



BETTER TOGETHER

EARLY FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

OUR SERVICES


The Better Together program provides families with individual support, including:

- A Lawyer
- Help with Understanding Your Rights and Responsibilities
- Help with Housing Issues
- Referrals for Substance Use or Mental Health Treatment
- Help with State Benefits
- Supplies for Your Newborn or Children
- Accompanying Parents for Home Inspections and Visits from CPS
- Creating a Plan for Your Children to Remain Home Safely
- Other Services That Your Family May Need




HOW TO GET CONNECTED

Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

 (410) 368-0426

 opd.bettertogether@maryland.gov

 www.opd.state.md.us/bettertogether

 219 E. Redwood Street
Suite 900
Baltimore, MD 21202

The Better Together Program supports families facing investigation by Child Protective Services (CPS) before a case is opened in court, and pregnant women likely to face CPS investigation at birth. We provide legal assistance, community services, and peer support to prevent CPS from removing children from their parents, and keep children in the home with their families whenever possible. Our team of lawyers, a social worker, and parent advocates work with parents to solve problems that could lead to their children being removed.



ABOUT US

The Better Together Early Family Advocacy Program is part of the Parental Defense Division (PDD) of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender in partnership with the Association for the Public Defender of Maryland, Casey Family Programs and the Administrative Office of the Courts' Juvenile and Family Services.

PDD works to prevent family separation and, where families are separated, advocates for reunification of children and their parents.

If a child is ultimately removed, parents working with Better Together will receive representation from the Parental Defense Division of the Office of the Public Defender moving forward.

OUR TEAM

Our Parent Advocates have firsthand experience with CPS. They provide parents with support and resources to help them through the process.

Our Social Workers work closely with parents to identify programs, resources, and supports to overcome family challenges. The goal is to directly tackle those issues that could lead to CPS removing the children.

Our Attorneys provide legal advice and may provide direct legal representation to families at risk of having their children removed and placed in foster care.