

# RTC WAIVER

*Community Treatment and Support for Maryland Children and Youth with Intensive Mental Health Needs*

## What is a Family Support Organization (FSO)?

To be designated a Family Support Organization for the purposes of the RTC Waiver, the organization must:

- (1) Be a private, non-profit entity designated under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code,
- (2) Have a board of directors comprised of more than 50 percent caregivers with a primary daily responsibility for raising a child or youth up to 26 years old with emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges;
- (3) Have established hiring practices that give preference to:
  - (a) Current or previous caregivers of a child or youth with emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges; or
  - (b) Youth who are 18 through 26 years old with emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges;
  - (c) Or both; and,
- (4) Employ a staff that is comprised of at least 75 percent individuals who are:
  - (a) Current or previous caregivers of a child or youth with emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges; or
  - (b) Youth who are 18 through 26 years old with emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges;
  - (c) Or both.

The organization must attest to all of these requirements on the Certificate of Eligibility and must also provide copies of the following five (5) items:

- (1) The certificate of incorporation and Internal Revenue Service designation
- (2) A list of board members with identification of those who are caregivers meeting the criteria stated above;
- (3) The organization's personnel policy that sets forth the preferred employment criteria stated above;
- (4) A list of staff and positions held with identification of those who fit the experienced caregiver and youth criteria stated above; and
- (5) The organization's mission statement that establishes the purpose of the organization as providing support and education to youth with emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges and their caregivers.

**Family Support Organizations can apply to provide Caregiver Peer-to-Peer Support, Youth Peer-to-Peer Support, and Family and Youth Training in the RTC Waiver. The FSO will be required to meet the specific requirements for each of the RTC Waiver Services that it is interested in providing.**

The RTC Waiver is Maryland's 1915(c) Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) Demonstration Waiver. Residential Treatment Center (RTC) is the Maryland term for a PRTF. For more information about the RTC Waiver, please go to [www.medschool.umaryland.edu/innovations](http://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/innovations) and click on the link for RTC Waiver or contact Deborah Harburger, RTC Waiver Project Manager, at [धारburg@psych.umaryland.edu](mailto:धारburg@psych.umaryland.edu).