



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):
FY'13 Restructuring of Services
for Children with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Is this restructuring being done to save money?

No, there is no budget savings associated with the proposed transition. The focus of this reconfiguration is not fiscal; it is intended to create a single state agency to serve all children and families— and to provide enhanced access to integrated services along a continuum of care.

How will this transition impact children currently served by DDD?

Staff from both departments conducted a child-by-child analysis to determine which children served by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) could be transitioned to the Department of Children & Families in July 2012 or January 2013, and which would continue receiving services from DDD for a longer period of time. Children over 18 who are residentially placed and children currently on the Community Care Waiver (CCW) will not be transitioned to DCF at this time.

All children already determined eligible by DDD will be deemed eligible for DCF services. All children 16 and older as of January 1, 2013 will be “grandfathered” back into DDD and will not need to go back through the functional eligibility process for adult services from DDD once they turn 21.

All children younger than 16, who have previously been determined eligible by DDD, as well as all children who are new to the system will have to go through the eligibility process at DDD sometime between the ages of 18-21 in order to be eligible to receive services from DDD when they turn 21.

At 21, all adult individuals who are functionally eligible for DDD services and Medicaid eligible will be able to access direct services (family support, residential, day program, etc.) which will be provided by DDD.

How will this transition impact children with intellectual and developmental disabilities as new entries in the system?

All new children under 18 entering the system after January 1, 2013 will go through the intake process at DCF through PerformCare. PerformCare has been contracted through the State of New Jersey to administer the intake process for individuals under the age of 18 and to administer services for eligible individuals until the age of 21.

All new youth entering the system who are between the ages of 18-21 will go through the intake process at DDD. Regardless of which “intake door” an individual comes through, all direct services (family support, residential, day program, etc.) before the age of 21 will be provided by DCF through PerformCare.

How will this transition impact a child's status on DDD's Community Care Waiting List?

DDD currently maintains a Waiting List for the Community Care Waiver (CCW), which provides funding for long-term community-based services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. Some children under the age of 16 have already been added to the CCW Waiting List since historically, the wait for services has been long. Children who were on the CCW Waiting List prior to July 1, 2012 will be served by DDD as they age into the adult system and their need for services will be regularly evaluated, including when they reach the top of the Waiting List.

New children will not be added to the CCW Waiting List because their services will be provided by DCF. When the child turns 18, s/he will be informed about the CCW Waiting List when they apply for DDD eligibility, and at that time, they will have the opportunity to go on the Waiting List if they meet the CCW criteria. DDD is currently working on regulatory amendments to support this change.

What will the role of the Division of Disability Services (DDS) be with regard to serving children with developmental disabilities and their families?

DDS' role as a resource for individuals with any type of disability and their families through its Information and Referral hotline – 1-888-285-3036 – remains unchanged.

Will this restructuring have any impact on the Early Intervention program for children with developmental delays from birth – age 3?

No, the Early Intervention Program, administered by the Department of Health, and funded via Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) will not be affected by this restructuring.

Will there be an opportunity for stakeholder input?

DHS and DCF are committed to ensuring that this transition is smooth and that children and families continue to receive needed supports during and after the transition. This cannot occur successfully without active input from people with developmental disabilities, their families, and the provider community.

How can I reach DCF to apply for services for my child?

Additional information can be found at NJ Children's System of Care website located here: <http://www.performcarenj.org/families/integrated-services.aspx>.

If you don't have access to a computer, please contact PerformCare by phone at 1-877-652-7624.