**Important Resources**

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

Social Security pays disability benefits to your family member if he or she has worked long enough and has a medical condition that has prevented him or her from working, or is expected to prevent them from working for at least 12 months or end in death. More information is available at: <http://www.ssa.gov/pgm/disability.htm>.

**HOUSING**

 **Section 8 Housing**: The Section 8 program provides assistance for low income families in the private rental market through the Housing Assistant Payment Program.

Rental Voucher Holders select a unit from the private rental market. Rental assistance makes market rate housing affordable. Program participants normally pay no more than 30% of monthly adjusted income towards rental and utilities. The housing assistance payment subsidizes the balance of the rent to the property owner. More information is available at: <http://middletownha.org/Section_8.html>.

**Bridge Subsidy**: The [Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Bridge Subsidy Program](http://www.ct.gov/dmhas/cwp/view.asp?a=2902&q=335280#Bridge%20Subsidy%20Program) is a state-funded rental assistance program for people with a psychiatric disorder which provides for a monthly housing subsidy payment on a temporary basis while the individual/family is on a waiting list for permanent state and/or federal subsidy. Information is available at: <http://www.211ct.org/informationlibrary/Documents/Bridge%20Subsidy%20fj.asp>.

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Department of Social Services (DSS) provides a broad range of services for people with disabilities. These include medical coverage through Medicaid (Title XIX), food assistance (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps), access to the food bank, and energy assistance programs. More information is available at: <http://www.ct.gov/dss/cwp/view.asp?a=2345&Q=304922&dssNav=|>.

**CONSERVATORSHIP**

A conservator is a person appointed by the probate court to oversee the financial or personal affairs of an adult who is determined to be incapable of managing his or her own affairs or unable to care for himself or herself. The appointment may be made on a temporary basis (usually 30 days) or for a longer period. A capable person may also request the appointment of a conservator on a voluntary basis for the same purposes. There are two basic types of conservatorships: A **conservator of the person**is appointed to supervise the personal affairs of an individual who is found by the court to be unable to meet essential requirements for personal needs. A **conservator of the estate**is appointed to supervise the financial affairs of an individual who is found by the court to be incapable of doing so himself. More information is available at: <http://www.211ct.org/informationlibrary/Documents/Conservator-Court%20Visitor%20Program%20rj.asp>.

**EDUCATION AND SUPPORT**

**NAMI Connecticut – National Alliance on Mental Illness** is an organization that provides support, education and resources on mental illness. There is a Shoreline affiliate chapter that meets in Madison, CT. More information is available at: <http://www.namict.org>.