



# *The State of Maryland*

## Executive Department

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

01.01.2021.06

#### Adverse Childhood Experiences

- WHEREAS, all of Maryland's children and youth should have the opportunity to grow in a safe and healthy environment;
- WHEREAS, it is the State's responsibility to address Marylanders' health and safety in its laws, regulations, and executive policy;
- WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the health, emotions, education, and development of Maryland's children and youth;
- WHEREAS, the Kaiser Permanente and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Adverse Childhood Experiences ("ACEs") Study concluded that childhood exposure to traumatic experiences — including physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, physical or emotional neglect, household dysfunction such as substance abuse, untreated mental illness, or incarceration of a household member, domestic violence, and separation or divorce of household members — increases the likelihood of physical and psychological illness later in life;
- WHEREAS, it is the State's policy to promote understanding of the impacts of adversity, toxic stress, and trauma on early childhood brain development, and to promote resilience through protective factors and programing; and
- WHEREAS, a multidisciplinary collaboration between those working in crime prevention and enforcement, victim services, and child welfare, education, and protection makes Maryland a safer place to live, work, raise a family, and retire;
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION

AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE  
FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE  
IMMEDIATELY:

- I. All State units subject to the control and direction of the Governor shall:
- A. Consider how the implementation of State policies and programming could reduce adverse childhood experiences;
  - B. Cooperate with, and provide such data and other information as may be allowed by law to, the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to enable study and monitoring of State policies and programming that prevent and mitigate adverse childhood experiences; and
  - C. If they serve children and families:
    - i. Incorporate an understanding of adverse childhood experiences into treatment and other similar interactions; and
    - ii. Implement care models informed by adverse childhood experiences and the impact they have on development.
- II. The Governor shall, to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Month, proclaim May 6 of each year to be Adverse Childhood Experiences Awareness Day.
- III. This Executive Order shall not be construed as altering the designation of, or granting authority to, any unit of State or local government for the purposes of federal law.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 6th Day of May, 2021.



*Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.*  
Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor

ATTEST:

*John C. Wobensmith*  
John C. Wobensmith  
Secretary of State