

**December 2024****December 31: Transition Webinars, January 2025**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Office of Transition to Adult Life & Employment will continue in 2025 with the [Transition Thursdays Monthly Webinar Series](#) and [Quarterly Welcome Sessions](#) for students, young adults, and families. See what's coming up in January and register below!

- [DDD Virtual Welcome Session](#): Thursday, January 9, Noon–1 p.m.
- [Transition to Adult Services and DDD Intake Process](#): Thursday, January 9, 6–7 p.m.
- [DDD Virtual Welcome Session with Breakout Topics](#): Thursday, January 23, 6–7:30 p.m.

For a full list of upcoming events, visit the [Transition to Adult Life Webinars and Events](#) page.

**December 31: WIN Time: A Virtual Series for Professionals to Discuss Self-Directed Services**

The DDD Office of Education on Self-Directed Services (OESDS) will begin offering monthly WIN (What I Need) virtual forums in January 2025. WIN Time is a standing opportunity for support coordinators, supports brokers, providers, and others to:

- Learn about DDD self-directed services
- Ask questions
- Discuss what support coordinators need to better support individuals who want to self-direct their services
- Network with other professionals

WIN Time will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, from Noon to 1 p.m., beginning **January 8, 2025**.

- Print the [WIN Time Flyer](#)
- [Register Here for Jan. 8 WIN Time](#)

**December 31: DHS to Host Direct Care Workforce Public Listening Sessions, January 2025**

Direct care workers provide vital care and daily assistance to older adults, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with behavioral health challenges. These workers, which include direct support professionals, certified home health aides, personal care attendants, and many other roles, provide important assistance that allows individuals to live, work, volunteer, and participate in their communities.

As part of the state's efforts to support those engaged with the direct care workforce, the New Jersey Department of Human Services will be hosting a series of three public listening sessions. These sessions are an opportunity for individuals to speak about their needs, challenges, and successes as direct care workers and employers, or as individuals who receive direct care services. These listening sessions may help the Department develop new policies and programs to support those working in the field, as well as those who are employers and those receiving services.

Three different sessions will be hosted via Zoom, as follows:

- January 14 at 5 p.m. - Direct Care Workers
- January 15 at 5 p.m. - Direct Care Employers
- January 16 at 5 p.m. - Direct Care Consumers

[Register for DHS Direct Care Workforce Public Listening Sessions](#)

If individuals cannot attend or would like to provide a written statement, written testimony can also be submitted to [HumanServices@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:HumanServices@dhs.nj.gov)

### **December 23, 2024: WIN Time: A Virtual Series for Professionals to Discuss Self-Directed Services**

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## November 2024

### November 19, 2024: Provider FY24 DSP Wage reports Due End-of-Year

On January 1, 2024, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) updated its system to reflect a reimbursement rate increase for the following Community Care Program and Supports Program services (see [Quick Guide to FY24 Rate Increases](#)):

- Career Planning
- Community Based Supports
- Community Inclusion Services
- Day Habilitation
- Individual Supports
- Prevocational training
- Respite
- Supported Employment

In addition, on or around May 1, 2024, DDD issued a one-time retroactive payment to agencies that had provided and claimed for one or more of the above-referenced services between July 1 and December 31, 2023.

Mandatory DSP Wage Reporting for FY24 Rate Increases applies to agencies that were approved, as of July 1, 2023, to provide one or more of the above-referenced services. (Agencies that do not provide one or more of these services are not required to submit a report.)

As explained in a December 2023 [Information Bulletin](#) and [FAQ](#), agencies are required to submit a report to DDD demonstrating that they have done both of the following:

1. Passed the increased service rate funding through as an increase to the base wage of each DSP and DSP Supervisor, and
2. Passed the one-time retroactive funding through as a one-time bonus to each DSP and DSP Supervisor

*(Please note that depositing a check or receiving an electronic funds transfer constitutes acceptance of this requirement.)*

Agencies must complete and submit their report to DDD by December 13, 2024. Please see the report template and instructions below, as well as a sample report.

- [FY24 DSP Wage Report Template](#)
- [FY24 DSP Wage Reporting Instructions](#)
- [FY24 Sample DSP Wage Report](#)

Submit all Reports and Questions to: [DDD.WaiverFinancialReports@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.WaiverFinancialReports@dhs.nj.gov)

### **November 7, 2024: Safety in Your Setting Month**

The DDD Resource Team and Office of Risk Management are collaborating in November to offer *Safety in Your Setting Month*, a time to focus on supervision, independence, and best practices for keeping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities safe. The primary audience for the virtual trainings are provider agency staff and caregivers, but all are welcome to attend.

Visit the DDD [Health and Safety](#) web page for a list of available trainings and links to register.

### **November 7, 2024: Virtual Opportunity for people with disabilities, families, and caregivers to learn about cyber and phone safety**

On November 16, 2024, from 10 a.m. to Noon, the NJ Regional Family Support Planning Councils are offering a free virtual meeting for people with disabilities, families, and caregivers. It will focus on scam prevention education, guardian roles and responsibilities, and tools and resources for individuals with disabilities and their caregivers.

Learn more and Register at [\[Virtual\] Cyber and Phone Safety for people with disabilities, parents and caregivers](#).

### **November 7, 2024: DCA and DMAHS (NJ FamilyCare) Release Housing Supports RFP**

Under the NJ FamilyCare Housing Supports Provider Readiness Program, the New Jersey Departments of Community Affairs (DCA) and Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) are partnering to fund potential NJ FamilyCare housing supports providers (e.g., CBOs, shelters, supportive housing organizations, case management organizations, home modification/remediation providers), to:

- Incentivize Housing Supports program readiness and cover startup costs (e.g., Medicaid enrollment, MCO contracting, build new IT systems capabilities, attend trainings).
- Provide seed capital to help pay for new staff – both administrative and frontline service providers – as well as necessary IT and billing systems.

Interested providers must attend a [Mandatory Technical Assistance Session](#), which will be held virtually on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For more information and to submit a proposal, go to the [DCA Sage Portal](#) and scroll down to NJ FamilyCare Housing Supports Provider Readiness 2025.

### **November 5, 2024: Three Notices of Readoption Published**

On November 4, 2024, the following three Notices of Readoption were published on the New Jersey Department of Human Services [Rule Adoptions](#) page:

- [Notice of Readoption: N.J.A.C 10:42A](#), *Life-Threatening Emergencies*
- [Notice of Readoption: N.J.A.C 10:46B](#), *Placement*
- [Notice of Readoption: N.J.A.C 10:46A](#), *Family Support Service System*

## **October 2024**

### **October 30, 2024: Human Services Virtual 2025-26 Budget Listening Session**

The New Jersey Department of Human Services will hold a virtual budget listening session at noon on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

All are welcome to offer verbal or written testimony to inform the Department of Human Services budget for 2025-26. To accommodate as many speakers as possible verbal testimony is limited to 3 minutes.

[Sign up here to testify](#). Sign language and captioning will be provided. Please note any other accommodation requests when signing up.

### **October 29, 2024: DDD Issues Updated RFP for the Development of Homes to Support People Transitioning from Nursing Facilities**

The New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce the release of an updated Request for Proposals (RFP), *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. Funding may be used to develop new sites or enhance existing locations (update accessibility and/or complete other

modifications to facilitate appropriate support for a person who is moving from a nursing facility or other qualified institution).

The [Notice of Funding Availability](#) and [Request for Proposals](#) are posted on the [DHS Public Notices](#) webpage. The deadline to submit questions is November 7, 2024 and the deadline for proposal submissions is January 29, 2025.

### **October 29, 2024: Annual Fiscal Sustainability Reporting Requirement**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) reminds providers they are required to submit an annual fiscal sustainability report *within 120 days of the closing of their fiscal year*. This requirement applies to all providers with more than \$100,000 in annual combined billing to DDD – including all revenue received from DDD through Medicaid Fee-for-Service claims, support coordination, and any contract revenue.

Reporting Instructions:

- Download the [Fiscal Sustainability Report Template](#) (also available on the [Provider Information](#) page, under the *Fiscal Sustainability* tab)
- Rename the file so it identifies the provider name and fiscal-year end date (e.g., ABC Agency – 6-30-24)
- Email the completed report to [DDD.WaiverFinancialReports@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.WaiverFinancialReports@dhs.nj.gov), with provider name and fiscal-year end date in the subject line

To learn more about fiscal sustainability reporting, review Section 14 in DDD [policy manuals](#).

### **October 29, 2024: Safety in Your Setting Month**

The DDD Resource Team and Office of Risk Management are collaborating in November to offer *Safety in Your Setting Month*, a time to focus on supervision, independence, and best practices for keeping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities safe. The primary audiences for the virtual trainings are provider agency staff and caregivers, but all are welcome to attend. Visit the DDD [Health and Safety](#) web page for a list of available trainings and links to register.

### **October 29, 2024: November Information Sessions on DDD Self-Directed Employee Models**

Learn about the two Self-Directed Employee (SDE) models available to individuals interested in self-directing some or all of their DDD-funded services: the Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent Model and the Agency with Choice Model.

Register for one or both virtual information sessions, which are open to all:

**Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent (VF/EA) Model Information Session, hosted by Public Partnerships LLC (PPL)**

- Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 1 – 2 p.m. - [Register for the November 19 VF/EA Information Session](#)

### **Agency with Choice (AwC) Model Information Session, hosted by Easterseals NJ**

- Wednesday, November 20, 2024, Noon – 1 p.m. - [Register for November 20 AwC Information Session](#)

To learn more about self-directed services and the two models available through DDD, visit the DDD [Self-Directed Services](#) web page.

### **October 29, 2024: Updated Addressing Enhanced Needs Form**

The [Addressing Enhanced Needs Form](#) (AENF), which is required to be completed by the support coordinator and provider when an individual with an acuity factor is seeking acuity-differentiated DDD services from a DDD/Medicaid-approved provider, has been updated as follows:

#### **1. The Support Coordination Attestation has been changed**

##### **FROM THIS:**

*By submitting this form, I attest that a review of the NJCAT was conducted and to the best of my knowledge, all areas for which the Individual requires enhanced supports while receiving services, have been identified.*

##### **TO THIS:**

- By submitting this form, the Support Coordinator attests to the following:
- A review of the NJCAT was conducted.
- To the best of my knowledge, all areas for which the individual requires enhanced supports while receiving services, have been identified.
- The individual/guardian was offered the opportunity to participate in the AENF process.

#### **2. The Provider Attestation has been changed**

##### **FROM THIS:**

*By submitting this form, I attest the Provider is aware of CCP/SP Manual requirements as outlined ahead, has DDD approval to provide higher level supports and has properly trained and credentialed staff in place for service delivery.*

##### **TO THIS:**

- By submitting this form, a representative of the Service Provider attests to the following:
- The provider is aware of DDD policy requirements regarding staff qualifications, background checks, requisite training, specialized training, experience and credentialing as summarized and described on pages 1 and 2.

- DDD has approved the provider to deliver supports to individuals with medical or behavioral acuity.
- The provider has properly trained and credentialed staff to address the individual's enhanced needs.

The [Addressing Enhanced Needs Form](#) is required to be completed prior to service delivery and updated as needed, or, at a minimum, annually.

### **October 21, 2024: Transition Thursdays: The 4th Thursday DDD Welcome Session, with Topic breakouts, Thursday Oct. 24**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities Office of Transition to Adult Life & Employment is pleased to offer Transition Thursdays – a series of webinars for students and families to learn about the process of transitioning from school to adult life and the adult intellectual and developmental disabilities service system.

The next webinar is this [Thursday, October 24](#), from 6 – 7:30 p.m. and will have topic breakout rooms on the following: Support Coordination, Self-directing some or all of your DDD-funded services, the Community Care Program Waiting List, Employment Options, and Housing. Transition Thursdays webinars are Free and Open to All!

[Register Now for Oct. 24 Welcome Session](#) and please share the [Transition Thursdays flyer](#) with your networks!

For more information about the Transition Thursdays Webinar Series, including registration links, visit the [Transition to Adult Life Webinars and Events](#) web page.

### **October 10, 2024: NJ Suicide Prevention Conference is Free and Open to All**

The NJ Department of Health, and the NJ Department of Human Services and its Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services have once again partnered to offer New Jersey's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Suicide Prevention Conference. The live, virtual event will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, October 29, 2024. It is free and anyone may register to attend.

[Register to Attend NJ Suicide Prevention Conference](#)

### **October 9, 2024: Jobs That Care Recruitment Campaign Underway, Offering Ideal Opportunity to Post Direct Care Openings**

This past April, the Department of Human Services and its Divisions of Developmental Disabilities and Aging Services launched a major statewide campaign to increase awareness of and drive people to the new [JobsThatCare.NJ.GOV](#) website.

The campaign highlights the need for Direct Support Professionals to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their homes and communities, and Certified Home



Health Aides to help individuals maintain their personal health and hygiene in their home setting.

If you are a DDD provider agency needing to hire Direct Support Professionals (DSP), or an individual or family needing to hire a Self-Directed Employee (SDE), now is an ideal time to take advantage of the job advertising tips and tools available on the [JobsThatCare.NJ.GOV](https://www.jobsforcare.nj.gov) website.

The *Information for Employers* page lists various job search sites where employers can post available DSP and SDE opportunities, including the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development's [Job Source](https://www.jobsource.nj.gov) website. In addition, on the [National Labor Exchange \(NLx\) NJ Employer Access](https://www.nlex.com) page, employers can register for an account and post jobs for free.

### **October 9, 2024: Virtual Forum to meet and Learn About the DDD Resource Team**

The NJ Regional Family Support Planning Council #6 (Monmouth and Ocean) has partnered with the DDD Resource Team to offer *Overview of DDD Resource Team*, a virtual forum for families and caregivers to learn about the training and support available through the DDD Resource Team.

Overview of DDD Resource Team, Thursday, October 10, 2024, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – [Register Now for Oct. 10 Overview of DDD Resource Team](#)

### **October 9, 2024: Housing Development Guide**

With the ongoing need for safe, affordable community-based housing options for New Jersey citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), the Division of Developmental Disabilities is pleased to release a new guide, [Innovation in Housing: Developing HCBS Compliant Settings](#). This resource was developed to support innovation in housing and services that reflects an understanding of and compliance with the statutes and spirit of the HCBS settings rule.

### **October 7, 2024: Two Proposed Readoptions with Amendments**

A [Proposed Readoption with Amendments of N.J.A.C 10:41](#), *Records Confidentiality and Access to Client, Division, and Provider Records*, was published on the New Jersey Department of Human Services [Proposed Rules and Amendments](#) page on October 7, 2024. There is a 60-day formal public comment period, which ends December 6, 2024. Written comments may be submitted as follows:

- Electronically: DDD-CO.LAPO@dhs.nj.gov
- USPS Mail: Robert K. Strong, Administrative Practice Officer, Division of Developmental Disabilities, PO Box 726, Trenton, NJ 08625-0726
- Fax: 609-341-2451

A [Proposed Readoption with Amendments of N.J.A.C 10:41A](#), *Human Rights Committee*, was published on the New Jersey Department of Human Services [Proposed Rules and Amendments](#) page on October 7, 2024. There is a 60-day formal public comment period, which ends December 6, 2024. Written comments may be submitted as follows:

- Electronically: DDD-CO.LAPO@dhs.nj.gov
- USPS Mail: Robert K. Strong, Administrative Practice Officer, Division of Developmental Disabilities, PO Box 726, Trenton, NJ 08625-0726
- Fax: 609-341-2451

### **October 3, 2024: DDD Celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)**

This October, in celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Office of Transition to Adult Life & Employment invites you to join them for a Thursday webinar series focusing on employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

All are welcome – use the links below to register, and share the [NDEAM 2024 Flyer](#) with your networks!

- October 10, Noon-1 pm: Preparing for Employment
- October 17, Noon-1 pm: Project Search Program: Preparing for Success in Competitive Integrated Employment
- October 24, Noon-1 pm: Introduction to Employment and Benefits
- October 31, Noon-1 pm: Services Available Through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)

### **October 2, 2024: NCI Individual, Family, Guardian Surveys 2024-2025**

The New Jersey Department of Human Services' (DHS) Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is pleased to announce we are again participating in the [National Core Indicators®](#) (NCI) surveys for individuals and their families and guardians.

Beginning in October 2024, DDD will contact individuals and families to request their voluntary and confidential participation in one of the following surveys:

- In-Person Survey – for individuals 21 and older who are receiving at least one DDD-funded service in addition to Support Coordination.
- Adult Family Survey – an online survey for family members who have an adult (21 years or older) with an intellectual/developmental disability who lives in the family home and receives at least one DDD-funded service in addition to Support Coordination.
- Family/Guardian Survey – an online survey for family members/guardians who have an adult (21 years or older) with an intellectual/developmental disability who lives outside of the family home and receives at least one DDD-funded service in addition to Support Coordination.

To learn more about National Core Indicators® and the individual, family and guardian surveys, please see the [NCI Survey Overview](#).

### **Spanish:**

La División de Discapacidades del Desarrollo (DDD, por sus siglas en inglés) del Departamento de Servicios Humanos de New Jersey (DHS, por sus siglas en inglés) se complace en anunciar que participaremos nuevamente en las encuestas 2024-2025 de los [Indicadores Básicos Nacionales](#)® (NCI, por sus siglas en inglés) para individuos, sus familias y tutores.

A partir de octubre de 2024, la DDD se pondrá en contacto con individuos y familias para solicitar su participación voluntaria y confidencial en una de las siguientes encuestas:

- Encuesta en persona – para individuos mayores de 21 años que están recibiendo por lo menos un servicio fundado por la DDD además de coordinación de apoyo.
- Encuesta para familias con un adulto – una encuesta en línea para miembros de la familia que tengan un adulto (mayor de 21 años de edad) con una discapacidad del desarrollo/intelectual que vivan en el hogar y reciban, por lo menos, un servicio financiado por la DDD además de coordinación de apoyo.
- Encuesta para familias/tutores legales – una encuesta en línea para miembros de familia/tutores legales que tengan un adulto (mayor de 21 años de edad) con una discapacidad del desarrollo/intelectual que vivan fuera del hogar y reciban por lo menos un servicio financiado por la DDD además de coordinación de apoyo.

Para obtener más información sobre los Indicadores Básicos Nacionales® y las encuestas individuales, familiares y de tutores, consulte el [panorama general de las encuestas del NCI](#).

### **October 1, 2024: New DSP Training Requirements**

Working with a number of community partners since 2022, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) has established a new competency-based career pathway for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who are employed by DDD-approved agencies. There are new required trainings for DSPs that will have a soft rollout effective October 1, 2024, and full implementation January 1, 2025. Information about the new trainings is available on the [Provider Information](#) page of the DDD website, and includes the following:

- [Training Overview Slide Deck](#)
- [Training Overview Webinar Recording](#)
- [Implementing the New DSP Training Requirements: A Guide for DDD Providers](#)

### **October 1, 2024: Rate Increases for New DSP Training Requirements**

To account for the cost to providers to implement the new DSP training requirements, DDD issued a [Rate Change Notice](#) and [Quick Guide to Rate Increases](#) on September 26, 2024.

As indicated in the notice, the rates for DSP-delivered services in the Community Care Program and Supports Program will increase effective October 1, 2024.

The increased rates will be implemented in iRecord on or about October 6, 2024. For details, including information about claiming, please review the DDD Information Bulletin, [Rate Increases for New DSP Training Requirements](#). All Community Care Program and Supports Program up-to budget amounts will receive a corresponding increase.

## September 2024

### September 16, 2024: Webinar Overview of New DSP Onboarding Training Requirements

In 2022, the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Direct Support Professional (DSP) Competency and Capacity Building Steering Committee convened. It included over 20 members representing various DDD constituency groups for the purpose of establishing a competency-based career pathway for DSPs employed by DDD service providers in New Jersey. Based on the committee recommendations, *DDD training requirements for all current and future DSPs have been updated*. A soft rollout will begin on October 1, 2024.

To help providers, DSPs and other interested stakeholders understand the new requirements, DDD is hosting the following webinar:

- Title: Overview of 2024 DSP Onboarding Training Requirements
- Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2024
- Time: 11 a.m. – Noon
- [Register Now for the September 17 DSP Training Webinar](#)

### September 16, 2024: Fall 2024 Family and Peer-to-Peer Networking Sessions

The DDD [Office of Education on Self-Directed Services](#) offers:

- Family Networking Sessions throughout the year, in locations throughout the state, for people and families who are or are interested in self-directing services. For information and to register, see the [Family Networking Sessions Fall 2024 Schedule](#).
- Peer-to-Peer Networking Sessions quarterly for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are or are interested in self-directing some or all of their services. The next Peer-to-Peer Networking Session is Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 6 – 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. [Register Now for the Oct. 8 Peer-to-Peer Networking Session](#).

Email the OESDS Helpdesk at [DDD.OESDS@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.OESDS@dhs.nj.gov) with any questions.

### September 16, 2024: Voting Guide and E-Learning Course for People with Disabilities

The Boggs Center on Disability and Human Development, in collaboration with Disability Rights NJ and the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities, has developed a guide and an e-learning course about voting rights and the voting process in New Jersey for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please share these great resources!

- [Voting: It's Your Right](#) (PDF guide)
- [Voting: It's Your Right E-Learning Course](#)

## **September 10, 2024: Webinar Overview of New DSP Onboarding Training Requirements**

In 2022, the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Direct Support Professional (DSP) Competency and Capacity Building Steering Committee convened. It included over 20 members representing various DDD constituency groups for the purpose of establishing a competency-based career pathway for DSPs employed by DDD service providers in New Jersey. Based on the committee recommendations, DDD training requirements for all current and future DSPs have been updated and will begin a soft rollout on October 1, 2024.

To help providers and DSPs understand the new requirements, DDD is hosting the following webinar:

- Title: Overview of 2024 DSP Onboarding Training Requirements
- Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2024
- Time: 11 a.m. – Noon
- [Register Now for the September 17 DSP Training Webinar](#)

## **August 2024**

### **August 13, 2024: August Information Sessions on DDD Self-Directed Employee Models**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) offers two Self-Directed Employee (SDE) models that individuals interested in self-directing some or all of their services can choose: the Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent Model administered by Public Partnerships, LLC, and the Agency with Choice Model administered by Easterseals NJ. We are happy to once again share the following virtual opportunities to learn more about these two models.

#### **Public Partnerships Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent (VF/EA) Model Information Session**

- Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 11 a.m. – Noon
- [Register Now for the August 27 VF/EA Information Session](#)

#### **Easterseals NJ Agency with Choice (AwC) Model Information Session**

- Tuesday, August 20, 2024, Noon – 1 p.m.
- [Register Now for the August 20 AwC Information Session](#)

To learn more about self-directed services and the two models available through DDD, visit our Self-Directed Services webpage.

## August 1, 2024: NJ Disability Information Hub

During a virtual event this week commemorating Disability Pride Month and the 34th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the New Jersey Department of Human Services and Office of Innovation launched a new web resource for people with disabilities and those who support them. The [Disability Information Hub](#) brings together into one place the wide variety of resources available through the State and other organizations for people with disabilities, caregivers, families, and advocates.

Governor Murphy's [press release](#) about the Hub's launch offers a glimpse into the many levels of collaboration that went into developing this statewide tool, as well as the focus on ensuring the Hub meets WCAG and Section 508 accessibility requirements and is easy to navigate for people with all types of disabilities.

To learn more or for help navigating the site, watch [Learn about the NJ Disability Information Hub](#) (also available with [audio description and transcript](#)). There is also a [Caregiver Quick Start Guide](#) to the Hub that you can view or download and print.

Please share this valuable resource with your networks and across your social media platforms!

## July 2024

### July 25, 2024: Next Step to Get Underway in Rutgers DDPI Research Study of NJCAT

The Rutgers [Developmental Disabilities Planning Institute](#) (DDPI) is conducting a research study to identify areas of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool ([NJCAT](#)) that might benefit from improvements. The first step of the Rutgers DDPI study was completed last fall and involved collection and analysis of stakeholder feedback about the NJCAT through a series of small focus groups and a system-wide stakeholder online survey.

Using the collected feedback to inform the process, DDPI has drafted a revised NJCAT, referred to as the Study-NJCAT, and will begin testing of this draft tool with a stratified random sample of about 5,000 individuals served by DDD. (Please Note: the NJCAT currently in use remains unchanged.)

The DDPI will begin emailing selected individuals or their legal guardian(s) in early September 2024, in small groups of 100 – 500 people at a time over a 12-to-18-month period, to invite them to voluntarily participate in testing of the Study-NJCAT. The support coordinators for the selected individuals will be copied on those invitation emails.

For the Study-NJCAT testing to be successful, it is critical that iRecord has the most up-to-date contact information for the selected individuals and their legal guardian(s). Therefore,

beginning next week and every 4 – 8 weeks thereafter, DDD will email the support coordinators of the upcoming group of randomly selected individuals/legal guardians.

The DDD email will instruct the support coordinators to reach out to the selected individuals/legal guardians to obtain updated contact information within 30 days of receipt of the email. Support coordinators can relay that the updated information is being requested in relation to a research study of the NJCAT being conducted by Rutgers DDPI. (Support coordinators may want to share this Division Update communication with them as well.)

Participating in the Study-NJCAT is voluntary and responses are confidential. Participation will not affect a person's DDD services and will not change a person's tier. The Study-NJCAT will be done the same way NJCAT assessments and reassessments are done now – facilitated by DDD staff who have received specialized training, and completed in-person, virtually, or over the phone.

### **July 22, 2024: NADD DSP Certification RFP**

The New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is pleased to announce the release of a new Request for Proposals (RFP), [NADD Competency-Based IDD/MI Dual Diagnosis Direct Support Professional Certification Pilot](#) (and related [Notice of Funding Availability](#)).

This RFP will fund certification of up to 3,000 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and is open to all Medicaid/DDD-approved provider agencies that employ DSPs, as well as Financial Management Services agencies (known as fiscal intermediaries) that administer either of the DDD-funded self-directed employee (SDE) models.

The NADD Certification Pilot seeks to improve the quality of life of individuals with an intellectual and/or developmental disability and co-occurring mental health concerns, and their families, by enhancing the competency, skills, and professionalism of the DDD-funded direct care workers (DSPs and SDEs) who support them.

[NADD](#) is a national organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental health conditions, and a leader in providing education and advocacy that promotes their wellbeing and full inclusion in their communities.

In addition to NADD, the Department and Division are pleased to partner with [The Boggs Center](#), which will conduct ongoing learning collaboratives for direct care staff who are enrolled in the pilot.

We encourage agencies and fiscal intermediaries to review the RFP and consider participating in this exciting opportunity. Proposals are due no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2024.



## **July 18, 2024: COLA Increase to Supports Program and Community Care Program Service Rates**

New Jersey's FY25 Budget went into effect July 1, 2024, and included \$7,500,000 for an across-the-board increase to Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) fee-for-service reimbursement rates, also referred to as a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA). All Supports Program and Community Care Program service rates, excluding those with a "reasonable and customary" rate, will see an automatic rate increase. To accommodate the rate increases, individualized up-to budget amounts will also see a slight increase.

Please see the [FY25 COLA Rate Increase](#) bulletin for more information. Provider and Support Coordination Agencies, in particular, are encouraged to review the bulletin, which gives details about claiming for services over the next few weeks.

## **July 1, 2024: Application Now Open - HCBS Provider Loan Redemption Program**

The [application portal](#) for the Home and Community-Based Services Provider Loan Redemption Program (HCBSP-LRP) is open from July 1 – July 31, 2024. New Jersey's Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Families, and Higher Education Student Assistance Authority launched this new initiative that will provide student loan redemption up to \$50,000 to certain licensed health care, behavioral health, and social services professionals in exchange for a year of service at an eligible HCBS provider agency.

Funding will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Professionals are encouraged to apply early, including downloading and having the Employer Certification Form completed and signed by their employer. Visit the HCBSP-LRP [application portal](#) today for more information and to apply!

## **June 2024**

### **June 26, 2024: NCI State of the Workforce Survey Extended Through July 31, 2024**

The National Core Indicators® State of the Workforce Survey has been extended through July 31, 2024. Initial Email invitations were sent to eligible DDD providers – to the provider email address on file in iRecord – on March 5, 2024 with follow up invitations sent monthly, bi-weekly and then weekly through June.

If your agency has not received an invitation to participate, please email [DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov) as soon as possible.

The data collected through this annual survey helps us examine and respond to challenges experienced by New Jersey's Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce serving adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, and has played a key role in the state's DSP wage increases.



Participation by as many eligible providers as possible is critical to ensure valid results. To learn more, visit [National Core Indicators](#) or see our [NCI State of the Workforce Overview](#).

### **June 20, 2024: \*For agency employees - HCBS Student Loan Redemption Program**

New Jersey's Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Families, and Higher Education Student Assistance Authority recently announced the Home and Community-Based Services Provider Loan Redemption Program (HCBS-P-LRP), a new initiative that will provide student loan redemption up to \$50,000 to certain licensed health care, behavioral health, and social services professionals in exchange for a year of service at an eligible HCBS provider agency.

Many provider agencies participated in an introductory webinar on June 19, during which we advised that we would be offering a similar webinar for potential applicants on Friday, June 28 at 3:00 PM. This next session will allow us to provide more information about the program eligibility and how to apply.

We are asking provider agencies to forward this invitation to eligible staff and ask them to register for the webinar using [this link](#). After registering, they will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. (Eligible self-directed employees in a DDD-funded Self-Directed Services program may also register to attend the webinar.)

Psychiatrists, licensed psychologists, licensed social workers, licensed clinical social workers, psychiatric nurse mental health clinical specialists, board-certified behavior analysts, board-certified behavior analysts-doctoral, licensed clinical or certified alcohol and drug counselors, licensed professional and associate counselors, licensed or associate marriage and family therapists, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and DCF care managers will be eligible to apply if they work in any of the following settings:

- DHS' Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services-contracted agencies
- DHS' Division of Developmental Disabilities-funded agencies and self-directing employees
- DCF-approved settings in specified programs
- Agencies contracted by NJ FamilyCare's Managed Care Organizations and fee-for-service (private duty nurses only)

Applications for the program will open on July 1st and close on July 31st. Awards will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **June 14, 2024: Webinar for Provider Agencies on Upcoming HCBS Student Loan Redemption Program for Eligible Employees**

New Jersey's Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Families, and Higher Education Student Assistance Authority will soon formally announce the Home and Community-

Based Services Loan Redemption Program (HCBSP-LRP), a new initiative that will provide student loan redemption up to \$50,000 to licensed health care, behavioral health, and social services professionals in exchange for a year of service at an eligible HCBS provider agency.

The Departments of Human Services and Children and Families are hosting a webinar on Wednesday, June 19 at 3:00 PM for HCBS provider agencies that would like to learn more about this substantial opportunity for their employees.

Provider agency representatives may [REGISTER NOW FOR June 19 WEBINAR](#). *Please note this webinar is only for provider agency representatives; a separate webinar will be offered this month for employees/potential applicants.*

Psychiatrists, licensed psychologists, licensed social workers, licensed clinical social workers, psychiatric nurse mental health clinical specialists, board-certified behavior analysts, board-certified behavior analysts-doctoral, licensed clinical or certified alcohol and drug counselors, licensed professional and associate counselors, licensed or associate marriage and family therapists, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and DCF care managers will be eligible to apply if they work in any of the following settings:

- DHS Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services-contracted agencies
- DHS Division of Developmental Disabilities-funded agencies and self-directing employees
- DCF-approved settings in specified programs
- NJ FamilyCare managed care organizations (private duty nurses only)

Applications for the program will open on July 1 and close on July 31. Awards will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **June 11, 2024: Requirements for Direct Support Professionals, including Self-Directed Employees**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities' recently updated Supports Program and Community Care Program [policy manuals](#) included language specifying that neither an agency-employed Direct Support Professional nor a Self-Directed Employee can be regularly scheduled to work more than 16 consecutive hours in any 24-hour period. The June 2024 information bulletin, [Requirements for Direct Support Professionals](#), discusses this and other requirements that provider agencies must ensure they are in compliance with.

### **June 10, 2024: Two New Webinars for Families and Self-Directed Employees**

We are pleased to announce two upcoming webinars for families and self-directed employees:

[Overview of the DDD Resource Team for Families and Self-Directed Employees](#) - Tuesday, June 25, 2024, 3 – 4 p.m.

- This presentation will discuss the services available through the DDD Resource Team, such as education and support with behavior, mealtime safety, and medical issues. Resource Team services are available at no cost to families or providers and referrals can be made through an individual's Support Coordinator.

[Danielle's Law Refresher for Families and Self-Directed Employees](#) - Thursday, July 18, 2024, 3 – 4 p.m.

- This interactive training on Danielle's Law ensures families and self-directed employees are prepared to recognize the difference between a health emergency and a life-threatening emergency in an "own home" setting. The goal of this refresher training is to ensure self-directed employees know how to respond promptly and appropriately to life-threatening emergencies involving individuals receiving DDD-funded services, while complying with Danielle's Law.

### **June 3, 2024: NCI Family Survey Invitation Letters are in the Mail**

[National Core Indicators®](#) (NCI) is a collaborative national effort to measure and improve outcomes of participants in public human service systems. Each year, to support this effort, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) facilitates completion of NCI surveys by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), their families and caregivers, and IDD service providers in New Jersey (see our [NCI Overview](#) for more information).

Last week, DDD mailed about 22,000 NCI Family Survey invitation letters via US postal mail to the primary caregivers/family members and guardians of individuals receiving at least one DDD service in addition to Support Coordination. Each invitation includes a survey link and unique access code. Participation in the NCI Family Survey is anonymous and voluntary. You do not need to complete the survey if you do not want to, but it is strongly encouraged. The information collected will help us better understand caregiver/family experiences with the IDD service system and improve the quality of services for everyone.

The NCI Family Survey closes on June 30, 2024. If you have questions about the survey or wish to request an online invitation or hard copy of the survey in English or other languages, email us at [DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov).

### **June 3, 2024: Las cartas de invitación de la encuesta familiar NCI están en el correo**

Los [Indicadores Básicos Nacionales®](#) (NCI, por sus siglas en inglés) son un esfuerzo nacional de colaboración para medir y mejorar los resultados de los participantes en los sistemas públicos de servicios humanos. Cada año, para apoyar este esfuerzo, la División de Discapacidades del Desarrollo (DDD, por sus siglas en inglés) facilita la realización de encuestas NCI para las personas con discapacidades intelectuales y del desarrollo (IDD, por sus siglas en inglés), sus familias y cuidadores, y los proveedores de servicios de IDD en New Jersey (ver nuestra [visión general](#) de NCI para más información).

La semana pasada, la DDD envió por correo postal unas 22,000 cartas de invitación a la Encuesta Familiar de los NCI a los cuidadores principales/miembros de la familia y tutores de personas que reciben al menos un servicio de la DDD además de la Coordinación de Apoyos. Cada invitación incluye un enlace a la encuesta y un código de acceso único.

La participación en la encuesta familiar del NCI es anónima y voluntaria. No es necesario que complete la encuesta si no lo desea, pero se le recomienda encarecidamente que lo haga. La información recopilada nos ayudará a comprender mejor las experiencias de los cuidadores/familiares con el sistema de servicios de IDD y a mejorar la calidad de los servicios para todos.

La encuesta familiar del NCI finaliza el 30 de junio de 2024. Si tiene preguntas sobre la encuesta o desea solicitar una invitación en línea o una copia impresa de la encuesta en inglés u otros idiomas, envíenos un correo electrónico a [DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov).

### **June 3, 2024: Reminder to Providers! NCI State of the Workforce Survey Ongoing Through June 30**

The National Core Indicators® State of the Workforce Survey is open through June 30, 2024 and participation by as many eligible providers as possible is critical to ensure valid results. Please note in previous years NCI has granted extensions to the response deadline but has indicated extensions will not be granted to states going forward.

Email invitations were sent to eligible DDD providers – to the provider email address on file in iRecord – in March, with follow-up invitations sent in April.

If your agency has not received an invitation to participate, please contact [DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov) as soon as possible.

The data collected through this annual survey helps us examine and respond to challenges in New Jersey's Direct Support Professional workforce serving adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. To learn more, visit [National Core Indicators®](#) or see our [NCI State of the Workforce Overview](#).

## **May 2024**

### **May 29, 2024: Sent on Behalf of NJ Transit: Spring 2024 Access Link Customer Satisfaction Survey**

If you use Access Link paratransit service, NJ Transit wants your feedback! NJ Transit invites Access Link paratransit users to complete the Spring 2024 Access Link Customer Satisfaction Survey. The survey can be completed on a desktop, laptop, tablet, or smart phone.

People who complete the Access Link survey and provide their contact information will earn 250 NJ Transit (NJT) Rewards points and will also be entered into an NJ Transit drawing to win a Free Monthly Pass or \$100 Gift Card.

NJ Transit is grateful for your participation!

### **May 29, 2024: Enviado en nombre de NJ Transit: Encuesta de satisfacción al cliente de Access Link, primavera de 2024**

Si utiliza el servicio de paratransito Access Link, NJ Transit desea saber su opinión. NJ Transit invita a los usuarios de paratransito de Access Link a completar la Encuesta de Satisfacción al Cliente de Access Link, Primavera de 2024. La encuesta se puede completar en una computadora de sobremesa, portátil, tableta o teléfono inteligente.

Las personas que completen la encuesta de Access Link y proporcionen su información de contacto, ganarán 250 puntos de NJ Transit (NJT) Rewards y también participarán en un sorteo de NJ Transit para ganar un pase mensual gratuito o una tarjeta de regalo de \$100 dólares.

¡NJ Transit le agradece su participación!

### **May 15, 2024: May Information Sessions on DDD Self-Directed Employee Models**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) offers two Self-Directed Employee (SDE) models that individuals interested in self-directing some or all of their services can choose: the Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent Model administered by Public Partnerships, LLC, and the Agency with Choice Model administered by Easterseals NJ. We are happy to once again share the following virtual opportunities to learn about these two models.

#### **Public Partnerships Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent (VF/EA) Model Information Session**

- Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 11 a.m. – noon | [Register Now for the May 29 VF/EA Information Session](#)

#### **Easterseals NJ Agency with Choice (AwC) Model Information Session**

- Tuesday, May 28 2024, Noon – 1 p.m. | [Register Now for May 28 AwC Information Session](#)

To learn more about self-directed services and the two models available through DDD, visit our [Self-Directed Services](#) webpage.

## April 2024

### April 29, 2024: NCI State of the Workforce Survey

The National Core Indicators® State of the Workforce Survey is open through June 30, 2024 and participation by as many eligible providers as possible is critical to ensure valid results. Email invitations were sent to eligible DDD providers – to the provider email address on file in iRecord – on March 5, with follow-up invitations sent on April 26.

If your agency has not received an invitation to participate, please contact [DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov) as soon as possible.

The data collected through this annual survey helps us examine and respond to challenges in New Jersey's Direct Support Professional workforce serving adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. To learn more, visit [National Core Indicators®](#) or see our [NCI State of the Workforce Overview](#).

### April 29, 2024: New May 10 Webinar on NJ SNAP And DFD Programs

On Friday, May 10, 2024, the DDD Office of Education on Self-Directed Services is collaborating with the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of Family Development (DFD) to host a webinar about programs available through DFD, including [NJ SNAP](#) and [WorkFirst NJ](#). While the information is geared toward individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families, all are welcome to attend.

- Friday, May 10, 2024, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- [Register Now for SNAP Benefits and Division of Family Development Programs: An Overview for Individuals and Families](#)

### April 23, 2024: Policy Manual Updates

The Division of Developmental Disabilities has updated the policy and procedure manuals for our Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs, the Community Care Program and Supports Program. You will find a summary of changes on page two of each manual, and a detailed overview will be provided at the next DDD Update Webinar on April 25 ([Register Now](#)).

- [Community Care Program Policy Manual](#) (April 2024)
- [Supports Program Policy Manual](#) (April 2024)

The April 2024 release includes a new policy section that may affect a small number of individuals ages 18 through 21. Please review and share DDD's Information Bulletin on [Limited Circumstances Where a Person Ages 18 through 21 May Receive Division Services](#).

## **April 3, 2024: DHS Public Notice of Rule Adoptions**

A Notice of Readoption with Amendments of N.J.A.C. 10:46D, Contribution to Care and Maintenance Requirements, and an Administrative Change to N.J.A.C. 10:46D-3.2 were published on the NJ Department of Human Services [Rule Adoptions](#) page on April 1, 2024.

## **April 1, 2024: DHS OPIA Bulletin - Resume Normal Employee Onboarding**

With an increased availability of fingerprinting appointments, the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Office of Program Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) will be returning to normal onboarding requirements for direct support professionals and self-directed employees effective April 15, 2024. OPIA will continue the temporary clearance process until then.

Effective April 15, 2024, new hires must complete onboarding requirements prior to employment, and OPIA's Employment Controls and Compliance Unit (ECCU) will no longer process emergency requests for hire. For employees who have already begun employment based on emergency approval prior to April 15, 2024, employers have until June 15, 2024 to complete criminal background checks via fingerprinting.

Please review the April 1 DHS Information Bulletin, [Updated Employee Onboarding Requirements](#).

## **March 2024**

### **March 28, 2024: Family Networking Sessions Spring 2024 Schedule is Here!**

The DDD Office of Education on Self-Directed Services hosts networking sessions for people and families who are, or are interested in, self-directing some or all their DDD-funded services.

The first spring session is in-person on Wednesday, April 3 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Bergen Community College. Advance registration is required and location details are available when you register.

[Register Now for April 3 Bergen County Family Networking Session](#)

See the full schedule and register for upcoming sessions (April through June): [Family Networking Sessions Spring 2024](#)

### **March 18, 2024: Updated Division Circular on Medicaid Fraud, Waste, and Abuse**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is required by federal law to establish written policy about the prevention, detection, and reporting of Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse, which must include detailed information about the federal and state laws that govern it. An updated [Division Circular 54 \(DC54\)](#), *Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, Section 6032, Policy*



on *Fraud, Waste and Abuse*, replaces the previous DC54 issued in November 2008 and is available on the [Division Circulars](#) page of the DDD website.

The updates to DC54 reflect legal and other changes since November 2008, and are summarized below:

- Addition of NJ Insurance Fraud Prevention Act, which became effective in 2021
- Updates to reflect the transition of the Medicaid Fraud Division to the Office of the State Comptroller
- Updates to criminal and administrative penalties in laws summarized in the circular
- Updates to websites for reporting suspected fraud, waste, and abuse
- Updates to reflect the transition from the Community Care Waiver to the Community Care Program, and the addition of the Supports Program
- Various edits for grammar and simplicity

### **March 13, 2024: Join Us for the Next Peer-to-Peer Networking Session in April!**

Hosted by the DDD Office of Education on Self-Directed Services, Peer-to-Peer Networking Sessions are an opportunity for adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) who are self-directing some or all their DDD-funded services to meet their peers, share resources, and discuss their experiences with self-direction.

Adults with IDD who are self-directing or are interested in learning more about self-direction are welcome to attend. Be sure to register in advance!

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

6 – 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

[Register for April 16 Peer-to-Peer Networking Session](#)

Download/Share the [Flyer](#)

## **February 2024**

### **February 28, 2024: UPDATE! START Services RFP**

The New Jersey Department of Human Services' (DHS) Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) has rescinded the Request for Proposals (RFP) originally released on January 31, 2024, titled *START Services NJ: Development of Mobile Crisis Prevention and Response Program(s) to Serve People with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability and Co-Occurring Mental Health Needs Based on the National START Model*.

A replacement RFP was released on February 28, 2024, titled *START Services NJ: Development of a Mobile Crisis Prevention and Intervention Program to Serve People with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability and Co-occurring Mental Health Needs in Southern New Jersey Based on the National START Model*.



The successful bidder will partner with the [National Center for START Services™](#) to develop one mobile crisis prevention and intervention program, consisting of a clinical team and therapeutic coaching team, to serve adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental health needs who live in the southern region of New Jersey (as defined in the RFP).

The [Notice of Funding Availability](#) and [Request for Proposals: START Services NJ](#) are posted on the DHS [Request for Proposals/Information](#) webpage. The deadline to submit questions is March 13, 2024 and the deadline for proposal submissions is April 17, 2024.

## **February 22, 2024 National Core Indicators (NCI) Surveys - We need your input!**

### **Annual NCI State of the Workforce Survey**

In March 2024, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) will email an NCI State of the Workforce Survey invitation to eligible provider agencies who employ Direct Support Professionals. The invitation will be sent to the provider email address on file in iRecord and will include a link and instructions to complete the NCI State of the Workforce Survey for 2023.

The NCI State of the Workforce Survey will be open through June 30, 2024, and participation by as many eligible providers as possible is critical to ensure valid results. To learn more, visit [National Core Indicators](#) or see our [NCI State of the Workforce Overview](#).

### **Annual NCI In-Person Survey**

DDD is continuing to conduct the NCI In-Person Survey for individuals 21 and older who are receiving at least one DDD-funded service in addition to Support Coordination. The 2023-2024 In-Person Survey will be administered through June 30, 2024. To learn more, please see our NCI Survey Overview.

Questions about the NCI State of the Workforce Survey or In-Person Surveys? Email us at [DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov).

## **February 22, 2024 REMINDER! DDD Resource Team Offering Choking Prevention Awareness Activities throughout March**

March 28<sup>th</sup> is National Choking Awareness Day, making March a great time to put a spotlight on choking risks and prevention. The DDD Resource Team has dedicated March 2024 to raising awareness about the risk of choking for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) and best practices for preventing choking.

In-person workshops are being held for provider agency staff and self-directed employees at various DDD Community Services office locations on March 6, 13, 20, and 27. And virtual

trainings, open to anyone, are available throughout the month. To see a full schedule of events and to register, please visit our [Health and Safety](#) webpage.

### **February 12, 2024 Family Networking Session Canceled, will be Rescheduled**

Due to tomorrow's weather forecast, the Family Networking Session scheduled for Tuesday, February 13 at the Burlington County Library has been canceled and tentatively rescheduled to Wednesday, February 28. Everyone registered for the Feb. 13 session will be automatically registered for the new date and receive an updated registration confirmation.

Revised information will be posted on the [Office of Education on Self-Directed Services](#) webpage, and questions may be sent to [DDD.OESDS@DHS.NJ.GOV](mailto:DDD.OESDS@DHS.NJ.GOV).

### **February 12, 2024 DDD Resource Team Dedicates Month of March to Choking Awareness**

March 28th is National Choking Awareness Day, making next month a great time to put a spotlight on choking risks and prevention. The DDD Resource Team has dedicated March 2024 to raising awareness about the risk of choking for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD), regardless of diet texture or consistency. In-person trainings will be held for provider staff and self-directed employees at various DDD Community Services office locations on March 6, 13, 20, and 27. And virtual trainings, open to anyone, will be held throughout the month. Please visit our [Health and Safety](#) webpage or download the [2024 Choking Awareness Month Flyer](#) for more information and to register (advance registration is required).

### **February 12, 2024 February Information Sessions on DDD Self-Directed Employee Models**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) offers two Self-Directed Employee (SDE) models that individuals interested in self-directing some or all of their services can choose: the Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent Model administered by Public Partnerships, LLC, and the Agency with Choice Model administered by Easterseals NJ. We are happy to once again share the following virtual opportunities to learn more about these two models.

#### **Public Partnerships Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent (VF/EA) Model Information Session**

- Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- [Register Now for the Feb. 21 VF/EA Information Session](#)

#### **Easterseals NJ Agency with Choice (AwC) Model Information Session**

- Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- [Register Now for Feb. 27 AwC Information Session](#)

To learn more about self-directed services and the two models available through DDD, visit our [Self-Directed Services](#) webpage.

### **February 7, 2024: DDD Issues RFP for the Development of Homes to Support People with IDD Transitioning From Nursing Facilities**

The New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce the release of a new Request for Proposal (RFP), *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.

The [Notice of Funding Availability](#) and [Request for Proposal](#) are posted on the [DHS Grants, RFPs, Public Notices](#) webpage. The deadline to submit questions is February 22, 2024, and the deadline for proposal submissions is May 1, 2024.

### **February 1, 2024: DDD Issues RFP for Development of Two Regional START Model Mobile Crisis Prevention and Response Teams**

The New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce the release of a new Request for Proposals (RFP), *START Services NJ: Development of Mobile Crisis Prevention and Response Programs to Serve People with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability and Co-occurring Mental Health Needs Based on the National START Model*.

Successful bidders will partner with the [National Center for START Services™](#) to develop up to two programs consisting of a clinical team and therapeutic coaching team – with one program serving the southern region and the other serving the northern region of New Jersey.

The [Notice of Funding Availability](#) and [Request for Proposals: START Services NJ](#) are posted on the [DHS Grants, RFPs, Public Notices](#) webpage. The deadline to submit questions is February 14, 2024, and the deadline for proposal submissions is March 20, 2024.

## January 2024

### January 30, 2024: Revised Behavior Management Committee (BMC) Referral Form and New BMC Helpdesk

The Division of Developmental Disabilities Office of Risk Management recently updated its [Behavior Management Committee Referral Form](#) and has developed an accompanying [Behavior Management Committee FAQ](#). A dedicated Behavior Management Committee Helpdesk has also been established, where referral forms and other information can be submitted. Effective immediately, all BMC referrals as well as BMC related information and questions can be emailed to [DDD.BMC@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.BMC@dhs.nj.gov).

The updated form is available in the Provider Toolkit section of the DDD [Provider Information](#) webpage. A webinar training about the BMC and use of the referral form is in development and expected to be available soon.

### January 26, 2024: Webinar on Addressing Enhanced Needs Form

This webinar overview of best practices for using and implementing the Addressing Enhanced Needs Form is a collaborative effort of DDD's Support Coordination Unit and Provider Performance and Monitoring Clinical Services Unit. The target audience is support coordination and provider agency staff, but anyone may register to attend.

Title: *Support Coordination Agency and Provider Partnerships: Using the Addressing Enhanced Needs Form in Plan Development*

Day: Monday, Jan. 29, 2024

Time: 10 – 11 a.m.

[Register now for Jan. 29 Addressing Enhanced Needs Form Webinar](#)

### January 26, 2024: Upcoming Networking Opportunities for Individuals and Families Self-Directing Their Services

The DDD Office of Education on Self-Directed Services (OESDS) is hosting the following networking events for adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) and families who are or are interested in self-directing some or all their DDD-funded services.

#### In-Person Self-Direction Family Networking Sessions

*Advance registration is required, and online registration is now available!*

- Tuesday, January 30, 2024, from 1 to 3 pm at the Bergen Community College: [Register for Jan. 30 Session](#)
- Wednesday, January 31, 2024, from 1 to 3 pm at the Camden County-Voorhees Library: [Register for Jan. 31 Session](#)

- Tuesday, February 6, 2024, from 1 to 3 pm at the Ocean City Free Public Library: [Register for Feb. 6 Session](#)
- Tuesday, February 13, 2024, from 1 to 3 pm at the Burlington County Library: [Register for Feb. 13 Session](#)
- Wednesday, February 21, 2024, from 1 to 3 pm at the Mercer County-Lawrenceville Library: [Register for Feb. 21 Session](#)
- Tuesday, March 12, 2024, from 12 to 2 pm at the NJ DDD Freehold Office: [Register for March 12 Session](#)

