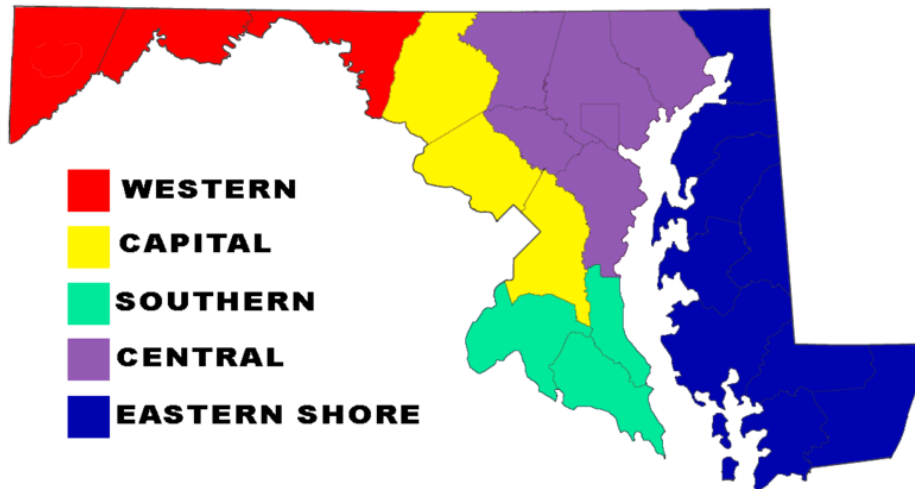


COMMUNITY CONNECTOR PROGRAM



Over the next 5 years, Pathfinders for Autism (PFA) will establish regional community connections throughout Maryland. Our goal is that all individuals with autism and their families are deeply supported and connected with their community.

Pathfinders for Autism will hire a resident within each geographic region in the state to serve as a Community Connector. They will work at the grassroots level to deliver PFA’s Safety, Community, and Resource programming. Duties to include:

- Network with community partners
- Attend community fairs to share PFA resources
- Host workshops and recreational activities
- Identify providers for searchable directory
- Be active on regional Autism Facebook groups
- Host “Meetup” groups for social opportunities

To fund this programmatic expansion, we are committed to raising \$1,800,000, with the goal of having a “Connector” working in each of the 5 regions by 2030.

With the funding campaign underway, PFA’s leadership will continue to analyze our program outcomes, seek client input, and meet with our partners to develop the implementation plan. We expect to launch our first pilot site in 2026.

COMMUNITY CONNECTOR PROGRAM

Page Two

PFA Pillars – Community | Safety | Resource

PFA's *Community* programs focus on growing relationships and educating all Maryland citizens to increase awareness, acceptance and belonging for all individuals with autism and their support networks. Activities include healthcare professional training, autism 101 training, educator and student training, resource fairs and adult self-advocacy.

Additionally, PFA's *Community* programs also provide events for individuals and their support networks to engage and enjoy social opportunities throughout Maryland fostering greater belonging for all. Activities include visits to local attractions such as the National Aquarium, the Maryland Science Center, local sporting events, an adult social group and virtual activities like Bingo, movies, yoga, and cooking classes.

PFA's *Safety* programs offer education and practical training in the most prevalent safety areas to reduce and prevent the risk of injury and danger. Activities include first responder training, scholarships for swim lessons, lifeguard and swim instructor education, and mock traffic stops. The Safety programs also address wandering & elopement and public awareness education on the increased risk of drowning in the autism community.

PFA's *Resource* programs offer guidance for individuals and their support networks in locating providers and information to meet their immediate needs. Activities include a help line, provider directory, community calendar, parent/caregiver education, PFA Tip articles and a webinar library.