

"Connecting people with possibilities"

for over 50 years!

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Bridgewell

START Emergency & Planned Respite

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Overview

Bridgewell's START (Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Respite and Treatment) Emergency and Planned Respite provides short-term housing for individuals with developmental disabilities and behavioral healthcare needs. START Respite has provided respite services since 1989 to more than 2,300 individuals. START Respite is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. START Planned Respite provides primary caregivers and individuals with a period of respite determined by the individual's clinical need and the family's need in consultation with the Department of Developmental Services. Emergency Respite is designed for DDS eligible adults 18 years of age or older who are unable to remain in their current living situation due to a variety of reasons. START Emergency Respite provides a temporary, flexible and individualized option in a homelike environment. All referrals are made by DDS Area Offices through Bridgewell's START Clinical Services.

Individuals are welcomed to START Respite and have single bedrooms for privacy. Individuals' communication needs are always a priority and their cultural and religious preferences are respected. START Respite emphasizes an individualized, multidisciplinary approach to diagnosis and treatment, family support and education.

Program Goals

- **Family Support:** By providing periodic Planned Respite, primary caregivers are able to take a break from the demands of being a full-time caregiver for their family member. These periodic respite visits help to support the family and maintain family unity.
- **Individualized Supports:** Emergency Respite provides clinical support to stabilize the individual to allow him or her to return home or move into an alternative permanent living arrangement.
- **Community Integration:** Our guests are afforded the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of recreational activities. These activities make the time spent with Bridgewell more enjoyable, and provide exposure to many different and exciting events, such as concerts, sporting events, fairs, seasonal activities, museums, and Bridgewell sponsored recreational events.
- **Skill Building:** While at START Respite, individuals are supported and assisted with a variety of skill building activities. Individuals are encouraged to participate in household tasks such as cooking and shopping, activities of daily living and money management. When needed and appropriate, individuals are assisted in improving their stress reduction and anger management skills.

Licensing and Certification

Bridgewell's START (Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Respite and Treatment) Emergency and Planned Respite programs are licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services.

CARF Accreditation

Bridgewell's START Emergency and Planned Respite are accredited by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities), ensuring that the program meets rigorous guidelines for service and quality, and conforms to nationally and internationally recognized standards.

Eligibility

START Emergency and Planned Respite is a closed referral program. Any individual with a developmental disability, male or female and age 18 or older, who has been referred by the Department of Developmental Services is eligible. START Respite is handicap accessible.

About Bridgewell

Bridgewell is a private, nonprofit human services organization that provides services and supports to more than 2,900 people, helping them lead satisfying and full lives. We offer a wide range of programs for individuals with developmental and psychiatric disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness.

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