

DIVISION OF DISABILITY SERVICES (DDS)

MISSION STATEMENT

“The first place to call for disability-related information.”

Within the Department of Human Services, the Division of Disability Services (DDS) provides a single point of entry for people seeking disability related information in New Jersey. DDS works to streamline access to services and information that promote and enhance independent living for individuals with all disabilities by facilitating coordination and cooperation among local, county, and state government agencies. DDS promotes maximum independence and the full participation of people with disabilities within all aspects of community life. DDS serves individuals with all disabilities, statewide.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE SERVICES INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

Nationally Certified Information and Referral Specialists (I & R Specialists) are available during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, to confidentially discuss issues, provide information, assist with problem solving, and connect individuals to appropriate agencies or services. Through our toll free hotline, DDS responds to as many as 15,000 requests each year for Information and Referral Assistance. In addition to providing live assistance over the phone, I & R specialists attend public

events throughout the State to disseminate information and answer questions. Last year, DDS I & R specialists attended over 200 public events.

MANAGED LONG TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS (MLTSS) ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE

MLTSS refers to the delivery of long-term services and supports through New Jersey Medicaid’s NJ FamilyCare managed care program. MLTSS is designed to provide the long term supports and services individuals need to remain in the community for as long as possible. DDS I & R Specialists initiate assessments for the determination of MLTSS eligibility for children, 17 years old and younger, who are not otherwise eligible for NJ Medicaid.

DDD/DDS CASE MANAGEMENT COLLABORATION

Continuing the collaborative effort that began in 2009, DDS’ I & R Specialists remain the primary contact for some adults registered with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) who live, either independently or with their families, and benefit from information regarding insurance, benefits, transportation, education, future employment and available resources that are provided by organizations other than DDD.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY FUND

The TBI Fund provides New Jersey residents of any age, who have survived a Traumatic Brain Injury, the opportunity to access the brain injury related services and supports they need to live in the community. The Fund purchases supports and services to foster independence and max-

imize quality of life when insurance, personal resources, and/or public programs are unavailable to meet those needs.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROGRAM (PASP)

PASP is a supplemental, personal care program, designed for New Jersey residents, ages 18 to 70, who have a permanent physical disability, are capable of directing their own services, and are either employed, preparing for employment, involved in community volunteer work, or attending school. PASP allows consumers to receive up to 40 hours of service per week, therefore enabling them to maintain their independence in the community. Personal assistants help with such tasks as light housekeeping, bathing, dressing, meal preparation and shopping.

PERSONAL PREFERENCE PROGRAM (PPP)

PPP offers an alternative way for individuals to receive their Medicaid Personal Care Assistance (PCA) services. Using the “Cash & Counseling” model, PPP enables elderly and disabled Medicaid recipients to self-direct their Medicaid PCA services. Using a monthly budget, participants work with a consultant to develop a Cash Management Plan (CMP) which identifies the services needed and the individuals/agencies they want to hire to provide those services. Fiscal management services are provided to assist consumers with the financial aspects of the program including payroll, bookkeeping, processing timesheets, and issuing paychecks. PPP requires greater individual responsibility but, in return, offers participants greater

control, flexibility, and choice over the services they receive.

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES SANDY RELIEF HOME ACCESS PROGRAM

Through a Social Services Block Grant, DDS is administering a program to replace, repair, or build a modular ramp for individuals whose primary residence was impacted by Superstorm Sandy. Stair glides or vertical platform lifts are also available where ramps are not deemed feasible. This time limited program will operate through September 2017.

NJ WORKABILITY

The WorkAbility program offers people with disabilities who are working and whose income would otherwise make them ineligible for Medicaid, the opportunity to pay a small premium and receive full NJ Medicaid coverage. People with disabilities who are employed and are between the ages of 16 and 64 can qualify for the program with an annual gross earned income of up to approximately \$61,500.

DISABILITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS (DH&W)

The DH&W program, funded by various grant programs, works to collaborate with policy makers, health educators, public and private agencies, and experts in the field of health and wellness on projects that promote healthy living and prevention of secondary conditions for people with disabilities. The Division continuously seeks funding for initiatives that will help meet those needs. Recent project topics

have included the following: *Addressing Violence Against Women with Disabilities, Emergency Food Provider Accessibility Project, Emergency Planning and Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities, and a Health & Wellness Guide.*

ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS (AFN)

Within the Department of Human Services, DDS serves as the lead for implementation of emergency preparedness and disaster response, recovery, and mitigation efforts that are inclusive of people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs. DDS provides guidance, tools, methods and strategies to assist in establishing equal physical, program, and communication access.

COMMUNITY DISCHARGE INITIATIVE

DDS Staff can assist individuals in hospital and nursing homes who have expressed a desire to return to the community to make attainable discharge plans and identify supports and resources.

I CHOOSE HOME NEW JERSEY (ALSO KNOWN AS MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON)

In collaboration with other State agencies, DDS is working to promote I Choose Home – NJ, an initiative focused on providing opportunities for individuals who are eligible for Medicaid and have been living in an institutional setting for more than 90 days, to return to an independent community setting with necessary supports and services.

For more information:
www.ichoosehome.nj.gov
1-855-466-3005

THE ABLE ACT.

The ABLE Act is a new law that allows accumulated savings for disability related expenses without jeopardizing entitlement services. Please contact DDS for more information.

STATUTORY ADVISORY BOARDS AND COUNCILS

DDS serves as staff to the mandated advisory councils listed below.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Composed of 26 members, the TBI Council holds quarterly public meetings to advise the Department of Human Services of issues relevant to brain injury services.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Composed of 19 members, the PASP advisory Council meets quarterly to serve as a means for consumers to offer feedback that is used to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the PASP program and to recommend changes on a statewide level.

PUBLICATIONS

DDS publishes several guides/informational brochures which are available to you free of charge, including *New Jersey Resources* and the *New Jersey Guide to Accessible Parking*. Most publications are available in English and Spanish. Please contact us at **1-888-285-3036** to request a guide by mail or visit our website at:

www.dhs.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds



**NJ Division of
Disability Services**

State of New Jersey
Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Department of Human Services
Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Division of Disability Services
Joseph M. Amoroso, Director

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday

**State of New Jersey
Department of
Human Services**



**Division
of
Disability
Services**