

WISH Program

Work-Incentive Self-Help (WISH) Program
Cecil County Department of Social Services

Presenters: Sydney Aliff and Kim Chiominto

Cecil County Department of Social Services Mission Statement

“We will aggressively pursue opportunities to assist people in economic need, increase prevention efforts, and protect vulnerable children and adults.”

Department of Social Services (DSS) Overview

- Child Support
- Social Services Administration
 - Child Protective Services (CPS) , Foster care, In-home Services, Adult Services
- Family Investment Administration
 - Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), Food Stamps (FS), Medical Assistance (MA), Work-Incentive Self-Help (WISH) Program

Customer Profile

- WISH serves customers from four different sources of referral:
 - 1) Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)
 - 2) Food Stamp (FS) recipients
 - 3) Non- Custodial Parent Employment Program (NPEP) customers
 - 4) Foster care youth

WISH Team Members

- Human Service Administrator for WISH and TCA - *Kim Chiominto*
- Program Supervisor - *Sydney Aliff*
- Job Developer - *Lesley Palfi , 1 Vacancy*
- Instructor - *Beth Moore, 1 Vacancy*
- Case Manager - *Melinda Smith, 2 Vacancies*
- Office Clerk - *Bryanna Leonard*

Current WISH Program

- Virtual program developed as a result of COVID-19
 - Google Meet, phone call, email, text message
- Class instruction occurs during Weeks 1, 2, and 3
- Case Managers meet (virtually) with customers outside of class time during Weeks 1, 2, and 3 to address barriers and identify strengths
- Job Developers begin working with customers Week 3 and through the remainder of their time at WISH to help with Work Experience (WEX) placements and job security

Individualized Case Management Plans

- WISH respects, acknowledges, and celebrates the differences of all customers that enter the program and this is relayed through case planning
 - Strengths-based approach to case planning
 - Identification of barriers with achievable steps customers can take to make changes
 - SMART goals
 - Supervision of plans to ensure customers are making progress
 - 2-Gen planning and service objectives

Additional Services for WISH Customers

- Cecil College GED courses and training programs
- Bus passes for Cecil Transit
- Vehicles for Change referrals
- Skills trainings through Susquehanna Workforce Network (SWN)
- Expungement clinics through Maryland Legal Aid
- On-site DORS counselor
- Public Assistance to Entrepreneurship (PA2E)

DSS and WISH Contact Information

- Department of Social Services
 - Phone: (410) 996-0100

- WISH Program
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