



Division Update for Individuals, Families and Providers

June 26, 2025

Agenda

- Next DDD Update Webinar
- National Core Indicators (NCI) Surveys
- VF/EA Fiscal Intermediary Transition Update
- Community Care Program Priority Waiting List Update
- Summer Family Networking Session
- Summer WIN Time Session
- The Boggs Center Share Your Story!
- NJCDD Five-Year Year State Plan
- NJ Election 2025
- Resources



Next DDD Update Webinar

- July Update Webinar:
 - Thursday, July 24, 2025 10:30 am
 - Register for the July Webinar
- The 2025 schedule of DDD Update Webinars, including registration links, is available on the Division's <u>Public</u> <u>Update Meetings</u> webpage



National Core Indicators® Intellectual and Developmental
Disabilities (NCI®-IDD)
State of the Workforce and
Family Surveys



NCI State of the Workforce Survey

- Invitations emailed to eligible providers March
 2025 to email address on file in iRecord
- Providers should contact
 <u>DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov</u> if they did not receive the invitation
- Deadline extended to July 31, 2025!



NCI Family Survey

- Letter with personal link mailed to family members of individuals receiving at least one service in addition to Support Coordination
- Family members can contact
 <u>DDD.NCl@dhs.nj.gov</u> with questions or to
 request a hard copy survey in English or another language
- Deadline is June 30, 2025

Cohort #		Plan-Revision Approval End Date (last date a revised plan can be approved for corresponding Go-Live Date)	Acumen Go-Live Date
1		May 23	June 8
2	June 30	June 6	June 19
3	Julie 30	J 20	July 7
4		July 7	July 17

- As previously communicated (see <u>2025 Fiscal Intermediary Transition (PPL to Acumen)</u> and/or <u>Acumen-NJ</u>):
 - Individuals in Cohorts 1-4 (or their Authorized Representative): must complete Acumen enrollment by June 30
 - Support Coordinators of individuals in Cohorts 1-4: Must have plans revised and approved (that include transitioned vendor services) by July 7





Status of Completed Acumen Enrollments and Approved Plan Revisions As of 06/25/2025				
Cohort	# of Individuals in Cohort	# of Individuals Enrolled with Acumen	# of Individuals Not Enrolled with Acumen	# of Plan Revisions Approved/Prior Authorizations Transmitted to Acumen for enrolled individuals
Cohort 1	2,072	719	1,353	532
Cohort 2	2,076	727	1,349	563
Cohort 3	2,063	613	1,450	433
Cohort 4	2,425	314	2,111	65



• From June 26 – July 31 (and potentially beyond), Acumen and DDD will host weekly transition update webinars, with Q&A, on Thursdays from 1p.m. to 2 p.m. The target audience is support coordinators, supports brokers, vendors, and individuals and families, but anyone may attend.

Acumen Transition Update and Q&A Webinars – all dates are 1 - 2 p.m.

Thursday, June 26	REGISTER NOW: June 26 Acumen Transition Update and Q&A
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Thursday, July 3 REGISTER NOW: July	3 Acumen Transition Update and Q&A
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Thursday, July 10 REGISTER NOW: July 10 Acumen Transition Update and Q&A

Thursday July 17 REGI	GISTER NOW: July 17 Acumen	Transition Update and Q&A
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Thursday, July 24 REGISTER NOW: July 24 Acumen Transition Update and Q&A

Thursday, July 31 REGISTER NOW: July 31 Acumen Transition Update and Q&A





- DDD issued <u>FI Transition Update</u>: June 19, 2025
- Highlights:
 - Cohort 1-4 Plan Revision and Enrollment Window End Dates
 - Designating an Authorized Representative
 - What to do in the infrequent circumstance where a Vendor Chooses not to Transition to Acumen



Cohort 1-4 Plan Revision and Enrollment Window End Dates: Last Possible Plan-Revision Approval End Date

- As indicated in the <u>SC Plan Revision Guidance</u>, Support Coordinators must get plan revisions, transitioning current vendor-only services from PPL to Acumen, approved on or before the Plan-Revision Approval End Date that corresponds with the Cohort the individual was assigned to.
- In cases where a delay prevents approval, the Support Coordinator must revise the plan again using the service start and end dates that correspond with the Go-Live Date of the next cohort.
- The last possible Plan-Revision Approval End Date is July 7.





Cohort 1-4 Plan Revision and Enrollment Window End Dates: Cohort 1-4 Enrollment Window End Date

- All individuals who are in Cohort 1, 2, 3, or 4 and have one or more vendor services in their service plan (and no Self-Directed Employees) must complete their Acumen enrollment (or designate an Authorized Representative to enroll) as soon as possible and no later than June 30.
- A vendor that is providing a service that has transitioned to Acumen will not be able to submit an invoice and receive payment for that service until the individual/Authorized Representative has completed enrollment with Acumen.
- If you are not sure of your cohort number, contact Acumen as soon as possible by email at enrollment-nj@acumen2.net or by phone at 833-892-0413 (available 24/7). They will know your cohort number and will be able to guide you on completing your Acumen enrollment.

- When enrolling with Acumen, an Authorized Representative is always identified.
 - There can only be one Authorized Representative.
 - The individual is their own Authorized Representative unless there is someone else identified to enroll and accept the responsibilities associated with being an Authorized Representative.
 - A caregiver or family member may support an individual in completing their enrollment with Acumen even if that person will not be the individual's Authorized Representative.
 - The Authorized Representative has authority to review and approve payment for invoices and timesheets and therefore should be someone who can confirm that services were delivered.





- An Authorized Representative (AR) MUST:
 - ✓ Be at least 18 years of age
 - ✓ Act in the best interest of the individual
 - ✓ Respect the individual's preferences
 - ✓ Maintain regular contact with the individual
 - ✓ Be willing and able to meet and uphold all VF/EA program requirements on behalf of the individual
 - ✓ Be able to provide a valid email address that is linked only to themselves (for example, an AR may not provide a generic agency email address or one that is accessible to multiple users)





- An Authorized Representative (AR) CANNOT:
 - ✓ Be offered or accept any type of compensation for assuming the AR role and responsibilities
 - ✓ Be a self-directed employee who is working/providing services for the individual
 - ✓ Be an owner or employee, of a community vendor providing DDD-funded services for the individual that are reimbursed through a DDD-contracted fiscal intermediary
 - ✓ Be an owner of and/or a Support Coordinator or Supervisor working for an agency that is currently providing Support Coordination services for the individual or provided them for the individual any time in the last six months
 - ✓ Be an owner of and/or a Supports Broker working for an agency that provides Supports Brokerage services





- An Authorized Representative (AR) MAY:
 - ✓ Be an employee, of a Medicaid/DDD-approved provider agency (e.g., Individual Supports-Daily Rate provider, Day Habilitation provider), who routinely engages with the individual and voluntarily agrees to enroll with Acumen and assume the role and responsibilities of Authorized Representative.

What to do in the infrequent circumstance where a Vendor chooses not to Transition to Acumen

- As indicated in the <u>SC Plan Revision Guidance</u>, Support Coordinators need to contact vendors to confirm they are willing and able to continue to provide services with Acumen as the FI (if they have not yet enrolled with Acumen).
- In infrequent cases where a vendor currently providing a service has decided not to enroll with Acumen and/or not to continue providing the service with Acumen as the fiscal intermediary, the individual will need to work with their Support Coordinator and planning team to identify an alternative vendor or a Medicaid/DDD-approved provider agency to replace the vendor service.
- To assist Support Coordinators in finding alternative vendors when necessary, Acumen has posted
 a list of vendors on the <u>Acumen-NJ</u> website, under the Vendors tab, that have transitioned from PPL
 and successfully enrolled with Acumen.



Where to go on the web for FI Transition information

- Acumen-New Jersey
 - Training Materials (How to enroll, How to access DCI web portal, How to submit hours and invoices, etc.)
 - Information for: Employers/Authorized Representatives, Self-Directed Employees, Vendors, Support Coordinators, Supports Brokers
- DDD | 2025 Fiscal Intermediary Transition (PPL to Acumen)
 - Transition Updates
 - Transition FAQ
 - Support Coordination Guidance





Community Care Program Priority Waiting List Update

- Each year, DDD sends persons on the Community Care Program (CCP) Priority Waiting List a letter notifying them of their rank on that list.
 - The 2025 ranking letters were released on Monday, June 23, 2025.
- Individuals may notice their ranking number stayed the same or even went higher (i.e., they moved further down on the list).
- This is due to several factors.



Community Care Program Priority Waiting List Update

- Over the last several years there has been an influx of individuals entering DDD services.
- More individuals have been applying for addition to the Community Care Program (CCP) Priority Waiting List.
- As a result of increased training and communication, Support Coordinators are diligent in terms of discussing CCP Priority Waiting List application at annual ISP meetings.

Fiscal Year	Total # of Individuals Served by DDD*	# of Individuals on the CCP Priority Waiting List*
FY18	19,432	2,592
FY19	20,866 (+1434)	2,493 (- <mark>99</mark>)
FY20	21,636 (+770)	2,301 (-192)
FY21	22,388 (+752)	2,131 (-170)
FY22	22,626 (+238)	2,142 (+11)
FY23	23,787 (+1161)	2,176 (+34)
FY24	25,231 (+1444)	2,687 (+511)
FY25	27,197 (+1966)	3,154 (+467)
FY26	28,783 (+1586)	3,665 (+511)

^{*}Values taken from published State Budgets





Community Care Program Priority Waiting List Update

Addition to the CCP Priority Waiting List is based on <u>Division Circular #8 Community Care Program Waiting List Procedures</u>

From 10:46C-2.2 (page 6):

- (a) Satisfaction of one or more of the following criteria is required for assignment to the Priority Waiting List:
 - 1. Both of the birth or adoptive parents are 55 years or older. When both parents or adoptive parents reach age 55, they shall be given the option to have the individual placed on the Priority Waiting List at the time of the annual ISP. In this instance, the date that the younger parent turns 55 shall be the date the individual is added to the Priority Waiting List. In situations where both parents are alive, but only one is the primary caregiver, it is only required that the parent who acts as the primary caregiver reach age 55 to have the option to have the individual placed on the Priority Waiting List at the time of the annual ISP;

From 10:46C-2.2 (page 7):

(c) 1. I (2) If the date the parent turns 55 predates eligibility for functional Division services, the individual's effective date on the Priority Waiting List shall be the date of Division eligibility;





Community Care Program Priority Waiting List Update

- The combination of the aforementioned factors has resulted in a large number of people being added to the CCP Priority Waiting List retroactively, causing ranking letters to show little to no movement this year.
- The proposed Fiscal Year 26 (FY26) budget (July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026) includes funding to remove 318 individuals from the CCP Priority Waiting List.
- If you have questions about the waiting list or your ranking letter, please contact DDD.CCPWaitlistRequests@dhs.nj.gov



• The DDD Office of Education on Self-Directed Services (OESDS) hosts family networking sessions throughout the year for people and families that are self-directing services or interested in learning about self-direction.

Summer 2025

Virtual Statewide Family Networking Session

- Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 1–2:30 PM
- Online, via Zoom
- Register for July 22 Statewide Family Networking Session







WIN (What I Need) Time is a virtual opportunity for professionals (Support Coordinators, Supports Brokers, Providers) who support people who are self-directing some or all of their DDD-funded services to ask questions and learn more about DDD self-directed services. WIN sessions occur every other month (usually on the 2nd Wednesday) from Noon to 1 p.m.

- Next WIN Time Session is July 16, 2025, Noon-1 p.m.
- Register for July 16 WIN Time Session





The Boggs Center – Share Your Story!

- The Boggs Center on Disability and Human
 <u>Development</u> is New Jersey's federally
 designated University Center for Excellence in
 Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), and part of
 the federal Administration on Community
 Living's <u>National Network of UCEDD Education</u>,
 Research, and Service.
- The UCEDDs were created to empower states, support systems change and build capacity to best address the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.



The Boggs Center – Share Your Story!

- The Boggs Center partners with and supports DDD on a variety of projects and is a critical resource for New Jersey State government, provider agencies, individuals with IDD and their families and caregivers.
- The FY2026 <u>federal budget proposed by the</u>
 <u>President calls for the elimination of UCEDDs nationwide, including The Boggs Center.</u>
- If The Boggs Center has made a difference in your life, please take a moment to <u>share your</u> <u>story</u>, which will be used to educate policymakers about the impact of their work.





NJCDD Five-Year Plan

- The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) is committed to advancing public policy and systems change that helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) gain more control over their lives.
- Your input will help NJCDD identify the most pressing needs of people with IDD in key areas, such as housing, employment, transportation, education and safety.
 - Complete the online survey: <u>NJCDD 2027-2031 Five-Year State Plan Survey</u>
 - Share input by attending a virtual listening session:
 - Tuesday, July 1, at 10 a.m. Register for July 1 listening session
 - Wednesday, July 16, at 7 p.m. Register for July 16 listening session
 - (Spanish session) Wednesday, July 9, at 7 p.m. Register for July 9 listening session



NJ Election 2025

2025 Dates to Remember

- September 20: Mailing of Mail-In Ballots for General Election Begins
- October 14: Voter Registration Deadline for General Election
- October 25 November 2: Early Voting Period
- October 28: Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot by Mail for General Election
- November 3 (by 3 p.m.): Deadline for In-Person Mail-In Ballot Applications for General Election
- November 4: General Election Day

Are You Registered to Vote?

- <u>Voter Search Tool</u> to find out if you are registered to vote
- Register to Vote to register to vote online
- Voter Registration Paper Applications to download and print a paper register-to-vote application

Resources

- NJ Gubernatorial Candidates' Positions Related to Disability Issues
 - From the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) and its affiliates, the New Jersey Family Support Planning Council and the NJCDD Self-Advocate Advisory subcommittee
- <u>Voting: It's Your Right</u> guide to voter rights and voting in NJ for people with disabilities (see also *Voting: It's Your Right E-Learning* Course)
 - Developed by The Boggs Center on Disability and Human Development, in collaboration with New Jersey's Developmental Disabilities Network Partners, Disability Rights New Jersey and the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities





Resources

Community Resources

- <u>Disability Rights New Jersey</u>
 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 <u>Disabilities</u>
 800-792-8858
- The Boggs Center on Disability and Human Development
 732-235-9300

DDD Resources

- For issues, call the DDD <u>Community</u> <u>Services Office</u> for your county or 800-832-9173.
- For routine questions:
 DDD.FeeForService@dhs.nj.gov
- To report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation: call 800-832-9173, then press 1.

