



Division Update for Individuals, Families, and Providers

May 23, 2024

Agenda

- Upcoming Webinars
- [JobsThatCare.NJ.Gov](https://www.jobsnj.gov)
- National Core Indicators (NCI) Surveys
- Support Coordination Agency Census
- New Choking Prevention Materials
- Upcoming Webinars on Self-Directed Employee Service Models
- Information on Voting
- Resources

Next DDD Update Webinar

- June Update Webinar:
 - Thursday, June 27, 2024 – 10:30 am.
 - [Register for the June Webinar.](#)
- The 2024 schedule of update webinars, including registration links, is available on the Division's [Public Update Meetings](#) webpage.

JobsThatCare.NJ.Gov

- The Department of Human Services and The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities collaborated on and released the [JobsThatCare.NJ.Gov](https://www.jobs-that-care.nj.gov) website in November 2023.
- People can use this new website to find jobs as:
 - Direct Support Professionals who support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to participate in home and community life while promoting well-being; and
 - Certified Home Health Aides who assist adults age 60 and older, and children and adults with disabilities or chronic medical conditions, to live in their homes by supporting daily activities.
- Additional jobs in the direct support and service workforce will be added as time progresses.

JobsThatCare.NJ.Gov

- The site directs job seekers to [Indeed](#), [Career Builder](#), [Monster](#), and the Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development's [Job Source Website](#).
- A promotional campaign launched in April 2024 to highlight it.
- Employers of Self-Directed Employees who advertise on the indicated sites can benefit from the increased traffic by adding the keywords Direct Support Professional to their ad.
- The website and advertising campaign are supported, in part, by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$5,000,000 with a portion funded by CMS/HHS to the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Money Follows the Person Demonstration.

National Core Indicators (NCI) Surveys

- Annual NCI State of the Workforce Survey
 - Collects comprehensive data on the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce providing direct supports to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).
 - Resulting data helps state developmental disabilities systems examine workforce challenges, identify areas for further investigation, benchmark their workforce data, measure improvements made through policy or programmatic changes, and compare their state data to those of other states and the NCI-IDD average.
 - NOTE – NCI does not offer an equivalent survey for Fiscal Intermediaries/Self-Directed Employee wages. The Division has expressed interest to NCI in piloting/participating in such a survey when available.

National Core Indicators (NCI) Surveys

- Annual NCI State of the Workforce Survey
 - 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.
 - The State of the Workforce Survey is open through **June 30, 2024**.
 - Participation by as many eligible providers as possible is critical to ensure valid results.
 - The Division strongly encourages all eligible provider agencies to complete the survey. If your agency did not receive an invitation to participate, please email ddd.nci@dhs.nj.gov.

National Core Indicators (NCI) Surveys

- 2023-2024 NCI In-Person, Adult Family, and Family/Guardian Surveys began in December 2023 – ongoing through June 30, 2024
 - All surveys are voluntary.
 - Seek to measure how well the public system assists adults with developmental disabilities, and their families, to exercise choice and control in their decision-making, participate in their communities, and maintain family relationships, as well as how satisfied families are with services and supports they receive, and how supports have affected their lives.
 - Cover key areas such as employment, respect/rights, service planning, community inclusion, choice, and health and safety.

National Core Indicators (NCI) Surveys

- **In-Person Survey** – face-to-face conversation with a minimum of 400 randomly chosen individuals 21 and older who are receiving at least one DDD service in addition to Support Coordination.
- **Adult Family Survey** – online survey for family members who have an adult (21 or older) with IDD who lives in the family home and receives at least one DDD service in addition to Support Coordination.
- **Family/Guardian Survey** – online survey for family members/guardians who have an adult (21 or older) with IDD who lives outside of the family home and receives at least one DDD service in addition to Support Coordination.

Support Coordination Agency Census

- To ensure access to quality care management, the Supports Program and Community Care Program policy manuals have included Support Coordination Agency census requirements since the Division's transition to fee-for-service.
- Support Coordination Agencies must provide services in at least one county and **for a minimum of 60 individuals.**
- Enforcement of this requirement was deferred while individuals in the Community Care Program transitioned to the fee-for-service system. Further deferral occurred due to the pandemic.
- The Division is now moving toward broad enforcement of the Support Coordination Agency census requirement.

Support Coordination Agency Census

- The April 2024 release of the updated policy manuals, section 17.18.5.8 includes the following language:
 - ***Effective April 1, 2025, any Support Coordination Agency operating for 12 months or longer must serve a minimum of 60 individuals and serve at least one county. Support Coordination Agencies serving less than 60 individuals after one year of operation may not continue operations unless extenuating circumstances have been determined by the Division.***

Support Coordination Agency Census

Anticipated Census Enforcement Timeline

Date	Division Action
May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letter to all support coordination agencies about census enforcement• Support Coordination Unit staff to begin meeting with agencies that have a census less than 60 to discuss options• Launch of census enforcement-related trainings for support coordination agencies
September 2024	Extenuating Circumstances Application will be available for eligible support coordination agencies (extenuating circumstances are compelling reasons, <i>supported by evidence</i> , that the agency will achieve census requirements in a 90-day period)
December 2024	Deadline to for eligible support coordination agencies to submit Extenuating Circumstances Applications

Support Coordination Agency Census

Anticipated Census Enforcement Timeline

Date	Division Action
January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extenuating Circumstances Application decisions issued to agencies• Division begins contacting people and families who may be impacted
February 2025	Final reminder letter to agencies with low census
March 2025	Letter to individuals/families who will be impacted, with support coordination agency change form
April 1, 2025	Reassignment of individuals from support coordination agencies that did not achieve census and do not have an approved Extenuating Circumstance Application

Support Coordination Agency Census

- Support Coordination Agency census enforcement information is available on the [Support Coordinator Information](#) webpage, under a new Support Coordination Census Enforcement dropdown tab.
- [Support Coordination Update Webinars](#) will continue and will include updates about census enforcement.
- [Support Coordination Trainings](#) will continue and will include trainings related to census enforcement.

New Choking Prevention Materials

- Following the success of the Choking Prevention Awareness project during March, the DDD Resource Team developed new choking prevention materials, which are available on the Division's [Health and Safety](#) page:
 - [Choking Prevention Tips](#)
 - [Sample Choking Prevention Policy](#)
 - [Sample Individual Choking Prevention Plan](#)

Upcoming Webinars on Self-Directed Employee Service Models

- Quarterly Information Sessions on Self-Directed Employee Service Models:
 - Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 11am – 12pm: [Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent \(VF/EA\) Model Information Session](#) (PPL)
 - Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 12pm – 1pm: [Agency with Choice \(AwC\) Model Information Session](#) (Easterseals NJ)



VOTE.NJ.GOV

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

Ways to Register to Vote in New Jersey

- Online
- Paper Application

Ways to Vote in New Jersey

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

To Register to Vote in New Jersey you must be:

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

Primary Election Dates to Remember

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

General Election Dates to Remember

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

Important Resources

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

Important Resources

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