

Notes:

Consumer

resources

Berks County

Reading, PA

Guide

The Community Support Program's
Advisory Committee
and this publication
are funded in part through the
Berks County MH/DD Program

Dear Consumer:

This guide was designed to give you an overview of additional services (other than mental health treatment services and housing services, please see Community Support Program's Housing Guide) available in Berks County. It includes many services which may be beneficial to you.

There are additional resources you may want to use including but, not limited to:

Community Support Program's Housing Guide
GRMHA Provider List
GRMHA Support Group List
Area Agency on Aging
United Way of Berks County

We hope you find this resource guide helpful.

Sincerely,

Community Resource Subcommittee of the
Community Support Program Advisory Board

Revised: 11/2018

Berks County MH/DD

Berks County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Program

(610) 478-3271

Berks County Services Center

633 Court St., Reading, PA 19601

www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/mhmr

Established by the MH/MR Act of 1966, the Berks County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Program is regulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services through the Offices of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. It is funded by the Federal, State and Local government. Through its contracted provider network, it administers a broad array of services for individuals who are in need of mental health and/or developmental disability services. The array of services include evaluations, treatment such as outpatient and partial hospitalization services, residential and housing supports, rehabilitation services, employment training, consultation, outreach, and aftercare services. Berks County MH/DD is also responsible for providing emergency services on a twenty-four hour basis to individuals experiencing acute mental health distress. The Berks County MH/DD program is responsible for gathering data pertaining to community needs, providing such data to the Department of Human Services, and utilizing the data, along with other information such as community input, to develop Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Plans on an annual basis.

Peer Specialist Services

Peer Specialists:

Berks Counseling Center

610-373-4281

Familicare

610-898-0770

Threshold, Inc.

610-777-7691

Greater Reading Mental Health Association
(GRMHA)

610-775-3000

Current or former behavioral health consumers who are trained to offer advocacy and support recovery for the people they serve. Peers can share options, choices, natural supports and teach skills needed to improve personal wellness and build a road to recovery.

(Only available for Medicaid Eligible Consumers)

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Advocacy, Referral & Case Management

Abilities in Motion (AIM)

(610) 376-0010 or 1-888-376-0120
210 No. 5th St., Reading, PA 19601
www.abilitiesinmotion.org

Helps people with disabilities help themselves; advocacy; caregiver assistance; education services; information; referrals; housing assistance; cultural recreation and socialization programs. Assistance with ADA issues.

Area Agency on Aging

(610) 478-6500
633 Court St., 8th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
www.co.berks.pa.us/aging

The Berks County Office of Aging (also known as the Area Agency on Aging) is the department of county government responsible for planning, developing and coordinating services for Berks County residents 60 and older and for certain long term care services for adults under age 60.

The system has a variety of preventative services such as senior centers, volunteer opportunities, limited legal services, and recreation and socialization opportunities.

Hotlines & Emergency Contacts

National Runaway Hotline

(800) RUNAWAY
<http://www.1800runaway.org/>

SafeBerks

(610) 373-1206
(844) 789-SAFE
www.safeberks.org

Salvation Army

301 S. 5th St, Reading, PA 19602
(610) 373-5208
www.salvationarmyreading.org

Service Access & Management (SAM, Inc.)

Crisis Intervention

(610) 236-0530 (ask for a crisis worker)
www.sam-inc.org

Sexually Transmitted Disease Hotline (CDC)

(800) 232-4636

Social Services of Berks

<http://bcss.racc.edu/>

Suicide Prevention RU OK?

(610) 236-0530 – Call
(484) 816-7865 – Text

Hotlines & Emergency Contacts

Berks Advocates Against Violence

351 N. 5th St., Reading, PA 19601
(610) 376-6381

Central PA Poison Center

(800) 222-1222

ChildLine

(800) 932-0313

To report incidences of child abuse or neglect.

Cocaine 24-hour Hotline

(800) 262-2463 (800) COCAINE

Council on Chemical Abuse

(610) 376-8669

www.councilonchemicalabuse.org

Domestic Violence Hotline

(800) 799-7233

Lifeline of Berks County

(610) 374-8545

Crisis pregnancy services.

Narcotics Anonymous Helpline

(610) 374-5944

<https://rascna.org/>

Advocacy, Referral & Case Management

The ARC Alliance Advocacy Services

(610) 265-4700

3075 Ridge Pike

Eagleville, PA 19403-1538

www.thearcalliance.org

The ARC Alliance Advocacy Services provides advocacy and support for individuals with mental retardation and their families. Supports for all ages are provided including needs relating to: education, residential and adult day care programs, legal entitlements and personal rights.

Berks AIDS Network, a program unit of Co-County Wellness Services

(610) 375-6523

429 Walnut St., Reading, PA 19601

cocounty.org/index.php/about/berks-aids-network/

BAN provides services and prevention education to meet individual and community needs associated with HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Hepatitis. Services include case management, drop-in center, support groups, prevention counseling, HIV testing, STD screening and treatment, education, medication adherence. All BAN services are free of charge and completely confidential.

Advocacy, Referral & Case Management

Berks Community Action Program

(610) 376-6571
645 Penn St, 3rd Floor
PO Box 22
Reading, PA 19601
www.bcapberks.org

Berks Community Action Program (BCAP) provides counseling programs for mortgage delinquency and those encountering credit problems. There is a renter's assistance program and assistance for general budget management. Family programs are available in the area of Headstart, Family Center, a Mentoring Program for students in the Reading School District, and a Family Savings Plan.

Berks Co. Association for the Blind, now Vision Resource Center for Berks County

(610) 375-8407
2020 Hampden Blvd., Reading, PA 19604-1499
www.vrcberks.org

Berks County Children & Youth Services

(610) 478-6700 or 1-866-777-8780
633 Court St., 11th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/cys

Provides services for children who are abused and/or neglected. These services include intake/screening, referral, abuse/neglect investigation, and out-of-home placement, and adoption. Counseling, mental health services, drug and alcohol services, and parenting classes are available.

Hotlines & Emergency Contacts

AIDS Hotline at Center for Disease Control

(800) 232-4636

Ambulance/Fire/Police

911

American Red Cross, Berks County Chapter

(610) 375-4383
www.berks.redcross.org

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

(610) 373-6500 – Hotline and answering service
www.readingberksintergroup.org

Berks County Department of Veteran Affairs

(610) 378-5601
1243 County Welfare Rd., Leesport, PA 19533

Berks Women in Crisis

(610) 373-1206
(800) 472-8255
www.berkswomenincrisis.org

Transportation

Reading Metro Taxi

(610) 374-5111

Supportive Concepts for Families

(610) 372-7712

www.supportiveconcepts.org

Transportation for medical appointments. Handicapped accessible. Sliding scale fee.

Western Berks Ambulance Association

(610) 678-1545

www.wbems.org

Wheelchair transportation for medical and non-medical appointments (i.e., shopping mall). Flat rate for 20 miles or less. Flat rate plus mileage for over 20 miles.

Advocacy, Referral & Case Management

Berks Co. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

(610) 685-4520 (V)

(484) 388-4086 (video phone))

2045 Centre Ave., Reading, PA 19605

www.bdhhs.org

Interpreting services, information and referral services and sign languages, as well as hearing screenings and hearing aid assistance.

Berks County Department of Veteran Affairs

(610) 378-5601

726 Cherry St.

Reading, PA 19602

www.co.berks.pa.us/va

Berks Women in Crisis, now Safe Berks

(610) 373-1206

24 hour hotline: (610) 372-9540

Safe house: (610) 373-2053

www.berkswomenincrisis.org

A domestic and sexual violence center which provides counseling and advocacy services, support and safety to battered women, their children; and survivors of sexual abuse. Services also include a 24 hour hotline, emergency shelter, transitional housing, professional trainings and public awareness programs. Additionally, provide legal information about court proceedings, Protection from Abuse (PFA's) orders and criminal processes, along with court accompaniment to hearings.

Advocacy, Referral & Case Management

Catholic Charities

(610) 376-7144

400 Washington Street, Ste. 100, Reading, PA 19601

www.catholiccharitiesusa.org

Services include: Foster parenting and care. Counseling (family, individual and marriage). Limited material assistance (i.e., food, prescriptions, etc.), pregnancy support (pregnancy tests, baby formula and diapers), immigration and refugee citizenship services, and a Special Learning Center.

Council on Chemical Abuse

(610) 376-8669

601 Penn St., Suite 600, Reading, PA 19601

www.councilonchemicalabuse.org

Information, referral, and advocacy services for persons affected by addiction. The Council on Chemical Abuse also manages an addiction resource library containing books, videotapes, research publications and pamphlets related to addiction, prevention, treatment, intervention and dual diagnosis.

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Northeast PA Chapter

(610) 820-0206 or 1-800-552-2199

Whitehall, PA

<http://www.cff.org/Chapters/nepa/>

Easter Seals of Eastern Pennsylvania

(610) 775-1431

90 George St., Reading, PA 19605

www.esep.easterseals.com

Physical, occupational, speech & recreation therapies and education services for children with disabilities.

Transportation

Public transportation in Berks County is available by bus and taxi. Limited subsidized services are available.

BARTA

(610) 921-0601

1700 N 11th St., Reading, PA 19604

www.bartabus.com

Provides bus services to Reading and surrounding areas. Individual fares and monthly passes are available. Contact BARTA for fare and route information.

BARTA Specialized Services

(610) 921-2361

1700 North 11th St., Reading PA 19604

Specialized transportation is available Monday-Friday to persons who are elderly or ADA eligible. Free and reduced fare services available. Contact BARTA for an application.

Grab-A-Cab, Inc.

(610) 478-1111

5A Antietam Road

Temple, PA 19560

<http://grabacabpa.com/wordpress/contact-us/>

Inter-City Bus Terminal

(610) 374-3182

20 N. 3rd Street, Reading, PA 19601

Bus transportation to areas beyond Reading and nearby zones.

Legal Assistance

Berks County Bar Association

(610) 375-4591

544-546 Court St., Reading, PA 19601

www.berksbar.com

Lawyer referral services available. There is a nominal fee.

Berks County Public Defender

(610) 478-6650

633 Court St., 12th Floor, Reading, PA 19601

www.co.berks.pa.us

Provides free legal services for criminal cases. Eligibility is based on income and assets.

Mid Penn Legal Services

(610) 376-8656

501 Washington St., Room 401, Reading, PA 19601

www.midpenn.org

Provides free legal services for civil cases to the low income population.

Advocacy, Referral & Case Management

Hispanic Center / Centro Hispano

(610) 376-3748

501 Washington St., Reading, PA 19602

www.centrohispano.org

Provides social services including outreach, information and referral, translation, interpretation, transportation, and HIV and AIDS prevention. The Senior Center provides social, recreational and educational activities, meals and instruction in the English language. The Micro-Enterprise Program serves to coordinate small business development, and includes a lending program. The Higher Education Initiative promotes higher education among Hispanic adults (and youth). The Health Care Language and Employment Program offers healthcare, vocational ESL and Certified Nursing Assistant training to displaced workers with limited English proficiency

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation

(610) 373-6488

906 Penn Ave., Wyomissing, PA 19610

www.jdrf.org

Lifeline of Berks County

(610) 374-8545

612 Reading Ave., W. Reading, PA 19611

www.lifelineofberks.org

Pregnancy tests (free), information on pregnancy and ongoing support services (i.e., transportation to physician's appointments, etc.)

Advocacy, Referral & Case Management

Greater Reading Mental Health Alliance

(610) 775-3000

1234 Penn Avenue, Wyomissing, PA 19610

www.grmha.org

Individual case advocacy and rights protection for adults and children with emotional, behavioral and/or mental health problems. Other services include support groups for families and friends of those with mental illness, information and referral services, and Consumer Satisfaction Team (CST) projects for CHIPP and HealthChoices.

Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center

(610) 376-0828 – Office

105 S. 5th St., Reading, PA 19602

www.mercypregnancycenter.org

Free pregnancy tests, information and on-going support .

Muscular Dystrophy Association, Inc.

1-800-572-1717

www.mda.org

Disability Rights Network of PA

1-800-692-7443

1414 N Cameron St., 2nd FL

Harrisburg, PA 17103

www.dmpa.org

Planned Parenthood of North East PA

(610) 376-8061

48 S 4th St., Reading, PA 19602

Housing & Food Banks

Trinity U.C.C. in His Name

2449 Cumberland Ave. Reading, PA 19606
(484) 509-0706

Western Berks Food Pantry

(610) 375-8303

Soup Kitchens:

Church of God, Schuylkill Ave.

130 West Buttonwood St., Reading, PA
(610) 374-0790

Hopewell Mennonite Church

45 S 6th St., Reading, PA
(610) 373-3907

Kennedy House

532 Spruce St., Reading, PA
(610) 378-1947

New Journey

138 S 6th St., Reading, PA
(610) 375-2662

Case Management

New Story Wyomissing

(610) 396-3673
345 N. Wyomissing Blvd.
Wyomissing, PA 19610
www.newstory.com

Provides Intensive Case Management (ICM) and resource Coordination (RC) services based on individualized needs. This service is available to enrolled individuals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Service Access & Management, Inc. (SAM, Inc.)

(610) 236-0530
19 N 6th St., Suite 300, Reading, PA 19601
www.sam-inc.org

Provides intake, case management, and referral for individuals with mental illnesses or mental retardation. Crisis Intervention Services available 24 hours a day.

Treatment Access Services Center (TASC)

(610) 375-4426
19 N 6th St., Suite 300, Reading, PA 19601
<http://berkstasc.org/>

Provides intake, case management, and referral for individuals with mental illness and/or substance abuse problems.

Self Help & Support Groups

Adult Child of Alcoholic/Dysfunctional Family
Shillington Church of Christ – (484) 769-0352

American Cancer Society
1-800-227-2345
Smoking Cessation Groups

Al-Anon Family Support Groups
(610) 373-5237 (answering machine)
<http://www.pa-al-anon.org/>
Call for meeting locations and times.

Alcoholics Anonymous
(610) 373-6500
<http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/>
Call for meeting locations and times.

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders
(610) 375-4990 (Berks County)
237 Court St., Reading, PA 19601
www.alz.org/delval/

Bereavement/Grief Support Group
Advent Lutheran/West Lawn – (610) 796-1489
Penn State SJMC – (610) 378-2000
Reformation Church/ Exeter – (610) 779-0534
St. Catherine/Mt. Penn – (610) 370-1174

Housing & Food Banks

Northern Berks Food Pantry
31 N 3rd St., Hamburg, PA
(610) 562-8250

St. Ignatius Loyola
4th Thursday of every Month from 3 – 4 PM
2810 St. Alban's Drive, Sinking Spring, PA
(610) 678-3767
www.stignatiusreading.org

St. Paul's U.C.C.
3rd Tuesday of every Month at 3 PM
1312 Old Swede Rd., Douglasville, PA 19518
(610) 689-9364
www.stpaulsuccamity.org

Salvation Army
301 S. 5th St., Reading, PA
(610) 373-5208
www.salvationarmyreading.org

Spring Valley Church of God
3rd Wednesday of every Month at 7 PM
2727 Old Pricetown Rd., Temple, PA 19560
(610) 929-7969
www.svcog.com

Housing & Food Banks

Friend, Inc.

658D Noble St., Kutztown, PA

(610) 683-7790

www.friendinc.org

Greater Berks Food Bank

117 Morgan Dr., Reading, PA 19608

(610) 926-5802

www.berksfoodbank.org/

Holy Trinity Church of God

130 W Buttonwood St., Reading, PA

(610) 374-0790

www.holytrinitycog.org/

Hopewell Mennonite Church

45 S 6th St., Reading, PA

(610) 373-3907

Kennedy House (Catholic Social Agency)

Wednesdays from 9:30 – 11AM

532 Spruce St., Reading, PA

(610) 378-1947

Berks Encore Mifflin Center

Food Pantry – call for info

30 Liberty St., Shillington, PA

(610) 777-5577

www.berksencore.org

New Journey

138 S 6th St., Reading, PA

(610) 375-3310

Self Help & Support Groups

Berks I CAN (Involved Consumer Action Network)

(610) 775-3000

Self-help, support, education, social activities and advocacy for MH consumers. Meetings held 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month 2-3:30 PM – at Trinity Lutheran Church, 6th and Washington Sts. Call for additional times and locations.

Breast Cancer Support Services

(610) 375-9925 – Support Line

529 Reading Ave., Reading, PA 19611

www.bcssberks.org

Chronic Pain Anonymous

Caron Treatment Center – (610) 207-3716

Gamblers Anonymous & GamAnon

(855) 222-5542

(717) 314-4274

(717) 413-6789 – Friends and Family

Christ Church UCC, Temple, PA 19605

www.gamblersanonymous.org

Call for meeting locations and times.

Narcotics Anonymous

(610) 374- 5944

P.O. Box 6483, Reading, PA 19610

www.rascna.org/

Call for meeting locations and times.

Online Support Groups

www.onlinesupportgroups.com

Self Help & Support Groups

Greater Reading Mental Health Alliance

(610) 775-3000

1234 Penn Ave., Wyomissing, PA 19610

www.grmha.org

Education and support services for those whose lives have been effected by a serious mental illness.

Family Support Group – 1st Monday of the Month

Recovery Group – 2nd Wednesday of the Month

Both are held at Reading Hospital and Medical Center, K-Bldg., 1st FL Conference Room.

SMART Recovery- Self Management for Addiction Recovery

Differs from 12-step recovery in that it is science-based, teaches self-empowerment, self-reliance. Daily on-line meetings, no local face to face meetings at this time.

(866) 951-5357

www.smartrecovery.org/

Housing & Food Banks

Kennedy House

532 Spruce St., Reading, PA

(610) 378-1947

New Journey

138 S 6th St., Reading, PA

(610) 375-2662 Executive Director

(610) 375-3310 Food Program Coordinator

Salvation Army

301 S 5th St., Reading, PA

(610) 373-5208

www.salvationarmyreading.org

Food Pantries:

For the most current information as to available times and location of food distribution, please contact Greater Berks Food Bank at (610) 926-5802.

Bethel AME – 1st Saturday of every Month at 10am.

330 W Windsor St., Reading, PA

(610) 376-7555

Conrad Weiser Food Pantry, Zion Lutheran Church

108 South Robeson Street, Robeson, PA 19551

(610) 693-8313

www.trinityrobersonia.org

Destiny Christian Ministries

Hampden & Windsor Sts., Reading, PA

(610) 375-1552

www.destinycm.org

Housing & Food Banks

Clothes and Household Items:

Goodwill Industries Retail Stores:

602 E Lancaster Ave., Shillington, PA 19607

(610) 777-5250

www.yourgoodwill.org

3413 N 5th St., Reading, PA 19605

(610) 921-8221

324 E. Penn Ave, Robesonia, PA 19551

(610) 693-6014

Clock Tower Plaza, 2846 Main St.

Morgantown, PA 19543

(610) 286-6676

310 N. Wyomissing Ave., Shillington, PA 19607

(610) 777-7875 (Main office)

3001 St. Lawrence Ave., Reading, PA 19606

(484) 525-4075

Hope Rescue Mission Outlet

645 N 6th St., Reading, PA

(610) 375-4224

www.hopeforreading.org

Hopewell Mennonite Church

45 S. 6th St., Reading, PA

(610) 373-3907

Self Help & Support Groups

NAMI Berks County

(610) 685-3000

649 Centre Ave.

Reading, PA 19601

www.namiberkspa.org

Support groups for consumers and families.

Parkinson's Support Group

(610) 929-8627

www.theparkinsoncouncil.org

Call for meeting locations and times.

Sexaholics Anonymous

(610) 682-9622

www.orgsites.com/pa/sa/

Call for meeting locations and times.

Reading Berks Conference of Churches

(610) 375-6108 or (484) 650-3906

201 Washington St., Suite 558, Reading, PA 19601

www.readingberkschurches.org

Facilitates access to faith based supports or can contact religious access facilitator.

The Circle of Friends (Drop-in Center)

(610) 478-1984

227 N. 5th St., Reading, PA 19601

Provides life skills training, educational activities, volunteer opportunities, as well as social and recreational outlets.

Education

Basic Skills

Basic reading, writing, mathematics and English language instruction are provided by the following organizations:

Literacy Council of Reading-Berks, Inc.

(610) 670-9960

35 S Dwight St., West Lawn, PA 19609

www.lcrb.org

Offers classes at multiple locations across Berks County for basic reading and writing, GED preparation, English as a second language, and citizenship.

High School Equivalency Diploma (GED)

The GED is awarded to an individual who has passed a high school equivalency examination. GED tests are designed to measure knowledge and skills, typically learned during high school, that a person may have obtained in a different manner. There is an examination fee which must be paid each time the test or part of the test is taken. This fee must be paid at registration.

Classes are available to prepare an individual to take the high school equivalency examination. Classes are administered by Reading Area Community College (RACC). Contact RACC, Continuing Education Department at (610) 607-6227 for further information.

Financial & Medical Assistance

Coverage: Medicare has two types of coverage: medical insurance (Part B); and hospital insurance (Part A).

Medical insurance helps pay:

- Physician services
- Outpatient hospital care
- Outpatient physical therapy
- Speech pathology services
- Home health care
- Many other health services and supplies which are not covered by Medicare hospital insurance

Medicare pays 80% of approved charges after you pay a deductible.

Hospital Insurance helps pay:

- Inpatient hospital care
- Post-hospital skilled nursing facility care
- Home health care
- Hospice care

There is a deductible for inpatient hospital care for each benefit period (60 days). **NOTE:** Medicare hospital insurance can help for no more than 190 days of care in a participating psychiatric hospital in your lifetime. There is also a “special rule” that applies if you are in a participating psychiatric hospital at the time your hospital insurance starts. For more information about this special rule, contact the Social Security Administration at (800) 772-1213 or TDD only (800) 325-0778.

Financial & Medical Assistance

Work Incentive Available While on SSDI: Individuals on SSDI can return to work and retain their benefits through the proper use of the Work Incentive Provisions of the Social Security Act. These include:

- A Trial Work Period
- Impairment Related Work Expenses
- Extended Period of Eligibility
- Continuation of Medicare Coverage
- Medicare for People with Disabilities Who Work

Medicare:

Medicare is a federal insurance program designed to provide health care benefits for persons over the age of 65 and certain disabled persons who could not otherwise pay for benefits. Medicare assists in paying hospital and medical bills for participants.

Eligibility:

Those eligible include:

- Individuals over the age of 65 regardless of income;
- Disabled persons under 65 who have been entitled to SSDI for at least two years
- Certain other persons with permanent kidney failure

Education

Post Secondary (High School) Education

There are several types of education available beyond high school, including two and four year colleges, vocational-technical training and non-degree continuing education programs.

Support Services: Students who have not attended a post-secondary institution or whose education has been interrupted because of physical/emotional problems, may feel reluctant to return to school. Many of these institutions have free counseling departments to assist enrolled students in overcoming barriers to continued education.

Financial Assistance for Post Secondary Education: There are many sources available for students to obtain monies to finance education/training beyond high school. These sources include state and federal programs, educational institutions and private organizations.

Post Secondary Institutions in Berks County:

Albright College

(610) 921-2381 Main Number
(610) 921-7700 Admissions
(610) 921-7799 Accelerated Program
(610) 921-7515 Financial Aid
13th & Bern Sts., Reading, PA 19604
www.albright.edu/

Alvernia College

(888) ALVERNIA
400 St. Bernardine St., Reading, PA 19607
www.alvernia.edu

Education

Berks Career & Technology Center

(610) 374-4073 Adult Education
1057 County Rd., Leesport, PA 19533
www.berkscareer.com/

Berks Technical Institute

(610) 372-1722 Adult Education or 1-866-871-8068
2205 Ridgewood Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610
www.berks.edu/campus

Kutztown University

(610) 683-4000 Admissions
(610) 683-4077 Financial Aid
(610) 683-4072 Counseling/Psychological Services
PO Box 730, Kutztown, PA 19530
www.kutztown.edu

PACE Institute

(888) 306-7223
606 Court St., Reading, PA 19601
www.paceinstitute.com

Pennsylvania State University/Berks Campus

(610) 396-6000 Admissions
(610) 396-6220 Continuing Education
(610) 396-6070 Financial Aid
PO Box 7090, Tulpehocken Rd., Reading, PA 19610
www.berks.psu.edu

Reading Area Community College

(610) 372-4721 Admissions
(610) 607-6225 Financial Aid
(610) 607-6245 Disability Services
PO Box 1706, 10 S Second St., Reading, PA 19603
www.racc.edu

Financial & Medical Assistance

Work Incentive Available While on SSI: Individuals on SSI can go to work and retain some, if not all, of their benefit through the use of the Work Incentive Provisions of the Social Security Act. These include:

- Earned Income Exclusion
- Impairment-Related Work Expenses (IRWE)
- Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS)
- Student Earned Income Exclusion
- Property Essential to Self-Support

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Eligibility: To be eligible for SSDI, a person must:

- Have worked and paid Social Security taxes (FICA) and have (earned a minimum amount for a specified period of time)
- Have little (under \$500/month) or no current earned income
- Be considered medically disabled
- Be a citizen of the United States or a legal alien and be a resident of this Country
- File an application

Cash Benefit (Entitlement): The payment amount is based on the individual's lifetime average earnings covered by Social Security. The payment amount may be reduced by workman's compensation payments and/or public disability payments.

Medical Coverage: Medicare

Benefits Begin: An individual must wait five (5) full months after the onset of the disability before receiving SSDI benefits. The application for benefits can be made sooner.

Financial & Medical Assistance

Social Security Administration

(610) 320-5096 Reading Office
(800) 772-1213 Main Number
(866) 274-5960 Visionlink
201 Penn St., Reading, PA 19601
www.ssa.gov

Eligibility: To be eligible for SSI based on a mental or physical disability, an individual must:

- Have little (under \$625/month) or no income
- Have limited resources (under \$2000)
- Be considered medically disabled
- Be a citizen of the United States or some legal alien who meets other status and work history requirements and be a resident of this Country
- File an application

Cash Benefit: The maximum amount for which one can be eligible is the sum of the federal contribution and the State supplement. This amount may be lower if the individual receives other income.

Medical Coverage: Medicaid (Medical Assistance)

Benefits Begin: There is no waiting period required before receiving SSI benefits. Benefits are paid retroactive to the date of application.

- Extended Medicaid [1619(b)]

Employment

The types of services provided by the organizations listed in this section fall into two categories: 1) those providing job coaching, job preparation skills and personal, work and adjustment training and 2) those providing sheltered employment, supported employment and supportive employment.

Below you will find a brief definition of each of these services:

Job Coaching- The use of a job coach or on-site trainer to provide training, support and follow-up services.

Job Preparation Skills- Training or assistance in preparing resumes and cover letters, job interviewing skills, job-seeking skills, etc.

Personal, Work and Adjustment Training- A training period to acquire and/or improve work-related skills in preparation for competitive employment.

Sheltered Employment- Employment in a sheltered workshop setting, which is noncompetitive by nature. Often, the pay received is less than the legal minimum wage.

Supported Employment- Use of a job coach to provide long-term training and follow-up services in an employment setting.

Supportive Employment- Use of a job coach to provide short term training and follow up services in an employment setting.

Employment

AHEDD, Inc.

(610) 375-7692

1150 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing, PA 19610

www.ahedd.org

Job coaching, job preparation skills, job analysis and supportive employment.

Vision Resource Center of Berks County

(610) 375-8407

2020 Hampden Blvd., Reading, PA 19604

www.vrcberks.org

Sheltered employment.

Berks County Career Link

(610) 988-1300

1920 Kutztown Rd. Suite "F" Reading, PA 19604

<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/CareerLink>

Provides high-value, low cost employment and training services and information to businesses and job seekers of Berks County.

Berks Personnel Network (Threshold)

(610) 288-1448

1015 Rockland St., West Reading, PA 19604

<http://www.trsync.org/pages/SeekingEmployees/BPN/bpn.aspx>

Job preparation skills, supportive employment and supported employment.

Financial & Medical Assistance

Emergency Shelter Assistance: Provides financial assistance specifically to obtain permanent housing or temporary shelter for low income families or individuals who are homeless or near homeless, or in order to prevent eviction or foreclosure.

Cash Assistance: Cash assistance benefits are available to individuals and families. Eligibility is based on resources, income, employment/work registration or disability determination. Most programs are time limited or have age requirements.

Medication Assistance Programs

Some pharmaceutical companies offer free medications to low income families. Typically, a doctor's consent and proof of the person's financial status is required. Contact your physician or mental health provider for a list of companies with patient assistance programs.

Rent and Tax Rebate

(610) 378-4401

625 Cherry St., Reading, PA 19602

Financial & Medical Assistance

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Berks County Assistance Office

(610) 736-4211 General Information
1-800-692-7462 Helpline
625 Cherry St., Reading, PA 19602
www.dhs.pa.gov

Eligibility: Restricted to Berks County residents who demonstrate need based on income/resources. Some programs have time limits.

www.compass.state.pa.us/

Services provided:

Food Stamps Benefits Program: Provides financial assistance for food purchasing to low income families. Eligible participants are provided with a personal ID card which can be used to purchase food at retail stores. Employment and time limits may apply.

Medical Assistance Programs: There are a variety of medical assistance benefit packages available. Eligibility is based on income, resources, age or special circumstances. You will be given a choice of 3 physical health HMO's. Upon enrollment in a physical health HMO, you will automatically be enrolled with Community Care Behavioral Health Organization for your behavioral health benefits.

Utilities and Energy (LIHEAP): The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides cash benefits to help eligible low income households pay for their heating/energy costs.

Employment

Blindness and Visual Services (BVS)

1-866-227-4163
(570) 826-2361 Voice
(570) 826-2023 TTY
300 G. Laird St., Wilkes Barre, PA 18702
www.dli.pa.gov

Job training, supportive employment, sheltered employment for persons with visual difficulties.

Community Skills Program Counseling and Rehabilitation

610-376-3380
1150 Berkshire Blvd., Suite #210 Wyomissing, PA 19610
www.communityskillsprogram.com

Job preparation skills, job development and placement, job coaching, follow up services and social skills training.

Goodwill Employment Services (Ticket to Work)

1-888-831-7177
www.yourgoodwill.org

Job preparation skills, supportive employment, transition for School to Work Program.

H.O.P.E. Springs

(484) 650-0198
19 N. 6th St. Reading, PA 19601

H.O.P.E. Springs serves 16-21 year olds with psychosocial social rehabilitation programming. Provides transitional employment programming services.

Employment

Mosaic House

(610) 375-7840

525 Franklin St., Reading, PA 19602

<http://trsinc.org/pages/IndividualServices/BHS/Clubhouse/Clubhouse.aspx>

Mosaic House is a psychosocial rehabilitation program based on the Fountain House clubhouse model in NYC. A full array of services are provided to adults with mental illness. A unique transitional employment program is also available at the clubhouse, which assists individuals to eventually obtain competitive employment.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

1-800- 442-0949

3602 Kutztown Rd, Suite 200, Reading, PA 19605

Vocational counseling and guidance, job placement, on the job training, funding for education, home modifications, vehicle modifications, physical restoration, funding for job coaching, funding for evaluation and other vocational services. Pre-applications can be submitted by going to OVR Services www.jobgateway.pa.gov.

Prospectus Associates, Inc. / BERCO

(610) 372-4637

840 William Lane, Reading, PA 19604

www.proberco.org

Sheltered employment, vocational evaluations and Personal and Work Adjustment Training.

Employment

Threshold Rehabilitation Services

(610) 777-7691

1000 Lancaster Ave., Reading, PA 19607

www.trsync.org

Sheltered employment, food service training program, and janitorial training program.

United Way of Berks County

(610) 685-4574

www.uwberks.org

An individual may choose to use their skills or gain new skills by volunteering. There are many opportunities to volunteer in Berks County. For further information, contact the Volunteer Center of the United Way at (610) 371-4571.