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**The Wait is Over for Individuals in Crisis Prevention**

*Maryland Community Connection is Granted Millions To Help Those in Crisis.*

*Landover, Maryland-December 29, 2011-* Maryland Residents that are on the Developmental Disabilities Administration's (DDA) Crisis Prevention Waiting List are breathing a sigh of relief these days. Through DDA's most recent initiative, *Services of Short Duration (SSD)*, Maryland Community Connection will give millions to prevent crises throughout the state.

*Services of Short Duration* was designed specifically for those categorized as "Crisis Prevention" through DDA's Waiting List Initiative. Each eligible individual is able to receive up to \$10,000 in services and supports that can be used as a one-time payment, or over a designated period of time. Examples of services and supports include (but not limited to): utility bills, medical bills, adaptive equipment, respite care, behavioral support services, etc.

In an effort to serve the unmet needs of individuals in crisis, there is an estimated \$5.8 million that has been available to the SSD program to serve approximately 1096 people throughout Maryland. "SSD will help and allow us to pay for services needed for our son to remain in our care", stated a parent of a child eligible for SSD.

"We applaud DDA and other community advocacy groups such as the Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) for their support of ensuring that all individuals with developmental disabilities in the State receive services," said Ms. André Burno Coates, Executive Director of Maryland Community Connection. "Individuals and families are in dire need of assistance during these tough economic times and hopefully SSD will be a much needed lifeline for resources."

Maryland Community Connection, a non-profit agency geared to helping individuals with developmental disabilities, is one of five organizations in the State of Maryland granted to administer the SSD program. MCC will be hosting 3 information sessions to give a comprehensive review of the SSD program. The kick-off for the Information Sessions will be January 18, 2012. Please visit [www.marylandcommunityconnection.org](http://www.marylandcommunityconnection.org) for dates and times of all sessions.

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**"Helping individuals with developmental disabilities achieve their goals"**