., Fitchburg, MA on the 1st Friday of each month at 6:30 pm.

**Placement Resolution Committees in the Area Offices**

Contact your Family Resource Worker  
**508-929-2000**

Services can be requested by any foster parent, DCF caseworker, or family support worker to bring all parties together to resolve problems within the foster placement. No prior approval from your caseworker needed.

**Community Based Support Groups:**

**Children's Friend**

21 Cedar St.  
Worcester, MA 01609

**508-753-5425**

Adoption, kinship, parenting, anger management, grief, social skills, and DBT, Asperger's support groups.

For More Information:

<http://www.childrensfriend.org/>

**WCCC (Worcester Community Connections Coalition)** Resource & Referral Center

484 Main Street  
Suite 460  
Worcester, MA 01608

**508-796-1411**

Information & referral and help connecting with community resources.

Various parent educational and support groups

For More Information:

[worcestercommunityconnections.org](http://worcestercommunityconnections.org)

## **ADDITIONAL FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT**

### **Parental Stress Line**

**1-800-632-8188**

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

### **Massachusetts Alliance for Foster Families (A program of MSPCC)**

For more information about MAFF

Email: <mailto:maff@mspcc.org>

Michele Benkis

**(617) 587-1666**

Each region has a MAFF Regional Chapter that meets at least once a year. The Regional Chapters also elect representatives to the MAFF Statewide Board. The Board meets regularly to identify issues that concern foster, adoptive and kinship parents and to plan advocacy with the legislature, DCF or other systems that impact foster care. MAFF hosts an annual conference for parents and DCF staff. Membership in MAFF is free and open to all foster, adoptive, kinship and guardianship parents as well as anyone interested in improving the foster care system.

Membership in MAFF is free and open to all foster, adoptive, kinship and guardianship parents as well as anyone interested in improving the foster care system.

For More Information:

<http://www.mspcc.org/our-services/foster-care-adoption/massachusetts-alliance-for-families-maff/>

### **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

A new resource guide is available for grandparents raising their grandchildren. To obtain a copy, please download from [www.mass.gov/elders](http://www.mass.gov/elders)

### **Adoption Journey**

Provides post adoption support services to families throughout Massachusetts.

All adoptive families in the Commonwealth are eligible to receive **Adoption Journeys** services, which include support groups for parents and children, adoption counseling, respite services, parent liaisons, adoption competency training and regional intensive crisis response teams.

To find the agency that serves your area, please contact the lead agency, **Child and Family Services, Inc. at 1-800-972-2734.**

## DCF CONTACT INFORMATION:

### Navigating the DCF System for Foster Parents

Knowing who to call and when, is always a challenge as a foster parent.

Hopefully, these simple guidelines will help you decide when you have issues or concerns that need to be addressed.

### **Concerns/Issues related to the children in your home:**

Anything concerning the needs of the children should be directed to the Social Worker assigned to the **birth family**.

Examples are the child's behavior, school services, counseling/therapeutic services, family visitation, court involvement, medical/dental issues, mental health issues, need for respite, babysitting, or daycare, out of state travel, or anything else directly related to the child.

1. Contact the Social Worker directly and if they do not pick up, leave a message. Allow 24 hours for a return phone call. If it is an emergency, ask for the Supervisor immediately.
2. If the Social Worker is unavailable, call their Supervisor; if they do not pick up, leave a message.

If it is an emergency, ask that the Supervisor be paged or ask for a covering Supervisor in the event the Supervisor is not in the office.

### **Concerns/Issues Related to You as a Foster Parent:**

Family Resource Workers support you as a foster parent and can sometimes help mediate issues within the Department.

Examples of when to call the Family Resource Worker – payment issues, family /or household changes, when you move, to approve a babysitter, and when you have tried to resolve issues/concerns and need support.

### **DCF Placement Resolution Committees:**

At any time, you can request a meeting to discuss unresolved issues related to a placement in your home.

This meeting will take place in the Area office and, at a minimum, the Social Worker, Supervisor, Family Resource Worker, and Family Resource Supervisor will attend.

Contact the social Worker or your Family Resource Worker to request this meeting.

### **Your Family Resource Liaison**

When you need someone to talk to who understands FRL's are experienced foster, pre-adoptive or kinship parents who volunteer to provide information and support to other families.

Contact: **MSPCC's Kid's Net Program: 508-753-2967, or 1-800-442-3035** or E-mail Peter Sullivan at [psullivan@mspcc.org](mailto:psullivan@mspcc.org)

### **Specific Contacts for FRL Program:**

- Worcester East – TBA
- Worcester West –Zenaida Plasse: 508-853-8343
- North Central Adoption – Michele Cuff: 508-533-5820
- North Central – Cheryl Haddad: 978-297-4416  
or 978 -273- 7150
- South Central – Deb Grazulis: 508-234-6779

### **Foster Parent Ambassadors:**

Assist with foster home recruitment

**Worcester Foster Home Ambassadors Contact Info:**

- Worcester East Ambassador – Gina Doyle: 508-792-2231
- Worcester West Ambassador – Debra Tambeau: 508-769-9607
- North Central Ambassador – Norman Doherty, Sr.: 978-422-8089

**Ombudsman: government official who hears and investigates complaints by private citizens against other officials or government agencies.**

For DCF Program / Policy Questions: 617-748-244

**FOSTER CARE PAYMENT QUESTIONS:**

Foster Parent Payment Assistance Line (PAL):  
**1-800-632-8218 or 617-748-2442.**

**HELP CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

**Worcester Community Connections Coalition (affiliated with YOU Inc.)**

484 Main Street  
Suite 460 / 4th Floor  
Worcester, MA 01608

**508-796-1411**

**The WCCC Resource & Referral Center** helps families connect to community services & provides various parent education and support groups.

**YOU, Inc. Family Center**

81 Plantation St.  
Worcester, MA 01604

**508-849-5600 x221**

Parent, grandparent, and caregiver support groups, educational workshops and help connecting to community resources x260.

**MASS 211**

**Dial 2-1-1**

24 hours – 7 days a week

For More Information:

[www.mass211.org](http://www.mass211.org)

There are more after school & summer programs available through MASS 211.

MASS 211 is an information resource for emergency food, rent; help paying your heating and utility bills, mental health counseling, health programs, public health and safety services, childcare referrals, job resources, and other help for individuals, parents and families.

## **OTHER HELPFUL PROGRAMS:**

### **Safe Homes of the Bridge of Central MA**

Safe Homes is a program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning young people between the ages of 14 and 23. Led by youth and professional staff, as well as volunteer adult advisors, we offer support and resources in a safe and nurturing environment.

4 Mann Street / Worcester, MA 01602  
Laura Farnsworth – Program Manager

**508-755-0333**

### **Youth Villages Transitional Living Program:**

To make a referral to Youth Villages contact:

**508-368-4300**

For young adults who have aged out of the foster care system or state custody. Assistance with independent living skills, locating stable housing and obtaining an educational and/or career goal. Provides 24/7 on-call support and a Transitional Living Specialist who will meet with them in the community one to two times per week. For young adults between the ages of 17.5 – 22. Alternative funding is available for this program so it can take outside referrals.

# **Specialty Programming Section**

**AFTER SCHOOL, SUMMER & RESPITE PROGRAMS**

## Schools Out and Summer Camp

YMCA of Central Massachusetts -  
Greendale Family Branch  
75 Shore Drive  
Worcester, MA  
Contact Name: Steve Lockney  
Email: slockney@ymcaofcm.org  
Phone: 508-852-6694 x248  
Website:

### Program Type

Summer  
Emotional/Behavioral/Mental  
Health

### Special Needs Category

Emotional/Behavioral/Mental  
Health  
Developmental Disability  
Safety Management

### Language(s) Spoken

English

### Special Services Offered

Handicap Access  
Medication Management  
Small Group Support  
Special Dietary Needs  
Behavior Management

### Transportation Options

Bus Line  
Integrated/Program Provided  
Transportation  
Parent/Caregiver Responsible

### Age Ranges Served

Elementary (6-11 yrs.)  
Middle School (12-14 yrs.)  
High School (15-18 yrs.)

### Deadline(s) For Application

No  
**Start:**  
**End:**

### Program Dates

Call for more information

**Program Start Time:** 7:30 AM

**Program End Time:** 6:00 PM

### How Do Families Access Services?

Open Referral (family calls to make  
referral directly)

### Referral Source (if applicable)

State Agency-Please specify below  
Other Agency-Please specify below  
Autistic Center and Child Care  
Resources

### Program Cost

Scholarships

### Towns Served

Fitchburg  
Holden  
Princeton  
Sterling  
Worcester

### Program Description

Greendale YMCA's School's Out (Grades 1-12 years). The program is licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC). The School's Out Program provides experiences that promote self esteem, independence and responsibility. Activities include sports, games, music, crafts, multicultural activities, homework time, outdoor and indoor play. Camp Greendale (ages 6-12) June 22th - August 21rd Each week, campers are welcomed into the Greendale YMCA for a fun-filled week as they enjoy all the amenities of our beautiful facility. Campers will participate in traditional activities including skill-oriented athletics, recreational camp games & crafts. YMCA Greendale Summer camps strive to enhance social skills, support wellness and self-esteem and appreciate diversity.

## **ACE After-School Program**

African Community Education  
24 Chatham St  
Worcester, MA  
Contact Name: Lila Milukas  
Email: info@acechildren.org  
Phone: 508-799-3653  
Website:

### **Program Type**

After School

### **Special Needs Category**

### **Language(s) Spoken**

### **Special Services Offered**

Small Group Support

### **Transportation Options**

Bus Line

### **Age Ranges Served**

5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

### **Deadline(s) For Application**

No

**Start:**

**End:**

### **Program Dates**

Offered during school year

**Program Start Time:** 3:00 PM

**Program End Time:** 6:00 PM

### **How Do Families Access Services?**

Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** The program is not accepting new students as of 3/15/15. Any new referrals will be put on a waitlist.

### **Referral Source (if applicable)**

### **Program Cost**

Free

### **Towns Served**

Worcester

### **Program Description**

The African Community Education Program (ACE) assists African refugee and immigrant children in Worcester, MA, to achieve their educational, cultural, and social goals while guiding them to become competent and responsible citizens. The After-School program runs Monday through Thursday from 3-6pm and provides a space where our students can go to get homework help. Tutors from local colleges and the Worcester community come to work one-on-one with each student to give them the individual attention they need. Snacks are provided and there is no cost to join. Bus tickets provided, if needed.

## **ACE Saturday Program**

African Community Education  
24 Chatham St.  
Worcester, MA  
Contact Name: Kim Edwards  
Email: info@acechildren.org  
Phone: 508-799-3653  
Website:

### **Program Type**

After School

### **Special Needs Category**

### **Language(s) Spoken**

### **Special Services Offered**

### **Transportation Options**

Bus Line

### **Age Ranges Served**

5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

### **Deadline(s) For Application**

No

**Start:**

**End:**

### **Program Dates**

Offered during school year

**Program Start Time:** 8:30 AM

**Program End Time:** 2:30 PM

### **How Do Families Access Services?**

Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)

### **Referral Source (if applicable)**

### **Program Cost**

Free

### **Towns Served**

Worcester

### **Program Description**

The African Community Education Program (ACE) assists African refugee and immigrant children in Worcester, MA, to achieve their educational, cultural, and social goals while guiding them to become competent and responsible citizens. Our Saturday Program provides students with a full day of schooling which includes remedial academic instruction, tutoring, reading groups, extracurricular activities and a meal.

## **ACE Workforce Development and Financial Literacy Program**

African Community Education (ACE) Program  
24 Chatham St.  
Worcester, MA  
Contact Name: Kim Edwards  
Email: info@acechildren.org  
Phone: 508-799-3653  
Website:

### **Program Type**

Summer

### **Special Needs Category**

### **Language(s) Spoken**

### **Special Services Offered**

Small Group Support

### **Transportation Options**

Bus Line

### **Age Ranges Served**

5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

### **Deadline(s) For Application**

Yes

**Start:**

**End:**

### **Towns Served**

Worcester

### **Program Dates**

July 6th - August 1st  
(4 week summer program)

**Program Start Time:** 1:00 PM

**Program End Time:** 4:00 PM

### **How Do Families Access Services?**

Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)

### **Referral Source (if applicable)**

Teacher, anyone close to the family

### **Program Cost**

Free

### **Program Description**

Our Workforce Development and Financial Literacy Program will be taught by a volunteer instructor from the Leominster Credit Union. Students in 10th, 11th and 12th grade will create their own resume, practice interviewing, and learn about workplace etiquette and time management. During the Financial Literacy segment, students will create a personal budget, learn how to open a bank account and cash checks, and discuss the importance of saving. Then they will get a chance to apply what they have learned and interview for part-time paying positions at our office. Last summer, we hired four students as office assistants for the fall.

## **ACE Summer Reading Program**

African Community Education  
(ACE)  
24 Chatham St.  
Worcester, MA  
Contact Name: Kim Edwards  
Email: info@acechildren.org  
Phone: 508-799-3653  
Website:

### **Program Type**

Summer

### **Special Needs Category**

### **Language(s) Spoken**

### **Special Services Offered**

Small Group Support

### **Transportation Options**

Bus Line

### **Age Ranges Served**

5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

### **Deadline(s) For Application**

Yes

**Start:**

**End:**

### **Program Dates**

July 6<sup>th</sup> - August 1<sup>st</sup>

(4 week summer program-3 days per week)

**Program Start Time:** 3:00 PM

**Program End Time:** 6:00 PM

### **How Do Families Access Services?**

Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)

### **Referral Source (if applicable)**

Teachers, others that work closely with the family

### **Program Cost**

Free

### **Towns Served**

Worcester

### **Program Description**

ACE's Summer Reading Program helps WPS middle school and high school students tackle their school summer reading requirements and complete the required writing assignments. Many students make significant growth in reading comprehension through this program, and it has ignited a love of reading for a handful of students. Equally significant, the summer program is a way to keep our students academically engaged year round and provide a positive alternative to risky behaviors that are prevalent in their low-income neighborhoods.

**ACE Summer Programming**

African Community Education (ACE) Program  
24 Chatham St.  
Worcester, MA  
Contact Name:  
Email: info@acechildren.org  
Phone: 508-799-3653  
Website:

**Deadline(s) For Application**

No  
**Start:**  
**End:**

**Towns Served**

Worcester

**Program Dates**

July 9th - August 15th

**Program Start Time:** 3:00 PM

**Program End Time:** 6:00 PM

**Program Type**

Summer

**How Do Families Access Services?**

Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)

**Special Needs Category**

**Language(s) Spoken**

**Referral Source (if applicable)**

**Special Services Offered**

**Program Cost**

Free

**Transportation Options**

Bus Line

**Age Ranges Served**

Elementary (6-11 yrs.)  
Middle School (12-14 yrs.)  
High School (15-18 yrs.)

**Program Description**

[Empty box for program description]

## Sudbury Adaptive Sports and Recreation Program

Sudbury Park and Recreation  
Dept.  
40 Fairbank Road  
Sudbury, MA, MA  
Contact Name: Amber Comeau  
Email: comeau@sudbury.ma.us  
Phone: 978-639-3256  
Website:

### Program Type

After School  
Summer  
Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health

### Special Needs Category

Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health  
Developmental Disability

### Language(s) Spoken

### Special Services Offered

1:1 Support  
Handicap Access  
Small Group Support

### Transportation Options

None

### Age Ranges Served

Infant (0-3 yrs.)  
Preschool (4-5 yrs.)  
Elementary (6-11 yrs.)  
High School (15-18 yrs.)  
Transitional (19-22 yrs.)  
Young Adult (22+ yrs.)  
Family Unit (Any Age)

### Deadline(s) For Application

Yes  
**Start:** Varies per program  
**End:**

### Program Dates

Dates Vary Per Program - Call for more information

**Program Start Time:** 4:00 PM

**Program End Time:** 9:00 PM

### How Do Families Access Services?

Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)  
Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)

### Referral Source (if applicable)

Physician/Clinical Provider  
State Agency-Please specify below  
All

### Program Cost

Scholarships  
Sliding Fees

### Towns

#### Served

Ashburnham  
Auburn  
Ayer  
Barre  
Bellingham  
Blackstone  
Bolton  
Brimfield  
Charlton  
Clinton  
Douglas  
Dudley  
East Brookfield  
Fitchburg  
Franklin  
Gardner  
Gilbertville  
Grafton  
Hardwick  
Holden  
Hubbardston  
Lancaster  
Leicester  
Lunenburg  
Medway  
Milford  
New Braintree

North Brookfield  
Oakham  
Oxford  
Paxton  
Pepperell  
Princeton  
Rutland  
Shirley  
Shirley  
Southbridge  
Spencer  
Sterling  
Sutton  
Templeton  
Townsend  
Upton  
Uxbridge  
Wales  
Wales  
Webster  
Whitinsville  
Winchendon  
Worcester  
Programs are open to anyone from any community

### Program Description

The Adaptive Sports & Recreation Program at the Sudbury Park & Recreation Department is committed to providing year round, affordable, community based programming for individuals with disabilities. Offering comprehensive and varied programs of recreation activities as well as resources for residents, we truly recognize the importance of recreation and leisure in the lives of all community members. The Adaptive Sports & Recreation program strives to improve the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities through continued and successful involvement in sports and recreation programs here in their own back yard

## Special Community

Kennedy Donovan Center  
171 Main Street, 3rd floor  
Milford, MA  
Contact Name: Amy Joe Tessicini  
Email: [atessicini@kdc](mailto:atessicini@kdc). Phone:  
508-473-5700  
Website: [kdc.org](http://kdc.org)

## Program Type

After School

## Special Needs Category

Developmental Disability  
Physical Disability

## Language(s) Spoken

English

## Special Services Offered

Handicap Access

## Transportation Options

Parent/Caregiver Responsible  
most transported by school system

## Age Ranges Served

Elementary (7-11 yrs.)  
Middle School (12-14 yrs.)  
High School (15-18 yrs.)  
Transitional (19-22 yrs.)

## Deadline(s) For Application

No  
**Start:**  
**End:**

## Program Dates

Offered through the School Year

**Program Start Time:** 2:30:00 PM

**Program End Time:** 6:00:00 PM

## How Do Families Access Services?

Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)

## Referral Source (if applicable)

## Program Cost

\$25 per day

## Towns Served

Bellingham	Upton
Blackstone	Uxbridge
Franklin	Hopkinton
Grafton	
Medway	
Milford	

## Program Description

We run an after school program for individuals over 7 with special needs. All of our activities are designed to have a component of skill building and fun. Activities include snack prep, cooking, art, movie making, wii, outdoor games, and theme weeks. Our program runs on a 1:4 ratio. Participants need to be able to communicate, be independent in their ADL skills, and be safe in this ratio.

## Respite Program

Kennedy Donovan Center  
171 Main Street, 3rd floor  
Milford, MA  
Contact Name: Michael Bailey  
Email: mbailey@kdc.org  
Phone: 508-473-5700  
Website: [kdc.org](http://kdc.org)

## Program Type

Respite

## Special Needs Category

Developmental Disability

## Language(s) Spoken

English  
Spanish

## Special Services Offered

Per case basis  
Feeding Tube  
Handicap Access  
Per case basis  
Behavior Management  
Toileting

## Transportation Options

Integrated/Program Provided  
Transportation

## Age Ranges Served

Infant (0-3 yrs.)  
Preschool (4-5 yrs.)  
Elementary (6-11)  
Middle School 12-14 years  
High School (15-18 yrs.)  
Transitional (19-22 yrs.)  
Young Adult (22+ yrs.)  
Family Unit (Any Age)

## Deadline(s) For Application

No  
**Start:**  
**End:**

## Program Dates

**Program Start Time:** varies per case

**Program End Time:**

## How Do Families Access Services?

Open Referral for private pay only

## Referral Source (if applicable)

## Program Cost

Private Pay  
DDS referral

## Towns Served

Bellingham	Sutton
Blackstone	Upton
Douglas	Whitinsville
Franklin	Worcester
Grafton	
Medway	
Milford	

## Program Description

Respite care for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families

## **Transition to Adulthood Vocational Internship Program**

Center for Living & Working  
484 Main St. Suite 345  
Worcester, MA  
Contact Name: Mackenzie Dezieck  
Email: [mdezeick@centerlw.org](mailto:mdezeick@centerlw.org)  
Phone: 508-755-1644  
Website: [centerlw.org](http://centerlw.org)

### **Program Type**

Summer  
Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health

### **Special Needs Category**

Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health  
Developmental Disability

### **Language(s) Spoken**

English  
Deaf & Hard of Hearing

### **Special Services Offered**

Assistive Technology  
Behavioral Support  
Durable Medical Equip.  
Handicap Access  
Sign Language  
Small Group Support

### **Transportation Options**

Bus Line  
Parent/Caregiver Responsible  
Program will include some travel training.

### **Age Ranges Served**

High School (14-18 yrs.)  
Transitional (19-22 yrs.)  
Young Adult (22+ yrs.)

### **Deadline(s) For Application**

Yes  
**Start :** 06/15/15  
**End:** 08/15/15

### **Program Dates**

Week of June 15- June 18

**Program Start Time:** varies - 12 hours per week

**Program End Time:** varies - 12 hours per week

### **How Do Families Access Services?**

Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)

### **Referral Source (if applicable)**

### **Program Cost**

Free

### **Towns Served**

Fitchburg  
Grafton  
Millbury  
Northbridge  
Shrewsbury  
W. Boylston  
Worcester

### **Program Description**

The Center for Living & Working, Inc., an Independent Living Center located in Worcester, MA, will be having an internship program during the summer of 2013. With support from MRC Worcester the program will serve youth with disabilities, age 16-22 that are looking to learn more about successful employment, through a variety of internship and workshop opportunities.

## YMCA - Summer Camp Programs

YMCA of Central Massachusetts  
766 Main Street  
Worcester, MA

Contact Name: Nadine Anderson  
Email: [slevy@ymcaofcm.org](mailto:slevy@ymcaofcm.org)  
Phone: 508-755-6101x225  
Website: [ymcaofcm.org](http://ymcaofcm.org)

### Program Type

After School  
Summer  
School Vacation

### Special Needs Category

### Language(s) Spoken

English  
Spanish

### Special Services Offered

Varies per program and per client need. Call for more information and to make an appointment

### Transportation Options

Bus Line  
Integrated/Program Provided  
Transportation

### Age Ranges Served

Preschool (2.9-5 yrs.)  
Elementary (6-11 yrs.)  
Middle School (12-14 yrs.)

### Deadline(s) For Application

No  
**Start:**  
**End:**

### Program Dates

Varies per program - Please call to inquire

**Program Start Time:** 8:00:00 AM

**Program End Time:** 5:00:00 PM

### How Do Families Access Services?

Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)

### Referral Source (if applicable)

### Program Cost

Sliding Fees

### Towns Served

Auburn	Oxford
Douglas	Sutton
Grafton	Worcester
Leicester	

### Program Description

A traditional outdoor summer camp on 35 acres on Lake Machaug in Sutton, MA. For children in grades 1 - 7 the Camp program includes transportation from Worcester with bus stops in Auburn and Sutton. Campers have swim lessons, free swim, boating, field games, sports, team building and outdoor adventures every day. Groups are determined by age and grade and each week is based on a theme. We have parent/family nights planned throughout the summer and lots of opportunities to explore the great outdoors.

**BCI**

Behavioral Concepts Inc  
 170 Goddard Memorial Drive  
 Worcester, MA  
 Contact Name: Christian Tsetsos  
 Email: ctsetsos@bciaba.org  
 Phone: 508-363-0200  
 Website: [bciaba.org](http://bciaba.org)

**Program Type**

After School (Saturdays)  
 Summer  
 School Vacation  
 Emotional/Behavioral/Mental  
 Health

**Special Needs Category**

Emotional/Behavioral/Mental  
 Health

**Language(s) Spoken**

English

**Special Services Offered**

1:1 Support  
 Assistive Technology  
 ABA  
 Behavioral Support  
 Sign Language  
 Small Group Support  
 Special Dietary Needs  
 Behavior Management  
 Toileting

**Transportation Options**

Parent/Caregiver Responsible

**Age Ranges Served**

Infant (0-3 yrs.)  
 Preschool (4-5 yrs.)  
 Elementary (6-11 yrs.)  
 Middle School (12-14 yrs.)  
 High School (15-18 yrs.)  
 Transitional (19-22 yrs.)  
 Young Adult (22+ yrs.)  
 Family Unit (Any Age)

**Deadline(s) For Application**

No  
**Start:**  
**End:**

**Program Dates/Times**

Call for details

**How Do Families Access Services?**

Open Referral (family calls to  
 make referral directly)

**Referral Source (if applicable)****Program Cost**

Call for details

**Towns Served**

Ashburnham	Paxton
Auburn	Pepperell
Ayer	Princeton
Barre	Rutland
Bellingham	Shirley
Blackstone	Southbridge
Bolton	Spencer
Brimfield	Sterling
Charlton	Sutton
Clinton	Templeton
Douglas	Townsend
Dudley	Upton
East Brookfield	Uxbridge
Fitchburg	Wales
Franklin	Wales
Gardner	Webster
Gilbertville	Whitinsville
Grafton	Winchendon
Hardwick	Worcester
Holden	
Hubbardston	
Lancaster	
Leicester	
Lunenburg	
Medway	
Milford	
New Braintree	
North Brookfield	
Oakham	
Oxford	

**Program Description**

We offer Social Skills Groups with peer models and in-home private ABA services for student's with autism, all major insurance companies and private pay are accepted. Our groups run every Saturday from 9:30-12:30 as well as additional hours scheduled during all school vacations. We will be looking to add additional services during the summer around the Worcester Summer School programs. Please see our website for additional information: [www.bciaba.org](http://www.bciaba.org)

## Camp Starfish

Camp Starfish, Inc.

Winter –

1121 Main St.

Lancaster, MA 01523

Summer—

12 Camp Monomonac Rd.

Rindge, NH 03461

Contact Name: Emily Golinsky

Email: [info@campstarfish.org](mailto:info@campstarfish.org)

Phone: 978-368-6580

Website: [campstarfish.org](http://campstarfish.org)

### Program Type

Summer

Respite

Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health

### Special Needs Category

Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health

Developmental Disability

Safety Management

### Language(s) Spoken

English

### Special Services Offered

1:1 Support

Behavioral Support

Medication Management

Small Group Support

Special Dietary Needs

Behavior Management

Specialized Childcare

### Transportation Options

Parent/Caregiver Responsible

### Age Ranges Served

Elementary (5-11 yrs.)

Middle School (12-14 yrs.)

High School (15-18 yrs.)

Family Unit (Any Age)

### Deadline(s) For Application

No

**Start:**

**End:**

### Program Dates

June 20rd - August 22nd

**Program Start Time:** 9am

(extended day available)

**Program End Time:** 4:45pm

(extended day available)

### How Do Families Access Services?

Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)

### Referral Source (if applicable)

Physician/Clinical Provider

Any agency, service, worker, doctor, provider, teacher, caretaker, parent, etc. can refer.

### Program Cost

Prices vary depending on length of session

Needs based financial aid on first come first served basis

### Towns Served

Ashburnham

Auburn

Ayer

Barre

Bellingham

Blackstone

Bolton

Brimfield

Charlton

Clinton

Douglas

Dudley

East Brookfield

Fitchburg

Franklin

Gardner

Gilbertville

Grafton

Hardwick

Holden

Hubbardston

Lancaster

Leicester

Lunenburg

Medway

Milford

New Braintree

North Brookfield

Oakham

Oxford

Paxton

Pepperell

Princeton

Rutland

Shirley

Southbridge

Spencer

Sterling

Sutton

Templeton

Townsend

Upton

Uxbridge

Wales

Wales

Webster

Whitinsville

Winchendon

Worcester

all

### Program Description

Camp Starfish provides summer day and overnight camp, and year-round respite weekends, for children with emotional, behavioral, learning and social challenges. Overnight camp programs at Starfish have a 1:1 staff to camper ratio at all times; day camp is at least 1:2. Social skills, coping techniques, individualized goal achievement and more are incorporated into our "traditional" camp program!

## Explorers Summer Camp

Easter Seals Massachusetts  
484 Main st  
Worcester, MA  
Contact Name: Colleen Flanagan  
Email: [camp@eastersealsma.org](mailto:camp@eastersealsma.org)  
Phone: 800-244-2756 x410  
Website: [ma.easterseals.com](http://ma.easterseals.com)

### Program Type

Summer

### Special Needs Category

Developmental Disability

### Language(s) Spoken

English

### Special Services Offered

Assistive Technology  
Behavioral Support  
Handicap Access  
Medical Support  
Medication Management  
Small Group Support  
Special Dietary Needs  
Behavior Management

### Transportation Options

Integrated/Program Provided  
Transportation

### Age Ranges Served

Elementary (6-11 yrs.)  
Middle School (12-14 yrs.)  
High School (15-18 yrs.)  
Transitional (19-22 yrs.)

### Deadline(s) For Application

Yes

**Start:**

**End:**

### Program Dates

**Program Start Time:**

**Program End Time:**

### How Do Families Access

#### Services?

Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)

### Referral Source (if applicable)

### Program Cost

Scholarships  
Sliding Fees

### Towns Served

Ashburnham	Paxton
Auburn	Pepperell
Ayer	Princeton
Barre	Rutland
Bellingham	Shirley
Blackstone	Shirley
Bolton	Southbridge
Brimfield	Spencer
Charlton	Sterling
Clinton	Sutton
Douglas	Templeton
Dudley	Townsend
East Brookfield	Upton
Fitchburg	Uxbridge
Franklin	Wales
Gardner	Webster
Gilbertville	Whitinsville
Grafton	Winchendon
Hardwick	Worcester
Holden	Any
Hubbardston	Massachusetts
Leicester	town
Lunenburg	
Milford	
New Braintree	
North Brookfield	
Oakham	
Oxford	

### Program Description

Easter Seals Summer Explorers Camp Program provides an overnight camp for children, teens and young adults with disabilities ages 8 to 22. Traditional camp activities take place in small groups with a high staff-to-camper ratio to encourage maximum participation. Explorer Camp also offers teens and young adults with disabilities the opportunity to develop their leadership skills by working as volunteers at camp. Who is eligible? Easter Seals Explorers Camp is open to Massachusetts residents ages 8 to 22 who have autism spectrum disorders and developmental disabilities. Their siblings also are welcome to attend.

## Hourly Respite

LUK, Inc  
40 Southbridge St.  
Worcester, MA  
Contact Name: Cara Baillageron  
Email: n/a  
Phone: 508-762-3036  
Website: [luk.org](http://luk.org)

## Program Type

Respite  
Emotional/Behavioral/Mental  
Health

## Special Needs Category

Emotional/Behavioral/Mental  
Health  
Developmental Disability  
Safety Management

## Language(s) Spoken

English  
Spanish  
asl-limited but expanding

## Special Services Offered

1:1 Support  
ABA  
Behavioral Support  
Handicap Access  
Medical Support  
Sign Language  
Small Group Support  
Behavior Management

## Transportation Options

Integrated/Program Provided  
Transportation

## Age Ranges Served

Infant (0-3 yrs.)  
Preschool (4-5 yrs.)  
Elementary (6-11 yrs.)  
Middle School (12-14 yrs.)  
High School (15-18 yrs.)  
Transitional (19-22 yrs.)

## Deadline(s) For Application

No  
**Start:**  
**End:**

## Program Dates

## Program Start Time:

## Program End Time:

## How Do Families Access Services?

## Referral Source (if applicable)

State Agency-Please specify  
below  
DCF, DMH, DDS

## Program Cost

Paid by referral source

## Towns Served

Ashburnham	Paxton
Auburn	Pepperell
Ashburnham	Princeton
Ayer	Rutland
Barre	Shirley
Bellingham	Southbridge
Blackstone	Spencer
Bolton	Sterling
Brimfield	Sutton
Charlton	Templeton
Clinton	Townsend
Douglas	Upton
Dudley	Uxbridge
Brookfield	Wales
Fitchburg	Wales
Franklin	Webster
Gardner	Whitinsville
Gilbertville	Winchendon
Grafton	Worcester
Hardwick	
Holden	
Hubbardston	
Lancaster	
Leicester	
Lunenburg	
Medway	
Milford	
New Braintree	
North Brookfield	
Oakham	
Oxford	

## Program Description

LUK holds contract with the Department of Mental Health, Department of Children and Families and Department of Developmental Disabilities to provide hourly respite both in youth's home and in community.

## **TREK-Synergy**

LUK, Inc  
40 Southbridge St.  
Worcester, MA  
Contact Name: Melissa Murphy or  
Brian Matheson  
Email: [MMurphy@luk.org](mailto:MMurphy@luk.org)  
Phone 508-762-3011  
Website: [luk.org](http://luk.org)

### **Program Type**

After School  
Summer  
School Vacation  
Emotional/Behavioral/Mental  
Health

### **Special Needs Category**

Emotional/Behavioral/Mental  
Health  
Developmental Disability

### **Language(s) Spoken**

English  
Spanish

### **Special Services Offered**

Behavioral Support  
Clinical Counseling  
Medication Management  
Small Group Support  
Special Dietary Needs  
Behavior Management  
Trauma

### **Transportation Options**

Integrated/Program Provided  
Transportation  
Parent/Caregiver Responsible

### **Age Ranges Served**

Elementary (6-11 yrs.)  
Middle School (12-14 yrs.)  
High School (15-18 yrs.)

### **Deadline(s) For Application**

No

### **Start:**

### **End:**

### **Program Dates**

Please email for more information

**Program Start Time:** Email for  
more information

### **Program End Time:**

### **How Do Families Access**

### **Services?**

Open Referral (family calls to make  
referral directly)

### **Referral Source (if applicable)**

### **Program Cost**

Free

### **Towns Served**

We serve the  
Central MA corridor  
as well as the  
Lowell area and  
parts of Metrowest

### **Program Description**

Adventure-Based, Experiential Learning Programming, certified by COA as a Wilderness Therapy program which has been adapted to meet the needs of many groups including accommodations for youth with Developmental Disabilities, Serious Emotional Disturbance, Social Emotional Behavioral Concerns, Substance Abuse, histories of trauma and unaccompanied refugee immigrant youth. Goals for programming are generally speaking to provide pro-social opportunities, using highly motivating activities such as dirt-biking, traditional adventure-based programming, rock climbing, snowboarding and more to encourage participants to take supported positive risks, explore and enhance world view, promote environmental stewardship, enhance resiliency factors, connect with the natural environment and to learn/demonstrate positive youth development.

## **Family Services - Sports Recreation and Leisure Programs: Music Therapy, Fitness, Dance, Art, Nutrition and Various Sports**

Seven Hills Foundation  
81 Hope Ave  
Worcester, MA  
Contact Name: Jen Bergstrom  
Email: [JBergstrom@sevenhills.org](mailto:JBergstrom@sevenhills.org)  
Phone: 508-796-1861  
Website: [sevenhills.org](http://sevenhills.org)

### **Program Type**

General recreational  
Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health

### **Special Needs Category**

Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health  
Developmental Disability  
Medically Complex Care  
Safety Management

### **Language(s) Spoken**

English

### **Special Services Offered**

### **Transportation Options**

Bus Line - for some programs

### **Age Ranges Served**

Preschool (4-5 yrs.)  
Elementary  
Middle School (12-14 yrs.)  
High School (15-18 yrs.)  
Transitional (19-22 yrs.)

### **Deadline(s) For Application**

Each program has individual deadlines. Go to [sevenhills.org](http://sevenhills.org)

### **Start:**

### **End:**

### **Program Dates**

### **Program Start Time:** Evenings &

Weekends / Varies per program

### **Program End Time:**

### **How Do Families Access Services?**

Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)

### **Referral Source (if applicable)**

### **Program Cost**

Varies per program

### **Towns Served**

Ashburnham	Paxton
Auburn	Pepperell
Ayer	Princeton
Barre	Rutland
Bellingham	Shirley
Blackstone	Southbridge
Bolton	Spencer
Brimfield	Sterling
Charlton	Sutton
Clinton	Templeton
Douglas	Townsend
Dudley	Upton
Brookfield	Uxbridge
Fitchburg	Wales
Franklin	Wales
Gardner	Webster
Gilbertville	Whitinsville
Grafton	Winchendon
Hardwick	Worcester
Holden	
Hubbardston	
Lancaster	
Leicester	
Lunenburg	
Medway	
Milford	
New Braintree	
North Brookfield	
Oakham	
Oxford	

### **Program Description**

Seven Hills Families Services is pleased to be able to facilitate sports, both recreational and competitive teams, recreational activities, and leisure programs for children and adults throughout the Greater Worcester Area. We are able to offer a wide array of programs, all coordinated, supervised and coached by knowledgeable staff and talented volunteers. Many of the sports offer opportunities to compete in local and state tournaments. Generally, programs are offered in the evenings and weekends. Teams and programs are organized on a seasonal basis and registration is announced through the PRIDE newsletter.

**Pediatric Center**

Seven Hills Foundation  
 22 Hilside Ave  
 Groton, MA  
 Contact Name: Holly Jarek, RN,  
 MS  
 Email: hjarek@sevenhills.org  
 Phone: 978-448-3388  
 Website:

**Program Type**

Respite

**Special Needs Category**

Medically Complex Care

**Language(s) Spoken**

English

**Special Services Offered**

Feeding Tube  
 Handicap Accessibility  
 Medical Support  
 Tracheotomy Care

**Transportation Options**

Parent/Caregiver Responsible

**Age Ranges Served**

Infant (0-3 yrs.)  
 Preschool (4-5 yrs.)  
 Elementary (6-11 yrs.)  
 Middle School (12-14 yrs.)  
 High School (15-18 yrs.)  
 Transitional (19-22 yrs.)

**Deadline(s) For Application**

No

**Start:**

**End:**

**Program Dates**

**Program Start Time:**

**Program End Time:**

**How Do Families Access Services?****Referral Source (if applicable)****Program Cost**

Insurance

**Towns Served**

Ashburnham	Paxton
Auburn	Pepperell
Ayer	Princeton
Barre	Rutland
Bellingham	Shirley
Blackstone	Southbridge
Bolton	Spencer
Brimfield	Sterling
Charlton	Sutton
Clinton	Templeton
Douglas	Townsend
Dudley	Upton
Brookfield	Uxbridge
Fitchburg	Wales
Franklin	Webster
Gardner	Whitinsville
Gilbertville	Winchendon
Grafton	Worcester
Hardwick	
Holden	
Hubbardston	
Lancaster	
Leicester	
Lunenburg	
Medway	
Milford	
New Braintree	
North Brookfield	
Oakham	
Oxford	

**Program Description**

Pediatric skilled nursing center that provides long term nursing care, short term respite care and short term hospitalization for those who are profoundly developmentally delayed and have complex medical needs

## Turn Back Time

Turn Back Time Inc.  
250 Marshall St  
Paxton, MA  
Contact Name: Lisa Burris  
Email: Lisab@tbtinc.org  
Phone: 978-760-3707  
Website:

## Program Type

After School  
Summer  
Emotional/Behavioral/Mental  
Health

## Special Needs Category

Emotional/Behavioral/Mental  
Health  
Developmental Disability

## Language(s) Spoken

English

## Special Services Offered

Behavioral Support

## Transportation Options

Parent/Caregiver Responsible

## Age Ranges Served

Preschool (4-5 yrs.)  
Elementary (6-11 yrs.)  
Middle School (12-14 yrs.)  
High School (15-18 yrs.)

## Deadline(s) For Application

No

**Start:**

**End:**

## Program Dates

July 6<sup>th</sup> (short week) - August 13th

**Program Start Time:** 9am

**Program End Time:** 3pm

## How Do Families Access

### Services?

Open Referral (family calls to  
make referral directly)

## Referral Source (if applicable)

## Program Cost

Scholarships  
Sliding Fees

## Towns Served

Barre	Paxton
Charlton	Princeton
East Brookfield	Rutland
Hubbardston	Spencer
Leicester	Templeton
New Braintree	Worcester
North Brookfield	
Oakham	
Oxford	

## Program Description

Turn Back Time is a farm and nature focused program for children. We are a fully integrated program with staff available for children who struggle with challenging behaviors.

**North Central Respite Inn**

Seven Hills Foundation  
 648 Fifth Mass Turnpike  
 Fitchburg, MA  
 Contact Name: Lisa Thompson  
 Email: lthompson@sevenhills.org  
 Phone: 978-342-0931  
 Website:

**Program Type**

Respite

**Special Needs Category**

Developmental Disability

**Language(s) Spoken**

English

**Special Services Offered**

1:1 Support  
 Small Group Support

**Transportation Options**

Parent/Caregiver Responsible

**Age Ranges Served**

Transitional (19-22 yrs.)  
 Young Adult (22+ yrs.)

**Deadline(s) For Application**

No  
**Start:**  
**End:**

**Program Dates**

**Program Start Time:**  
**Program End Time:**

**How Do Families Access Services?**

**Referral Source (if applicable)**  
 DDS Referrals

**Program Cost****Towns Served**

Ashburnham	Pepperell
Ayer	Princeton
Barre	Rutland
Bolton	Shirley
Clinton	Sterling
Fitchburg	Templeton
Gardner	Townsend
Hardwick	Winchendon
Hubbardston	
Lancaster	
Lunenburg	
New Braintree	
Oakham	

**Program Description**

Short term, 24 hour respite care

**South Valley Respite Inn**

Seven Hills Foundation  
465 Alpine Drive  
Southbridge, MA  
Contact Name: Donna Hryzan  
Email: dhryzan@sevenhills.org  
Phone: 508-765-1633  
Website:

**Program Type**

Respite

**Special Needs Category**

Developmental Disability

**Language(s) Spoken**

English

**Special Services Offered**

1:1 Support  
Small Group Support

**Transportation Options**

Parent/Caregiver Responsible

**Age Ranges Served**

Transitional (19-22 yrs.)  
Young Adult (22+ yrs.)

**Deadline(s) For Application**

No  
**Start:**  
**End:**

**Program Dates**

**Program Start Time:**  
**Program End Time:**

**How Do Families Access Services?****Referral Source (if applicable)**

DDS Referrals

**Program Cost**

DDS Funded

**Towns Served**

Bellingham	Southbridge
Blackstone	Spencer
Brimfield	Sutton
Charlton	Upton
Douglas	Uxbridge
Dudley	Wales
Brookfield	Webster
Franklin	Whitinsville
Grafton	
Grafton	
Medway	
Milford	
North Brookfield	
Oxford	

**Program Description**

Short term, 24 hour respite care

## **Stepping Stone Community Theatre**

Alternatives  
50 Douglas Road  
Northbridge, MA  
Contact Name:  
Email: [ewsaba@aol.com](mailto:ewsaba@aol.com)  
Phone: 508-842-1065  
Website: [www.alternativesnet.org](http://www.alternativesnet.org)

### **Program Type**

After School  
Emotional/Behavioral/Mental  
Health

### **Special Needs Category**

Emotional/Behavioral/Mental  
Health  
Developmental Disability  
Medically Complex Care

### **Language(s) Spoken**

English

### **Special Services Offered**

### **Transportation Options**

Parent/Caregiver Responsible

### **Age Ranges Served**

Middle School (12-14 yrs.)  
High School (15-18 yrs.)  
Transitional (19-22 yrs.)  
Young Adult (22+ yrs.)

### **Deadline(s) For Application**

yes - call to get on mailing list to  
receive notification

**Start:**

**End:**

### **Program Dates**

Call for details

**Program Start Time:** 6:30pm

**Program End Time:** 8:00pm

### **How Do Families Access Services?**

Open Referral (family calls to  
make referral directly)

### **Referral Source (if applicable)**

### **Program Cost**

Theatre Production is free,  
Workshop cost is \$30  
Scholarships

### **Towns Served**

Ashburnham	Paxton
Auburn	Pepperell
Ayer	Princeton
Barre	Rutland
Bellingham	Shirley
Blackstone	Southbridge
Bolton	Spencer
Brimfield	Sterling
Charlton	Sutton
Clinton	Templeton
Douglas	Townsend
Dudley	Upton
Brookfield	Uxbridge
Fitchburg	Wales
Franklin	Wales
Gardner	Webster
Gilbertville	Whitinsville
Grafton	Winchendon
Hardwick	Worcester
Holden	
Hubbardston	
Lancaster	
Leicester	
Lunenburg	
Medway	
Milford	
New Braintree	
North Brookfield	
Oakham	
Oxford	

### **Program Description**

An inclusive theatre company that explores theater arts for teens and adults

## **Adaptive Ski Program**

Wachusett Mountain  
499 Mountain Road  
Princeton, MA  
Contact Name: Rick Patrick or  
Bruce McDonald  
Email:  
Phone: 978-464-2300x3308  
Website:

### **Program Type**

After School  
School Vacation

### **Special Needs Category**

Developmental Disability  
Medically Complex Care

### **Language(s) Spoken**

English

### **Special Services Offered**

### **Transportation Options**

Parent/Caregiver Responsible

### **Age Ranges Served**

Family Unit (Any Age)

### **Deadline(s) For Application**

No

**Start:**

**End:**

### **Program Dates**

Winter months

**Program Start Time:** varies per  
program

**Program End Time:**

### **How Do Families Access Services?**

Open Referral (family calls to  
make referral directly)

### **Referral Source (if applicable)**

### **Program Cost**

Varies per program

### **Towns Served**

Ashburnham	Paxton
Auburn	Pepperell
Ayer	Princeton
Barre	Rutland
Bellingham	Shirley
Blackstone	Southbridge
Bolton	Spencer
Brimfield	Sterling
Charlton	Sutton
Clinton	Templeton
Douglas	Townsend
Dudley	Upton
Brookfield	Uxbridge
Fitchburg	Wales
Franklin	Wales
Gardner	Webster
Gilbertville	Whitinsville
Grafton	Winchendon
Grafton	Worcester
Hardwick	
Holden	
Hubbardston	
Lancaster	
Leicester	
Lunenburg	
MedwayMedway	
Milford	
New Braintree	
North Brookfield	
Oakham	
Oxford	

### **Program Description**

We work to help people of all ages and abilities enjoy winter snow sports.

The Wachusett Mountain Adaptive Program uses up-to-date techniques and equipment to create a lesson environment which helps individuals build confidence and self-esteem while promoting independence and personal growth. Our objective is to provide an experience that will bring joy and a feeling of freedom to our students.

Our instructor staff is trained in dealing with physical, cognitive, hearing, visually impaired and developmental disabilities. The lessons are given in an atmosphere that is enthusiastic and upbeat.

## Rein In A Dream

Perkins Community Services  
971 Main Street  
Lancaster, MA  
Contact Name: Cherie Ansin  
Email: cansin@perkinsschool.org  
Phone: 978-368-4804  
Website:

### Program Type

After School  
Summer  
Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health

### Special Needs Category

Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health  
Developmental Disability  
Medically Complex Care  
Safety Management

### Language(s) Spoken

English  
Spanish  
Sign Language

### Special Services Offered

1:1 Support  
Behavioral Support  
Sign Language  
Small Group Support  
Special Dietary Needs  
Behavior Management  
Trauma

### Transportation Options

Parent/Caregiver Responsible

### Age Ranges Served

Preschool (4-5 yrs.)  
Elementary (6-11)  
Middle School (12-14 yrs.)  
High School (15-18 yrs.)  
Transitional (19-22 yrs.)  
Any Age

### Deadline(s) For Application

No  
**Start:**  
**End:**

### Program Dates

Year Round

**Program Start Time:** varies per class

**Program End Time:**

### How Do Families Access

#### Services?

Open Referral (family calls to make referral directly)

### Referral Source (if applicable)

### Program Cost

\$45-\$60 per hour  
Scholarships occasionally

### Towns Served

Ashburnham  
Auburn  
Ayer  
Barre  
Bellingham  
Blackstone  
Bolton  
Brimfield  
Charlton  
Clinton  
Douglas  
Dudley  
Brookfield  
Fitchburg  
Franklin  
Gardner  
Gilbertville  
Grafton  
Grafton  
Hardwick  
Holden  
Hubbardston  
Lancaster  
Leicester  
Lunenburg  
Medway  
Milford  
New Braintree  
North Brookfield  
Oakham  
Oxford  
Paxton  
Pepperell  
Princeton  
Rutland  
Shirley  
Southbridge  
Spencer  
Sterling  
Sutton  
Templeton  
Townsend  
Upton  
Uxbridge  
Wales  
Webster  
Whitinsville  
Winchendon  
Worcester

### Program Description

A Center for therapeutic horsemanship specializing in mental, emotional and behavioral issues for children ages 4-22. Hands on activities and riding and also job skills small animals.