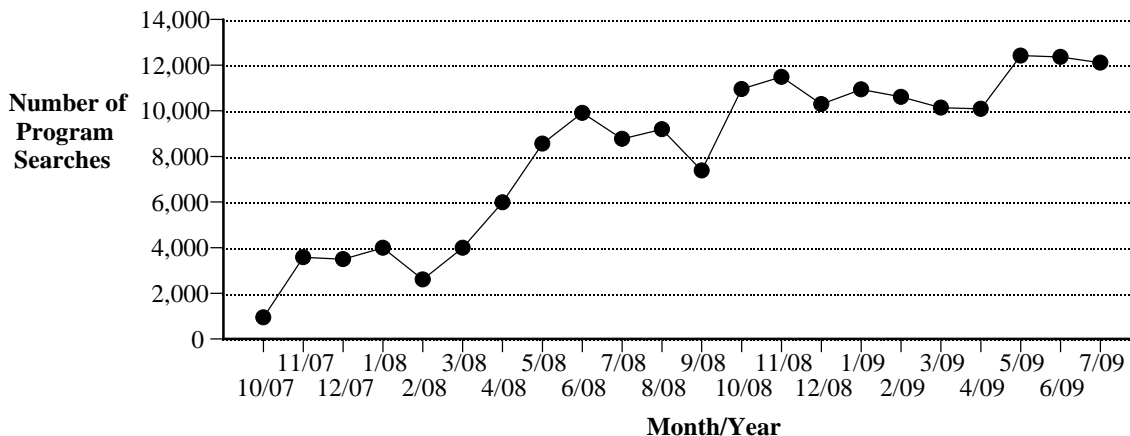# CESAR *FAX*

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Maryland Community Services Locator Now Includes More Than 8,800 Resources; Number of Monthly Searches Increases to More Than 12,000

The Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL) (www.mdcsl.org) is a free online directory developed to assist professionals in making referrals for clients to community services. Launched in October 2007, the MDSCL originally focused on services in Baltimore City (see *CESAR FAX*, Vol. 17, Iss. 32). After a year-long expansion, the MDCSL now includes contact information, locations, directions, and other details for over 8,800 social service, health service and criminal justice programs across the State of Maryland. Usage data show that the MDCSL is being utilized by providers and residents. The number of monthly searches has increased from around 4,000 in the first few months after the MDCSL was launched to more than 12,000 in recent months (see figure below). MDCSL is now working to expand the level of detail offered to users for programs already listed on the site. Additionally, MDCSL staff continue to update and expand resources on the site.

Number of MDCSL Website Program Searches Per Month, October 2007 to July 2009

Community services locators like the MDCSL can be a valuable and time-saving resource for professionals who need to make referrals to social service programs, as well as for residents looking for help. CESAR can share lessons learned and provide development and management consultation services to other organizations looking to develop a similar program in their county or state. For more information, please contact the Amy Billing at mdcsl@cesar.umd.edu or 301-405-9796.