

FAMILY SUPPORT

Critical Resources For Anne Arundel County Families During the COVID-19 Pandemic

SEPT 14, 2020

As we settle into our “new normal” AND a new school year during the pandemic, community agencies are working hard to ensure families & children have access to the resources they need to thrive and be successful in these difficult times.



Family Advocacy Center



Comcast Community Relations—Internet Essentials Program



Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services (DSS)



Empowering Minds Resource Center

Ft. Meade Family Advocacy Programs



The Fort Meade Family Advocacy Center provides comprehensive support and guidance to military families from multiple branches living on and off-base across the Anne Arundel County region. Current programming includes many useful, relevant virtual resources including a 6-week **Parenting With a Purpose** course to enhance social, emotional and physical resilience; a **Singles Support Group**; **A to Z Come Play With Me** weekly virtual playgroup; and a weekly interactive online **Parent Support Group**. All programs are free and open to all military families.

For more information, contact the Family Advocacy Program at (301) 677-4118, or reach out directly to one of the Parent Support Coordinators at (301) 677-3617 / 7823

Comcast To Provide 2 Months of Free Internet Access



Access to the Internet has never been more critical for kids and families! As a community service, Comcast and the new Internet Essentials program seeks to bridge the current digital divide impacting many families by offering 2 months of free high-speed internet access to qualifying families in need. After the two month trial, families will pay only \$9.95/month for high-speed Internet access. This program is available to low-income families—and is also open to families with outstanding Comcast utility debt.

For more information, call 1-855-8-INTERNET Or (855) 846-8376

DSS “Families Supporting Families” & Other Virtual Programs



Anne Arundel County’s Department of Social Services is offering a 9-week virtual support program on Thursday evenings from 6pm—8pm to families seeking connection, guidance, and a safe place to share concerns, worries and successes with others. Topics to be discussed include stress management, healthy communication, relationship support, responsibility and more. Weekly snack packs will be provided for participating families. Interested parents and caregivers must RSVP directly to DSS to enroll:

Call Rosalind Hill, Program Manager at (410) 421-8410

Other upcoming DSS events include a Virtual Café Back to School Training (with guest speaker Dr. Shawn Ashworth) on Wednesday, 9/23 at 11am. Families seeking tips on enhancing their children’s online learning are encouraged to participate!



Other Helpful Resources:

- ⇒ The **Empowering Minds Resource Center** (Anne Arundel County location) is OPEN for in-person appointments! Clients seeking accessible mental health services can call (410) 590-2672 for more information. Masks are required for in-person services at all times.
- ⇒ Our **Anne Arundel County Birth to Five Caregiver Connections** is on Facebook! Direct families to our page to connect with other families and caregivers with children in our Birth to Five programs. Search Anne Arundel County—Caregiver Connections to sign up.