

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

SERVICES (continued)

Latino Medical Services

Support is available for Latino families who have a child or adult with disabilities living at home with unique medical needs. Language barriers and cultural differences often compound these issues.

The goal is to support and to teach the families, allowing them to become more empowered and to achieve greater independence. Support includes: translation, liaison with physicians and transportation. Also offered are English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.



Recreational Services

A wide range of recreational and social opportunities are provided for adults and children, emphasizing companionship and friendship.

Activities for children include music therapy, art therapy and movement therapy as well as family outings and family celebration days. Adult recreation includes outings such as theater, sporting events, art classes, bowling, movies, concerts and other social and recreational events.



Referral Information and Contacts

Fidelity House Human Services is funded through contracts with the Department of Mental Retardation, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and through private contributions.

Referrals are generally made through the Department of Mental Retardation. An individual or family member can make direct inquiries for information to Fidelity House Human Services.

For more information, please contact:

Fidelity House Human Services

One Parker Street
Lawrence, MA 01843

T: 978-685-9471
www.fidelityhhs.org



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PARTNERS FOR A BETTER LIFE

Children and Family Services is part of Fidelity House Human Services, a nonprofit agency dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities build a better life for themselves.

The Children and Family Services group begins by building upon the existing strength of every family.

A Fidelity House professional partners with each family, giving them individual attention and working with them to create a specific family support plan. Families receive help to become legally, financially and educationally knowledgeable and to become aware of the choices of benefits and community services that are available to them.



Fidelity House Human Services, founded in 1971, provides information, services and choices to individuals with disabilities and their families in Massachusetts' Merrimack Valley. Fidelity House strives to support the choices and meet the needs of the people it serves through a portfolio of diversified offerings including residential, educational, vocational, developmental and advocacy services.

F I D E L I T Y H O U S E H U M A N S E R V I C E S

SERVICES

Intensive Case Management Services

Available in the Northeast Region, Intensive Family Support Services offer intensive support for families with children with disabilities up to the age of 22. These services are provided to families in crisis, and the referral is from the area service coordinator from the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR). A family is provided with individual case management to assist them through the complex process of securing benefits and services. Services include:

- **Educational Consultation.** A Fidelity House professional, well versed in special education law, meets with the family to review their child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) and discuss options to meet their child's educational needs. IEP workshops are available to families.
- **Behavioral Consultation.** Fidelity House professionals work with the family to understand and address the challenging behavior of their child at home. The emphasis is on understanding the underlying reasons why the child's behaviors occur. Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and other behavioral methodology workshops are offered to families.
- **Parent Training and Support.** Fidelity House professionals work directly with the parents in the home or community on a specific issue. The behavior plan developed by the consultant is implemented by teaching the parents effective techniques and strategies to reduce the challenging behaviors.
- **Family Therapy.** This service provides a licensed therapist to work with families confidentially in their homes around the challenges of raising a child with disabilities.
- **Flexible Funding.** Fidelity House helps families access and understand options for spending the monies that are available to them from DMR. Limited flexible funding is available to assist families in crisis while in this program.

Family Support Services

Services are available for families with children or adults with disabilities living at home. A family is provided with a case coordinator to assist the family with information and referrals. Services include:



- **Respite.** Respite provides the family with short-term relief from the daily responsibilities of caring for their son or daughter with disabilities. Respite can be provided in the family's home, the community, in the provider's home or at a respite facility.
- **Flexible Funding.** Families can receive flexible funding from an annualized allocation or from the Family Council. The Family Council reviews and assists each family with choices to meet their specific needs.
- **Support Groups and Trainings.** Fidelity House provides support groups for parents with different cultural backgrounds and needs. There are a number of one-day workshops and trainings presented by various specialists on topics including stress management, behavioral interventions, educational advocacy and financial planning.



Fidelity House provides services in the three complementary areas necessary to empower individuals with disabilities to live a better life – family, home and community.