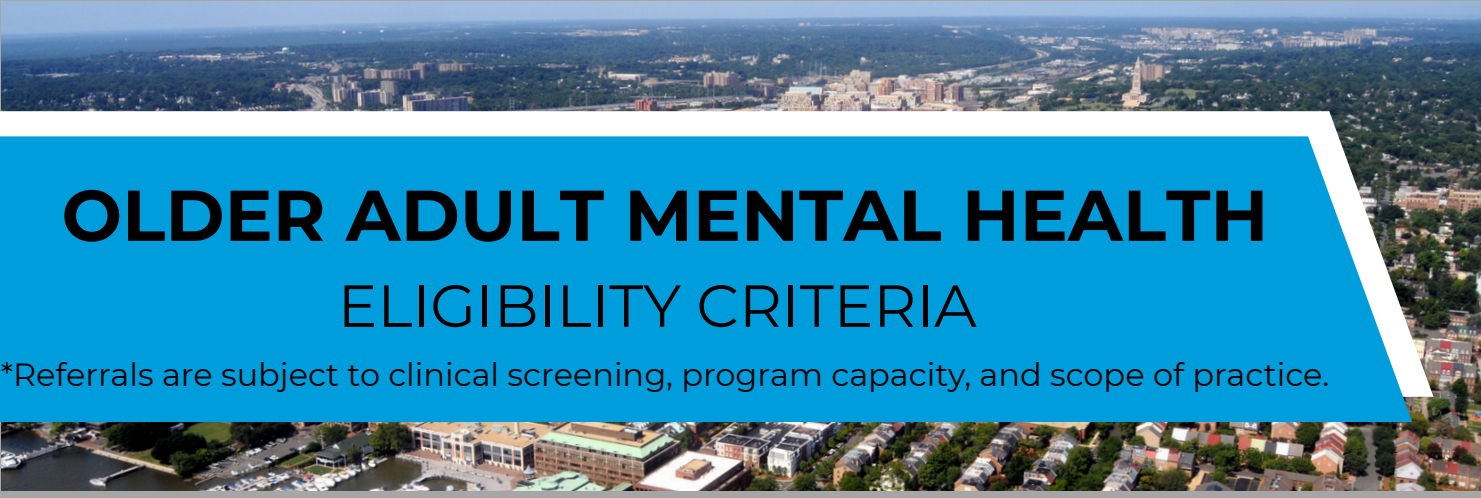




OLDER ADULT MENTAL HEALTH ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

*Referrals are subject to clinical screening, program capacity, and scope of practice.

Clinical Eligibility (Required)

Participants must have a diagnosed **Serious Mental Illness (SMI)** as defined by the DSM-5 (such as Major Depressive Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders, Anxiety Disorders with significant impairment, or Trauma-Related Disorders).

Participants must also demonstrate **age-related cognitive, functional, medical, or behavioral needs** requiring specialized older adult mental health services. Examples may include:

- Memory loss or disorientation
- Language or executive functioning challenges
- Personality or behavioral changes
- Decline in daily living activities (ADLs/IADLs)
- Chronic medical conditions affecting mental health

These needs may be associated with **neurocognitive impairment, dementia, chronic illness, medication effects, sensory loss, or age-related decline.**

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For questions or reasonable disability accommodation, contact 703.746.5999 or Virginia Relay 711.



DEPARTMENT OF
**COMMUNITY &
HUMAN SERVICES**



OUR SERVICES:

MEDICAL AND FUNCTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Individuals must have **chronic medical conditions contributing to functional impairment or complex care needs.**

Individuals **under age 65 who are functionally geriatric** may be considered in exceptional cases based on:

- Documented clinical need
- Lack of appropriate alternative services
- Program capacity and supervisory approval

INSURANCE ELIGIBILITY

Accepted coverage includes:

- Uninsured
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Private insurance (Geriatric Mental Health Program only)

HMO plans that do not reimburse DCHS services are not eligible.

PROGRAM CAPACITY AND APPROPRIATENESS

Admission depends on:

- Clinical appropriateness
- Service availability
- Staffing capacity
- Program scope of practice

Meeting eligibility criteria does not guarantee immediate service access.

Referrals may be declined or deferred when:

- Clinical eligibility is not met
- Staffing or service capacity is exceeded
- Primary substance use disorder is present without a co-occurring mental health diagnosis
- Needs fall outside program scope

Referrals may also be declined if the individual:

- Requires inpatient psychiatric stabilization
 - Has acute medical instability requiring hospitalization
- 