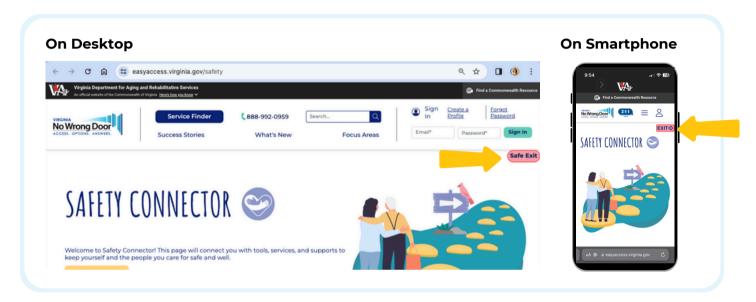
HOW YOU CAN USE THE SAFETY CONNECTOR

What is the Safety Connector?

The Safety Connector connects you to information about elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and to services and supports to keep yourself and the people you care for safe and well.

Safety Alert

If you think your internet usage is being monitored you can exit out of the Safety Connector quickly through the safe Exit button on the top right of the screen, which takes you to weather.com. You can also learn how to clear your browser history here.



Searching for Services and Resources

Which device is best for using the Safety Connector

While you can use this site on your smartphone, it is best used on a device with a larger screen, like a computer or tablet.





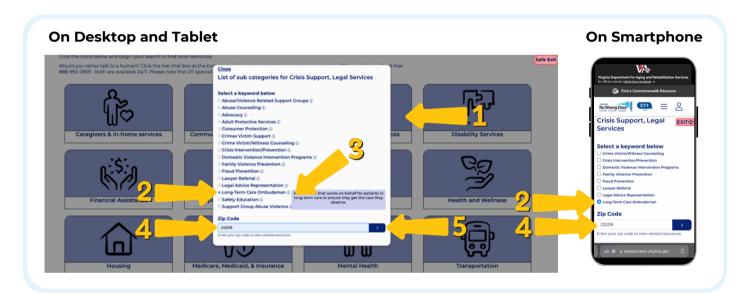


Search by Topic

For now you can search for services using the icon topic search, and we plan to add a type ahead search soon.

You can search through the different topics or icons for local services and resources.

- 1. Click an icon.
- 2. Click the subcategory you are searching for.
- 3. If you are unsure of what a subcategory means, roll your mouse over the info button to the right until the definition pops up. These definitions are also listed in the Glossary of Terms.
- 4. Enter your zip code.
- 5. Press the arrow to the right.



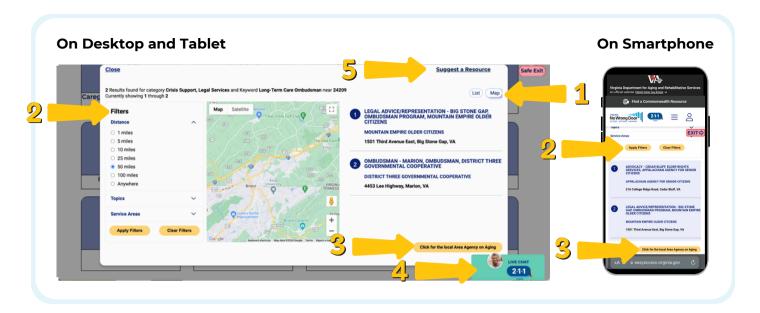
Your Search Results

When your results open the default is to show a list of results within 50 miles.

- 1. You can view the results on a map <u>and</u> a list by clicking the (Map) button on the top right.
- 2. You can filter your results according to distance, topic, and service area, especially if you're not getting the results you expected. Or you can close the search and start another one.
- 3. You can also contact your local Area Agency on Aging which provides a wide range of services to people in your area.
- 4.To 'talk with a human' at any point, you can click the "live chat" box in the bottom right corner to find what you're looking for with a 211 specialist or call toll-free: 888-992-0959. Please note that 211 specialists are required by law to report known or suspected cases of elder abuse.
- 5. If there are any services or programs that you know of that are not showing in the results, please click 'Suggest a Resource' on the top right of the results box and enter the details to help us improve our results.



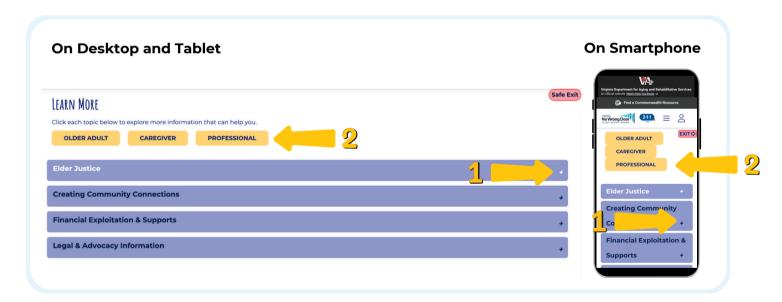




Learn More

This section is intuitive and easy to use. You can find information about all aspects of elder mistreatment, and safety, especially community connections and access to resources and services.

You can click through the headings, or you can find information through the different user buttons. The links under the tabs on the main page are all "smart", so you can save them in your No Wrong Door profile (see How to create a No Wrong Door profile).



How to create a No Wrong Door profile

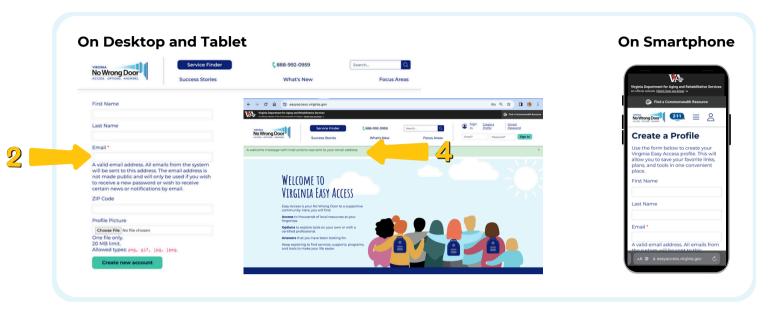
If you would like to save links and other information you can create a profile.

- 1. Click 'Create a profile' at the top right corner from anywhere on Virginia Easy Access.
- 2. Enter your details, you will need to enter a working email address.
- 3. Click Create new account

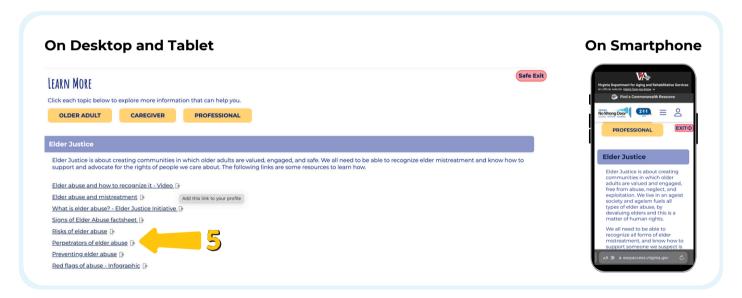




4. Go to your email inbox and follow the instructions in the email from NWD to activate your account and create a password.



5. Once you have created an account and are logged in when you use the Safety Connector, you can save all smart links to your profile by clicking this icon



Please help us continue improving the Safety Connector

This is a new tool and we are continuously working to improve the user experience and features. Share your <u>feedback</u> here or on the site and help improve this tool. And check back in again!



WHAT DO YOU THINK? SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK AND HELP IMPROVE THIS TOOL.





GLOSSARY OF TERMS

What is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse is any intentional or negligent act, usually by a trusted person, that causes a serious risk of harm to an older adult (National Center on Elder Abuse, 2023) Elder abuse can include physical, sexual, financial, and psychological abuse, and/or neglect.

Definitions of services and programs under each Search Topic



Caregivers & In-home services

Adult Day Care

A service or location that can provide older and disabled adults with social and health services during the day, while their caregiver is away.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

These are access points for people seeking programs or care for themselves or loved ones. The services are generally for older adults or those that live with a disability.

Area Agencies on Aging

These are organizations that provide services for older adults. These services may include financial or legal assistance, help with Medicare or Medicaid or finding a healthy meal to eat. Programs offered by an Area Agency on Aging are generally free of charge. (Sometimes called a "AAA".)

Caregiver Counseling

A program where a caregiver speaks to a trained professional about their emotional and physical burdens to relieve stress.

Caregiver Training

A type of training provided to potential caregivers to become a certified professional in a home care setting.

Dementia Management

Services provided to help those living with dementia and their caregivers. Helps with home health tasks and caregiving related tasks in and out of the home environment.

Geriatric Assessment

This is given to assess different aspects of an older adult's overall health including mental function and social situation.

Friendly Visiting

A friendly visitor is a trusted volunteer that visits a socially isolated senior for at least an hour, once a week.

Friendly Telephoning

This program sends phone calls from trusted volunteers to help seniors dealing with loneliness and isolation.





Housekeeping Assistance

A program to help older adults or those with disabilities with light housekeeping tasks.

In Home Assistance

This service provides seniors with a professional to help them live more comfortably in their homes. They can help with such tasks as preparing a meal or chores.

Long Term Care Ombudsman

An Ombudsman in Long Term Care is an advocate for a patient and their loved ones. They work on behalf of the patient to ensure they receive the care they deserve.

Long Term Support Options Counseling

This is a process for older adults or someone with a disability to help them decide what type of care is best for them.

Senior Companion Programs

A senior companion makes friends with an older adult to help them feel less isolated.

Support Group Caregivers

Support groups designed to help caregivers with their feelings and burdens.

Telephone Reassurance

A program that sends a phone call from a trusted volunteer on a frequent basis to check on a senior that lives alone or is homebound.

Personal Care

Provides care services such as meal preparation or grooming.

Respite Care

Provides temporary relief for a caregiver so they can take care of personal needs or have a vacation. The care receiver is left in trusting and professional hands.



Community Support & Recreation

DSS/Social Services Departments

A department within the State government. They help vulnerable people and families get access to services.

Foster Grandparents Programs

A program in which older adults volunteer to spend time with children and youth to enhance their quality of life.

Information and Referral

A program to connect people to information and various services in their area.

Language Interpretation

A language translation service for people that do not natively speak English. May help with going to see a medical professional or have a document translated for them.

Libraries

A community-based location for books, computers, and internet access. Sometimes classes are held to learn new skills or learn new things.





Military Family Services/Support Centers

Centers for people in the military and their families to get connected to programs and services.

Military Transition Assistance Programs

Helps people in the military return to civilian life through by providing education or employment opportunities.

Recreation Centers

Community locations for people of all ages to participate in fitness, exercise, workshops, or other programs.

Retired Senior Volunteer Programs

A volunteer-based service for older adults who help through other community-based programs like Meals on Wheels or mentoring youth.

Senior Centers

A community-based center for older adults to help them with recreation or other needs such as physical or social.



Crisis Support, Legal Services

Abuse/Violence Related Support Groups

Support groups that help victims of abuse and domestic violence.

Abuse Counseling

One-on-one professional counseling for abuse and domestic violence victims.

Advocacy

Support for people or families facing legal or financial troubles.

Adult Protective Services

A division of the social services that investigates reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Consumer Protection

A department to protect victims of a fraud or stop fraudulent businesses.

Crimes Victim Support

A form of support for victims of a crime provided by the State.

Crime Victim/Witness Counseling

A form of counseling provided by a professional to victims or witnesses of a violent crime.

Crisis Intervention/Prevention

A type of nonviolent intervention to help stop a crisis before it happens or while it is happening.

Domestic Violence Intervention Programs

An intervention program for domestic violence offenders to stop abusive behaviors and learn healthy ways to interact with their partner.

Family Violence Prevention

This program is meant to prevent and raise awareness of different types of abuse and protect victims of domestic abuse.





Fraud Prevention

An educational service to provide people with information on how to avoid common scams.

Lawyer Referral

Helps provide access to a lawyer to ask questions about legal troubles someone may be facing.

Legal Advice Representation

A service that provides access to a lawyer to ask questions about legal troubles someone may be facing.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman

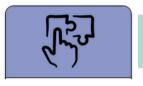
An advocate that works on behalf for patients in long-term care to ensure they get the care they deserve.

Safety Education

Educational classes that help with providing information and training around public and general safety topics.

Support Group Abuse Violence

A type of support group for abuse and domestic violence victims.



Disability Services

Accessibility Information

Provides information about how access for people with disabilities.

ADA/Americans with Disabilities Act Information

A law to protect people with disabilities and their civil rights.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

These are access points for people seeking programs or care for themselves or loved ones. The services are generally for older adults or those that live with a disability.

Assistive Technology Information

Educational resources for learning about assistive technologies such as a walker or a hearing aid.

Blindness/Visual Impairment

A visual impairment is something that prevents a person from seeing things properly. Blindness is a lack of vision that may mean the person only sees changes in light.

Centers for Independent Living

A place where people with a disability can learn independent living skills.

Disability Awareness

Helps people learn about or understand their own or other people's disability.

Disability Related Transportation

Transportation to help those with disabilities get around easier and live more independently.

Health/Disability Related Counseling

A type of therapy for people living with a disability. It is meant to help them deal with challenges specific to their disability.





Independent Living Skills

A set of skill training for people with disabilities to help them live more independently.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman

An advocate that works on behalf for patients in long-term care to ensure they get the care they deserve.

Long Term Support Options Counseling

This is a decision making process where a professional counselor guides the person through their options to decide which services and supports are best for them.

Support Group Mental Health

A support group for people with a mental health condition or those facing challenges with their mental health.

Supported Employment

Is employment for people with a disability. They are given specific coaching and training to help them succeed.



Financial Assistance

Benefits Assistance

This program helps people sign up for public benefits they may be eligible for such as food or money related assistance.

Benefits Screening

This program helps people sign up for public benefits they may be eligible for such as food or money related assistance.

Burial Assistance

A program or service to help a family seeking financial assistance with the burial of a loved one.

Discounted Telephone

A program for people seeking financial assistance with getting a phone or phone plan.

Discounted Internet

A program for people seeking financial assistance with getting internet access.

Financial Assistance Electric

Helps people seeking financial help with an electric bill.

Financial Assistance Gas

Helps people seeking financial help with a gas bill.

Financial Assistance Heating Fuel

Helps people seeking financial help with a heat/oil bill.

Financial Assistance Transportation

Helps people seeking financial help with an upcoming trip.

Financial Assistance Water

Helps people seeking financial help with a water bill.





Financial Counseling

This is a type of counseling for people who want or need help gaining financial stability.

Holiday Assistance

A program to help people pay for holiday related expenses.

Medical Expense Assistance

A program to help people find ways to pay for medical bills or procedures.

Mortgage Payment Assistance

A program to help people with mortgage payments.

Rent Payment Assistance

A program to help people with their rent.

Social Security Disability Benefits

A financial assistance program for people with disabilities. You must apply to see if you qualify for the benefits.



Employment and Education

Adult Education

A program for adults that want to get a GED or a form of secondary education.

Career Counseling

A type of counseling to help find a new job or help with improving a current job.

Computer and Related Technical Classes

Classes to help with technology-based problems and learn computer/technology skills.

Continuing Education

Education beyond high school or obtaining skills and knowledge into adulthood.

Job Search/Placement

Services (such as a staffing agency) that can help with job and career searches.

Job Training

Programs that help with a training for a specific job field.

Senior Community Services Employment Programs

A program that can help people that are usually over the age of 55 find a job.

Veteran Employment Programs

A type of program that helps military veterans find a job or job training.

Vocational Employment

A type of employment or job training for people with disabilities.



Food





Home Delivered Meals

A service (like Meals on Wheels) that brings people free and healthy meals who may not be able to prepare them for themselves to their home.

Meal Sites

A place where a lunchtime meal is served free of charged. Each location provides socializing opportunities and programs. (Also called Congregate Meals)

Farmer's Markets

A community location where farmers and growers come together to sell fresh produce, meats, and other goods.

Food Pantry

A community focused program set up like a grocery store where people can pick up fresh foods and canned goods. Usually, visitors do not pay anything and are never asked any questions about themselves. (Should not be confused with a food bank.)

Food Stamps/SNAP

A financial assistance program to help low-income individuals and families with their groceries. (Stands for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program).

Senior Farmer's Market Programs

A benefits program for people 60 and up to spend given amounts on fresh produce at farmer's markets. Must meet income requirements to be accepted. (Sometimes called S/FMNP.)



Health and Wellness

AIDS/HIV Services

A service providing free sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing and medical providers for those with HIV or AIDS.

Alternative Medical Treatment

Types of treatment that are different from what a traditional medical doctor would prescribe. Some treatments may include services like acupuncture or meditation.

Chronic Disease Self Management Programs

This program helps people with a chronic disease to learn skills and knowledge to live more independently.

Dementia Evaluation

A test used to determine if a person may be suffering from dementia often administered by a medical doctor.

Dementia Management

Resources or ways to help caregivers and people living with dementia in and out of the home.

Dental Care

A resource or service for caring for the health of your teeth and mouth.

Diabetes Management Clinics

A place to receive diabetes related care or services.





Emergency Medical Care

Care that is given in an emergency. This could be in an emergency department or on the way to an emergency department.

Exercise Classes/Groups

A group or class where people can learn and participate in exercise routines.

Fall Prevention Programs

Programs to help people that may be a fall risk.

General Health Education Programs

A program to promote general health and help people learn about common health conditions.

General Medical Care

A type of medical care to help diagnose and treat basic and common needs.

Geriatric Assessment

A test used to determine the overall health of an older adult. This may include medical, social, emotional, nutrition, and physical ability questions.

Health Departments

City or State departments that promote, protect and provide health services to the general public.

Health Education

Resources or programs that help educate others about health.

Hearing Services

A service focused on comprehensive hearing screenings and overall ear health.

Home Health Care

A service providing assistance with everyday tasks (such as bathing, toileting, eating, and mobility) where a professional assists the person in their home.

Hospice Care

A type of end-of-life care that can be provided to help the person manage their symptoms rather than treating their illness.

Hospitals

Locations that provide immediate medical treatment for a wide range of illness and injuries.

Medical Clinics/Free Clinics

A type of clinic that can provide non-emergency medical services and free medical care to low-income people who qualify.

Medical Equipment/Supplies

A store selling devices that may help a person manage their illness or provide support with daily tasks.

Memory Screening

A type of test to help assess memory or cognitive functioning.

Nursing Facilities

A place that can provide a high level of care 24/7 in a home like setting. Can be temporary or long-term. (Sometimes called Nursing Homes.)





Pharmacy

A place that fills doctor ordered prescription drugs and gives some vaccinations.

Physical Therapy

A type of therapy that can help relieve pain and improve physical functioning.

Physician Referrals

This is given to patients by a doctor so that they can see a specific type of medical professional.

Vaccine Information

Information about the safety, benefits, and risks to a vaccine.

Veteran Outpatient Centers

A location that can provide general medical care to veterans.

Wellness Programs

A program that is meant to help with mental and physical wellness.



Housing & Housing Services

Adult Foster Homes

A home that can provide supervision and coordinated care to adults who cannot care for themselves. Residents may be older adults or living with a disability (Might also qualify as assisted living).

Adult Residential Care Homes

A residence located in a neighborhood for people who may qualify for Assisted Living. It is an alternative to Assisted Living but is more personalized and more of a home-like setting.

Affordable Housing

Housing for low-income people and families who may pay rent based on a percentage of their income or below the average area's rent.

Assisted Living Facilities

A location that can provide 24/7 non-medical care, meals, assistance with personal care, activities and more to individuals living with a disability or older adults who qualify based on needs.

Bathroom Modification Services

A service that can change or add items to a bathroom to make it easier to navigate for people with disabilities and older adults.

Group Homes Mental Health

A home within a community for those with mental health or intellectual disabilities.

Hoarding and Clutter Cleanup Services

A service to help people clean up a home that has been impacted by hoarding or clutter.

Homelessness Prevention

A program to help people or families locate temporary or permanent housing to avoid homelessness.





Homeless Services

Services that directly helps a person or family without a permanent home. Such services include a phoneline for someone experiencing homelessness or help with finding shelter.

Home Modification and Minor Repair Services

Services to help with small repairs or to help improve accessibility to a home.

Home Rehabilitation Programs

A program to help low-income people or families with repairs or construction for their home.

Housing Counseling

A program that helps people make informed housing decisions such as buying or renting.

Housing Discrimination Assistance

Professional help for people who have been discriminated against while seeking housing or services related to renting or homeownership.

Housing Search

A resource to help people interested in or looking for housing or buying a home.

Independent Living Communities

A type of housing community for seniors that can live without the help of others. They normally only accept people that are age 55 and up. Applicants may need to meet income requirements.

Landlord/Tenant Assistance

Help with or resources for those experiencing trouble with a landlord.

Mortgage Counseling

May be offered as a part of Housing Counseling. "Housing Counseling is a program that helps people make informed housing decisions such as buying or renting."

Moving Services

A business or program to help with moving from one home to another.

Nursing Facilities

A place that can provide a high level of care 24/7. Includes skilled nursing, medical care, rehabilitation, meals more in a home like setting. Can be temporary or long-term. (Sometimes called Nursing Homes.)

Public Housing

Housing for low-income people and families. Often it is owned or operated by the government.

Ramp Construction Programs

A program to help people with a disability to access their home by constructing a wheelchair ramp.

Senior Housing

A type of housing community for older adults that can live without the help of others. Age limits apply and applicants may need to meet income requirements.

Single Room Occupancy Housing

A type of affordable housing where a person rents one room. The rooms do not have a bathroom or kitchen. Bathrooms and kitchens are shared by all residents.

Supportive Housing

A type of housing for people or families that have experienced homelessness or a similar crisis. Services provided by the community help residents live more stable.





Veteran Homes

A location that can provide nursing, personal and adult day care for veterans.

Weatherization Programs

A program to help people install such measures as insulation or repair to a heating system. (Sometimes called Weatherization Assistance Program.)



Medicare, Medicaid, and Insurance

Affordable Healthcare Marketplace

A place to get help with searching for health insurance that fits your needs and budget.

Affordable Virginia Health Plans

Affordable health insurance plans available to Virginia residents.

Medicaid Applications

A form to sign up for Medicaid or guidance to do so.

Medicaid Fraud Reporting

A way to report suspected Medicaid Fraud, such as up charging, issues with medical services or inaccurate billing.

Medicaid Planning

Professional help with applying for Medicaid to receive the most or all benefits you qualify for.

Medicaid

A program overseen by the state to provide health insurance coverage for families and people on a low-income. Other groups of people may be eligible like pregnant women and people with disabilities. Coverage and eligibility vary by state.

Medicare Fraud Reporting

A way to report suspected Medicare Fraud, such as incorrect billing or if someone else is using your Medicare number.

Medicare Insurance Counseling

Counselors that can you with Medicare questions and help you sign up for Medicare free of charge. (May also be called Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program.)

Medicare Insurance Supplements

A Medicare plan that gives you additional coverage beyond original Medicare (Parts A and B: hospital coverage and doctors visits coverage).

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan Enrollment

A plan that enrolls people in coverage for prescription drugs under Medicare.

Medicare Savings Programs

A program to help reduce costs for Medicare Part A and Part B. Must meet income requirements.

Medicare

A program overseen by the federal government providing health insurance for people 65 and up or a younger people with a disability.





Long Term Care Options Counseling

A type of options counseling. The process can help someone deciding which long term care setting is best fit for them. (Options Counseling is a process for older adults or someone with a disability to help them decide what type of care is best for them.)

Long Term Care Insurance Information/Counseling

A service to help people understand and make decisions around long term care insurance.

State/Local Health Insurance

Information regarding local and state insurance policies.

Veterans Insurance Benefits

A type of insurance and healthcare for veterans. Each veteran may receive different benefits based on their situation (May be referred to as VA Health Care).

Veteran/Military Health Insurance

Healthcare that veterans may receive based on their situation (May be referred to as VA Health Care).



Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services

Anger Management

A program or type of counseling to help those with deal with feelings of anger and consequences related to anger.

Bereavement Counseling

A type of counseling to help people deal with feelings of grief or loss of a loved one.

Care/Case Management Mental Health

A caseworker to help people manage a person's mental health. This method provides individualized care to the patient.

Community Mental Health Agencies

A location that offers mental health services to residents of a certain area (May also be called Community Services Boards).

Counseling

A type of therapy to support individuals who may be experiencing mental illness or want to improve their overall mental health.

Crisis Intervention/Prevention

A service or process to help those who may be experiencing an immediate mental health crisis.

CSB/Community Services Boards

An organization providing mental health and substance use disorder services and resources. Each community has a CSB servicing their location.

General Counseling Services

Services that offer a wide range of counseling types. (Counseling is "A type of therapy to manage mental illnesses or seek to improve their overall mental health")





Mental Health Associations

A group that wants to increase mental health awareness or offers mental health support services. This could be associations for professional in the mental health field.

Mental Health Education

Education that involves improving mental health awareness. May also provide a program that provides strategies for mental health improvement.

Mental Health Evaluation

A type of assessment to gather information about a person's mental health state.

Mental Health Information/Education

Education that involves improving mental health awareness. May also provide a program that provides strategies for mental health improvement.

Mental Health Inpatient

An extended (more than 24 hours) stay in a treatment center or hospital for possibly severe mental health reasons that may need observation, testing or changes to treatment.

Mental Health Crisis Lines

A phone number to call if you're experiencing a mental health emergency or crisis.

Mental Health Outpatient

Testing, counseling, and therapy services offered on the same day and takes place during business hours.

Mental Health Self Management

A task or process to help with managing a person's mental health.

Mental Health Screening

A type of assessment to gather information about a person's mental health state.

Mental Health Treatment

Treatment for mental illnesses, disorders, or challenges.

Substance Use Education Prevention

Education to raise awareness and prevention of substance abuse or misuse.

Substance Use Treatment Inpatient

Treatment centers for substance use where a person will stay at a facility to receive services and support without outside community influence.

Substance Use Treatment Outpatient

Treatment for substance use disorder that take place at a community location receiving services and supports in the community.

Suicide Hotlines

Phone numbers to call to speak to a person if you're have thoughts of harming yourself or others. Dial 988 now to connect with someone now.

Suicide Intervention

A direct way to stop someone from taking their own life (Not to be confused with Suicide Prevention).

Support Group Death Grief

A support group to help people deal with feelings of grief due to a loss of a loved one.





Support Group Mental Health

A support group for people experiencing mental illness.

Therapy Referrals

When a professional makes a recommendation on where to seek therapeutic help or supports.

Veteran Reintegration Counseling

A type of counseling for people who have trouble going from active military to duty to civilian life. Sometimes includes guidance and emotional support.

Warmlines

A phone number you can call to talk to someone if you need support or if you are experiencing a crisis. This is not an emergency line. Dial 988 if you are having thoughts of harming yourself or others.



Transportation

Disability Related Transportation

Transportation provided to people with a qualifying disability.

Driver Education

Education and resources for people who want to learn how to drive or to those who need more experience driving.

General Paratransit/Community Ride Programs

A type of public transportation meant for people who might have trouble using fixed bus routes. Instead, they are picked up at a specific time and place and then dropped off. These rides may be offered to people with a disability or people with mobility challenges.

Local Bus Services

Public transportation offered by a town or city that follow certain routes in each area.

Long Distance Bus Services

A type of bus service to take passengers longer distances (outside of a fixed bus line).

Non Emergency Medical Transportation

A scheduled ride by a transportation provider to and from nonemergency medical appointments. Can sometimes be covered by private insurance or Medicaid.

Senior Ride Programs

A program to help older adults get to and from locations via a scheduled ride. This program can help get seniors to a medical appointment or to other places like the grocery store.

The Safety Connector was developed as part of the Virginia HEAR project which is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$1,310,978 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.



