



# Division Update for Individuals, Families, and Providers

April 25, 2024

# Agenda

- Upcoming Webinars
- Community Care Program and Supports Program Manual Updates
- Request for Proposal Reminders
- Information on Voting
- Resources

# Next DDD Update Webinar

- May Update Webinar:
  - Thursday, May 23, 2024 – 10:30 am.
  - [Register for the May Webinar.](#)
- The 2024 schedule of update webinars, including registration links, is available on the Division's [Public Update Meetings](#) webpage.

# Community Care Program and Supports Program Manual Updates

- A listing of changes can be found on page two of the respective manual.
- General grammatical and typographical corrections. Updates to form names, email addresses, and links where applicable, etc.
- Added the term self-directed services, in addition to self-direction, to the description of persons for whom the manuals apply.
- Added the definition of Competitive Integrated Employment under Employment First.

# Community Care Program and Supports Program Manual Updates

- Added criteria describing limited circumstances where a person ages 18 through 21 may receive division services.
  - Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), students with disabilities, ages 3 through 21 are entitled to a free, appropriate public education (FAPE).
  - The level of services and protections provided under the IDEA to students with disabilities are not equivalent to those offered through the DDD adult service system as those services are not an *entitlement*.
  - For this reason, individuals with disabilities who have established eligibility for DDD services receive them when they turn 21 and are no longer eligible to receive services in the public education system under the IDEA.

# Community Care Program and Supports Program Manual Updates

- DDD recognizes that each year there may be a small number of eligible young adults between ages 18 through 21 who have met both graduation requirements and the goals in IEP and are not eligible to remain in high school until age 21.
- An individual, if eligible for DDD services, may be eligible to enroll as early as the age of 18 if they have graduated and are seeking DDD services to:
  - Support immediate enrollment at an institute of higher education or trade school not funded by DDD; and/or
  - Support established competitive integrated employment.

# Community Care Program and Supports Program Manual Updates

- If a person feels this circumstance applies to them DDD strongly suggests they contact a DDD Representative for Options Counseling at least six months prior to anticipated graduation.
- Please email [DDD.TransitionHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.TransitionHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov) for more information.
- There are also organizations in New Jersey such as the [SPAN Parent Advocacy Network](#) and [The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute](#) that can assist families with school age children who receive special education and related services if you have questions about the IEP process.

# Community Care Program and Supports Program Manual Updates

- Revised individual budgets to reflect rate increases since last revision.
- Added detail about Support Coordination Agency (SCA) and DDD responsibilities when a person changes SCAs or if an SCA is undergoing corrective action.
- Additional detail added to the section on Supportive Decision Making.
- Updated data related to Reasonable and Customary wages for Self-Directed Employees.
  - Wage ranges are unchanged with the exception Registered Nurses. For that category, wage range has increased to minimum wage to \$50 per hour. Please note only the individual/family can initiate a wage increase which occurs through their Support Coordinator.



# Community Care Program and Supports Program Manual Updates

- Simplified language related to Interpreter Services, Supports Brokerage, and Transportation self-directed employee rates.
- Added that a Direct Support Professional and/or Self-Directed Employee may not be regularly scheduled to work more than 16 consecutive hours in a 24-hour period.
- Removed reference to COVID-19 Legislation allowing an additional year of educational entitlement as it is no longer applicable.
- Added information for DDD/Medicaid Approved Providers about how they can update their information in the publicly available Provider Search database.

# Community Care Program and Supports Program Manual Updates

- Better defined which Policy and Procedure Manual sections are needed for which service type.
- Added more detail around the return of participant records by Support Coordination Agencies.
- Re-worded Organizational Governance section to be more easily understood. Added that Board Members must also adhere to background check requirements found in Section 15.1.2.
- Added timeframes for the uploading of documentation to iRecord by Support Coordinators.

# Community Care Program and Supports Program Manual Updates

- Updated Investigations and Follow Up section to more clearly communicate that Support Coordination Agencies, unless otherwise directed, need to complete investigations for incidents involving abuse, neglect, or exploitation in connection with delivery of services provided by them.
- Clarified that Sanctions for a Support Coordination Agency can include a reduction in census.
- Edited to Support Coordination service definition to reflect that DDD may impose a reduction of census, that trainings required by DDD must be completed per the timeframes listed in Appendix E, and that SCA Heads must meet the criteria of a Supervisor in order to act as one.
- Additionally, added that enforcement of a minimum SCA census of 60 clients after 12 months of operation will be enforced starting on April 1, 2025.

# Community Care Program and Supports Program Manual Updates

- Updated the Respite service definition.
- Updated definition of Self-Directed Employee in Appendix A to add that they are paid by a DDD approved Fiscal Intermediary.
- Updated listing of forms in Appendix D.
- Updated Quick Reference Guide to Mandated Staff Training in Appendix E.
- Updated rates to reflect increases since last revision in Appendix H.
- Updated Appendix I with most recent version of Medicaid Newsletter.
- Added Appendix S – Quick Guide to Required Content Areas for Provider Policy and Procedure Manuals

# Request for Proposal Reminders

- On June 22, 2023 DDD issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) titled [To Increase Community Capacity of Provider Managed Housing for Individuals with Acute Behavioral and/or Medical Needs](#)
- This RFP focuses on increasing community capacity and choice in housing options for individuals with IDD who have acute behavioral and/or medical needs.
- Funding in the amount of \$5 million is available for this initiative through the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program.

# Request for Proposal Reminders

- Awardees will receive up to \$90,000 in capital funding to offset costs incurred in the acquisition, development and renovation of group homes that will serve newly placed individuals with acute behavioral and/or medical needs.
- The [Notice of Funding Availability](#), [Request for Proposals](#), and [Questions and Answers](#) are posted on the [DHS Public Notices](#) webpage.
- **The Deadline for Proposals is May 1, 2024.**

# Request for Proposal Reminders

- On February 7, 2024 DDD released an RFP titled [To Support the Development of Homes for People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities Transitioning from Nursing Facilities and Other Qualified Institutions.](#)
- Successful bidders will develop new residential opportunities to support people to move from nursing facilities into community-based residential homes.
- Funds provided will be used to develop new sites or enhance existing sites to provide accessibility and other modifications that are needed to facilitate appropriate supports for a person who is moving from a nursing facility or other qualified institution.

# Request for Proposal Reminders

- A total of \$6M in funding is available for the development of 100 new beds (\$60,000 per bed with no more than \$240,000 allocated to a single home).
- The [Notice of Funding Availability](#) and [Request for Proposal](#) are posted on the [DHS Grants, RFPs, Public Notices](#) webpage.
- **The Deadline for Proposals is May 1, 2024.**





**VOTE.NJ.GOV**

**1-877-NJ-VOTER  
(1-877-658-6837)**

### **Ways to Register to Vote in New Jersey**

- Online
- Paper Application

### **Ways to Vote in New Jersey**

- Vote-by-Mail Ballot
- In-person Early Voting
- At Your Polling Place on Election Day

### **To Register to Vote in New Jersey you must be:**

- A United States citizen
- At least 17 years old, though you may not vote until you have reached the age of 18
- A resident of the county for 30 days before the election
- A person not serving a sentence of incarceration as the result of a conviction of any indictable offense under the laws of this or another state or of the United States.

### **Primary Election Dates to Remember**

- May 14, 2024: Deadline to Register to Vote in Primary Election
- May 29, 2024 – June 2, 2024: In-Person Early Voting for Primary Election
- June 4, 2024: Primary Election Day

### **General Election Dates to Remember**

- October 15, 2024: Deadline to Register to Vote in General Election
- Oct. 26, 2024 – Nov.3, 2024: In-Person Early Voting for General Election
- November 5, 2024: General Election Day

# Important Resources

- [Disability Rights New Jersey](#)
  - 800-922-7233 (toll-free in New Jersey only)
- [Ombudsman for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families](#)
  - 609-984-7764
- [New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)
  - 800-792-8858
- [The Boggs Center](#)
  - 732-235-9300

# Important Resources

- For issues, call the Division Community Services office for your county or 800-832-9173.
- For routine questions: [DDD.FeeForService@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.FeeForService@dhs.nj.gov)
- To report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation: call 800-832-9173, then press 1.