It is Encouraged that Individuals be Referred to the I-START Program if:

- The individual is currently at or has been to any inpatient psychiatric unit within the past 24 months
- The individual needs additional staffing due to behavioral concerns or has been receiving additional staffing for an extended period of time
- The individual has a history of multiple community placements over the past 12 months due to behavioral challenges
- The individual has complex mental health needs that require crisis intervention, calls to 911 and frequent medication changes
- The individual is at risk of losing their work or home placement due to behavioral concerns
- The individual is presenting with complex behavioral, medical and/or trauma related issues and has appeared to have deteriorated over recent months or years

For more information or to make a referral contact the I-START Program:

Phone: 641-903-5210
Fax: 641-201-3992
Email: istart@countysocialservices.org

Referral form can be found at www.countysocialservices.org
The I-START Model

I-START provides prevention and intervention services to individuals with IDD and mental health needs through crisis response, training and consultation.

Our goal is to create a support network that is able to respond to crisis needs at the community level.

“Services are most effective when every one involved in care and treatment actively participates in decision-making.”

Joan Beasley, Ph.D.,
Director of the Center for
START Services

Eligibility Criteria for I-START:

- Must be 17 years of age or older
- Have a diagnosis of an intellectual/developmental disability
- Resides within the county services region

Documented Benefits & Outcomes of START Model:

- Reduced use of:
  - Emergency services
  - State facilities
  - Hospital stays
- Cost-effective service delivery
- High rates of satisfaction by families and care recipients
- Increased professional linkages between multiple disciplines
- Improved expertise across system of care
- Services designed to fill service gaps

National START Model
Systems Linkage Approaches

The START program model was implemented in 1988 by Dr. Joan Beasley and her team.

START is an evidence-informed model that utilizes a national database to track outcome measures.

Person-centered approaches and training is used with positive behavioral supports and other therapeutic tools to enhance the existing service system.

START was cited as a model program in the 2002 U.S. Surgeon General’s Report on mental health disparities for persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

I-START Mission:

Improving the lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and caregivers by providing crisis response, training, consultation, and outreach to teams and systems.