



Division Update for Individuals, Families and Providers

September 24, 2026

Agenda

- Next DDD Update Webinar
- Housing Opportunities for People Moving out of Institutional Settings
- Unit Authorization and Billing Parameters for Behavioral Supports
- NJCAT Refresh 2027
- Update on Disability Mortality and Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee
- P.L. 2025, c.280 Provider Guidance Open for Comment
- NEW OPIA Provider Requirements Webinar
- New Grant Opportunities Available Through NJ Department of Labor
- New Webinar: Understanding Goods & Services
- NDEAM 2026 Webinar Series
- Transition Webinars
- Self-Direction Networking and WIN Time Sessions
- In-Person Workshop: Using Conversations & Tools to Build a Person-Centered Life
- The Boggs Center Frontline Supervisor Training Program
- National Caregivers Conference
- Don't Forget to Vote
- Caregiver and Other Resources

Next DDD Update Webinar

The next DDD Update Webinar is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

- [Register for October Webinar](#)

The complete 2026 schedule of DDD Update Webinars, including registration links, is available on the Division's [Monthly Public Update Webinar](#) webpage.

Housing Opportunities for People with IDD Moving Out of Nursing Homes or Other Institutional Settings

- The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is working with service providers to develop housing for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who are moving out of a nursing home or other institutional setting.
- To live and get services in these homes, a person must:
 - Be eligible for DDD services.
 - Be enrolled in the DDD Community Care Program.
- If you or someone you know lives in a nursing home, developmental center, or psychiatric hospital and wants to learn about housing options in the community:
 - Email us at DDD.BeforeYouApply@dhs.nj.gov.
 - Enter “Housing Opportunities” in the subject line.

Unit Authorization and Billing Parameters for Behavioral Supports

- On September 15th, DDD released a new Information Bulletin – [Unit Authorization and Billing Parameters for DDD Behavioral Supports: Assessment and Plan Development \(H0004HI22\) and Monitoring \(H0004HI\)](#) found on the [Information Bulletins](#) webpage.
- These parameters:
 - Only apply to these two Behavioral Supports services: H0004HI22 and H0004HI.
 - Are in effect immediately.

Unit Authorization and Billing Parameters for Behavioral Supports

- To help providers, support coordinators, and individuals and families better understand these unit authorization and billing parameters, DDD is offering a webinar on three different dates, open to ALL.

Unit Authorization and Billing Parameters for Behavioral Supports

- October 28, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – [Register for 10/28 Parameters Webinar.](#)
- November 18, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – [Register for 11/18 Parameters Webinar.](#)
- December 16, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – [Register for 12/16 Parameters Webinar.](#)

NJCAT Refresh 2027

NJCAT Background

- **2010s:** The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) partnered with the Developmental Disabilities Planning Institute (DDPI) at the Rutgers University Bloustein Center for Survey Research to develop and maintain the New Jersey Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJCAT).
- **2023:** DDD partnered with DDPI again to comprehensively update the NJCAT. DDPI held a series of focus groups and gathered feedback through an online survey to help inform the work of updating the NJCAT.
- **2025:** DDPI and DDD identified a random sample of about 5,000 people receiving DDD-funded services who would be outreached and asked to voluntarily complete the Study-NJCAT.

NJCAT Refresh 2027

Why the Comprehensive Update is Paused

- To establish statistical validity, DDPI needed approximately 3,000 completed surveys. Response to the outreach, however, was very low:
 - About 2,500 people were contacted.
 - Only about 200 people completed the survey.
- The main reasons people declined were:
 - They didn't have the time.
 - They didn't want to provide the information.
 - They didn't see an issue with the current assessment.
- As a result, DDD has paused the comprehensive update of the NJCAT for the foreseeable future.

NJCAT Refresh 2027

An NJCAT Refresh Instead

- Although the comprehensive update is on hold, DDPI suggested applying what it has learned over the past 3 years to make a slight refresh to the current NJCAT. This refresh will not change the method used to calculate the scores and determine tiers and acuity.
- The refresh is limited to:
 - Removing questions that do not contribute to tier or acuity determinations – for example, questions about caregiver characteristics.
 - Clarifying assessment instructions – making them easier to understand for the person served, their family, friends, guardian(s), and others.
 - Updating some questions to reflect current practice – for example, accounting for medical advancements like pre-measured injections (such as GLP-1 injections).
 - Enhanced training for all DDD facilitators to support consistent administration of the NJCAT.

NJCAT Refresh 2027

Collaborative DDD/DDPI Webinar on NJCAT Refresh

- We currently anticipate the NJCAT Refresh will go live in the system in late 2027.
- The [NJCAT Refresh Tracked Changes](#) document is available for stakeholders to view.
- To help stakeholders understand the NJCAT study and its results, and the NJCAT Refresh, DDD and DDPI have collaborated to offer an NJCAT Refresh webinar.

NJCAT Refresh Webinar

October 14, 2026, 12 PM to 1 PM

[Register for 10/14/26 NJCAT Refresh Webinar](#)

Update on Disability Mortality and Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee

- The Disability Mortality and Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee (DMAPAC), created by [NJ Public Law 2025, Chapter 280](#), had its inaugural meeting on August 21, 2026 and additional meetings on September 11th and 18th.
- The Division will provide periodic updates on the DMAPACs work.

P.L. 2025, c.280 Provider Guidance is Open for Comment

- The Department of Human Services has published [draft guidance for the implementation of P.L. 2025, c.280](#).
- This guidance explains how Human Services plans to implement and enforce the law, which strengthens oversight of services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- For more information about this law, please visit the Office of Program Integrity and Accountability's (OPIA) [P.L. 2025, c.280](#) webpage.

P.L. 2025, c.280 Provider Guidance is Open for Comment

- The draft guidance is open for public comment for two weeks. Please submit written comments by email to DHS-PenaltyInfo@dhs.nj.gov no later than **5 PM on Tuesday, September 29**.
- We encourage you to review the draft guidance and share your feedback, comments, and questions. While the Department will not provide detailed responses to each submission, your input will help inform the final document and FAQs.

OPIA Provider Requirements Webinar

- In light of the new Penalties Law (P.L. 2025, c.280), the Office of Program Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) is hosting two sessions of a webinar where they will discuss and answer questions about provider requirements around fingerprinting, biennial fingerprints (archiving process), drug testing, Central Registry of Offenders checks, and Child Abuse Registry Information (CARI) checks.
- DDD and OPIA strongly recommend providers attend at least one of the offerings.

Behind the Hire: Understanding Required Background Checks

October 20, 2026, 10AM

[Register for 10/20 Understanding Required Background Checks \(10am\)](#)

Behind the Hire: Understanding Required Background Checks

October 20, 2026, 1 PM

[Register for 10/20 Understanding Required Background Checks \(1pm\)](#)

New Grant Opportunities Available Through NJ Department of Labor – UPSKILL

UPSKILL – NJ Incumbent Worker Training Grant program

- The purpose of the UPSKILL program is to provide New Jersey-based employers with up to 50% cost reimbursement assistance to focus on frontline incumbent worker training to meet current and future occupational skill requirements.
- Participants must not be charged for any required training-related expenses.
- Grant funds are not intended for company-required annual training or new-employee on-boarding or orientation.

New Grant Opportunities Available Through NJ Department of Labor – UPSKILL

UPSKILL – NJ Incumbent Worker Training Grant program

- For details, see [UPSKILL Grant Program Notice of Grant Opportunity](#):
 - **Letter of Intent Deadline:** Wednesday, September 23, 2026, by 12 PM.
 - **Application Deadline:** Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 12 PM
 - Funding Amount: \$7,000,000.00.
 - For technical assistance, contact Robert M. Herrick, PhD at robert.herrick@dol.nj.gov.

New Grant Opportunities Available Through NJ Department of Labor – PACE

PACE – Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education program

- The purpose of the PACE Program is to prepare individuals to enter and succeed in Registered Apprenticeship programs.
- These pre-apprenticeship programs have a documented partnership with at least one Registered Apprenticeship program sponsor that is committed to hiring from the pre-apprenticeship program within 18 months from the start of the contract period of performance, and together, they expand the participant's career pathway opportunities with industry-based training coupled with classroom instruction.

New Grant Opportunities Available Through NJ Department of Labor – PACE

PACE – Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education program

- For details, see [PACE Grant Program Notice of Grant Opportunity](#)
 - **Letter of Intent Deadline:** Friday, October 23, 2026 by 12 PM.
 - **Application Deadline:** Friday, October 30, 2026, by 12 PM
 - Funding Amount: \$3,000,000.00.
 - For technical assistance, contact William Sarboukh at ApprenticeshipUnit@dol.nj.gov.
 - PACE Program Technical Assistance Workshop:
 - September 23, 2026, 1 PM to 2:30 PM – [Register for 9/23/26 Workshop](#).
 - October 1, 2026, 1 PM to 2:30 PM – [Register for 10/1/26 Workshop](#).

New Webinar: Understanding Goods & Services

- DDD is offering a new webinar to help attendees gain a better understanding of:
 - The purpose of Good & Services.
 - What is and is not considered Goods & Services.
 - The Goods & Services request process, including Service Review.
 - The reasons for and importance of routine audits of Goods & Services by DDD.
- This webinar is open to ALL but will be especially beneficial for individuals and families, community vendors, support coordinators, and supports brokers. There will be plenty of time for Q&A.

Understanding DDD Goods & Services

September 24, 2026, 1 PM to 2:30 PM

[Register for 9/24 Goods & Services Webinar](#)

National Disability Employment Awareness Month Webinar Series

In celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) 2026, the DDD Office of Transition to Adult Life & Employment invites you to join us for a series of webinars focused on employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

October 8, 2026, Noon - 1 PM
[Employment for All: A Workshop for Individuals and Families on Supported Employment](#)



October 15, 2026, Noon - 1 PM
[An Overview of Pre-Employment Transition Services \(Pre-ETS\)](#)



October 22, 2026, Noon - 1 PM
[Working & Keeping Your Benefits: Understanding NJ WorkAbility](#)



October 29, 2026, Noon - 1 PM
[Project SEARCH: Preparing Students and Adults with IDD for Competitive Integrated Employment](#)



To learn more and to register for any of the NDEAM 2026 webinars, visit the DDD Events webpage at www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd.

Connect with Us!

NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities
 Office of Transition to Adult Life & Employment
 ✉ Email: DDD.TransitionHelpDesk@dhs.nj.gov
 ☎ Phone: (609) 808-3867

Join the
 Transition
 Listserv! 



October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

All NDEAM 2026 webinars are 12 PM to 1 PM

- **October 8** – [Employment for All: A Workshop for Individuals and Families on Supported Employment](#)
- **October 15** – [An Overview of Pre-Employment Transition Services \(Pre-ETS\)](#)
- **October 22** – [Working and Keeping Your Benefits: Understanding NJ WorkAbility](#)
- **October 29** – [Project SEARCH: Preparing Students and Adults with IDD for Competitive Integrated Employment](#)
- View/share the [NDEAM 2026 Webinar Series flyer](#).
- Visit DDD's [NDEAM 2026](#) website.

NJAPSE Summit 2026



NJAPSE Summit 2026

Friday, October 9, 2026, 9:30 AM to 3 PM

NJ Law Center, One Constitution Square

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Join NJAPSE (New Jersey Association of People Supporting Employment First) in a day of networking, information sharing, and learning

- Stefanie Rinaldi, National APSE Board Member and NJAPSE Immediate Past President, will deliver the keynote
- A panel of distinguished experts (including DDD's Nkechi Okoli and Christina Gonzalez) will talk about supports that connect those living with complex needs with Competitive Integrated Employment

[Register for NJAPSE Summit 2026](#)

DDD Clinical Resource Team Trainings

Behavioral Support Trainings

- October 7, 2026, 2 PM to 3:30 PM – [Developing Positive Interactions between Support Staff and Individuals](#)
- October 9, 2026, 10 AM to 12 PM – [Overview of Behavior Supports](#)
- October 15, 2026, 2 PM to 3:30 PM – [Understanding Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Support Plans](#)
- October 19, 2026, 10 AM to 11:30 AM – [Data Collection and Interpretation](#)
- October 20, 2026, 2 PM to 3 PM – [Training Behavior Support Plans](#)
- October 26, 2026, 10 AM to 11:30 AM – [Teaching Functional Equivalent Skills](#)
- October 28, 2026, 10 AM to 11:30 AM – [Billing Guidelines for Behavior Supports](#)

DDD Clinical Resource Team Trainings

Choking Prevention Trainings

- October 8, 2026, 10 AM to 10:45 AM – [Diet Textures](#)
- October 8, 2026, 2 PM to 2:30 PM – [Mealtime Safety and Supervision](#)
- October 20, 2026, 10 AM to 11 AM – [Managing Dysphagia in the Community](#)

Nursing Support Trainings

- October 13, 2026, 2 PM to 3 PM – [Diabetes Management](#)
- October 29, 2026, 2 PM to 2:45 PM – [Seasonal Health Concerns: Cold Weather](#)

Transition Webinars

For students in grades 6 through 12 and other young adults with IDD and their families, as well as school personnel, to learn about the DDD application process and service system.

DDD Quarterly Welcome Sessions

- October 1, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. – [Register for October 1 Lunchtime Welcome Session.](#)
- October 22, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – [Register for October 22 Evening Welcome Session with Topic Breakouts.](#)

Visit DDD's [National Disability Employment Awareness Month \(NDEAM\) 2026](#) website for details about employment-related webinars.

Self-Direction Networking and WIN Sessions

Self-Direction Networking Sessions are for individuals and families who are self-directing their services or interested in self-direction. Advance registration is required.

Family Networking Sessions

- September 30, 2026, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. – [Register for 9/30/26 Bergen County In-Person Family Session](#)
- **October 7, 2026, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** – [Register for 10/7/26 STATEWIDE VIRTUAL Family Session](#)
- October 27, 2026, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. – [Register for 10/27 Monmouth County In-Person Family Session](#)

Peer-to-Peer Virtual Networking Session

- October 14, 2026, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – [Register for 10/14/26 Virtual Peer-to-Peer Session](#)

WIN Sessions

WIN sessions are an opportunity for support coordinators, supports brokers, and other professionals who support individuals who are self-directing their DDD services, to network and share resources.

- November 10, 2026, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. – [Register for 11/10 WIN Time Session](#)

JOIN US



Using Conversations & Tools to Build a Person-Centered Life

AN IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

This workshop is for self-advocates, families/caregivers, support coordinators, and provider agencies who support individuals moving **out of** a family home, a nursing facility or other congregate setting and **into a home or apartment in the community.**

You'll walk away with practical tools and skills to support choice, community inclusion, and person-centered supports. We'll also share helpful resources to build a life of choice in the community.

Dates (Choose just one!)

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 • 9:00am - 2:00pm

Bergen County Special Services 540 North Farview Avenue
Paramus 07652. (2nd Floor Training Room)

Thursday, October 29, 2026 • 9:00am - 2:00pm

5 Commerce Way Hamilton 08691

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

or
SCAN
HERE!



[Click here to learn about Carmelys!](#)

In-Person Workshop: Using Conversations & Tools to Build a Person-Centered Life

- Co-sponsored by DDD and the Rutgers [Community Living Education Project \(CLEP\)](#), “Using Conversations & Tools to Build a Person-Centered Life” is an in-person workshop being offered on Oct. 20 and Oct. 29, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Self-advocates, families/caregivers, support coordinators, and providers who support people moving out of a family home or out of a nursing facility or other congregate setting into the community will gain practical tools and skills to support choice and community inclusion.

[Register for Oct. 20 or Oct. 29 In-Person Workshop](#)

FRONTLINE SUPERVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM



About the Program

The Boggs Center on Disability and Human Development is offering a 13-session, 8-month Frontline Supervisor Training Program focused on developing knowledge, skills, and abilities aligned with the National Frontline Supervisor Competency set.

The program, developed by the University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration, is a blended learning model which combines online, asynchronous lessons from the College of Direct Support with monthly interactive live online and in-person trainings.

Interested Frontline Supervisors must apply online and submit a [letter of recommendation](#) from their supervisor by **September 28, 2026** to be considered for the program. A commitment to full participation, with agency support, is required.

Space is limited and acceptance will be determined based on the number of applicants and quality of applications. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by October 5, 2026.

Target Audience

Frontline Supervisors working for DDD provider agencies in NJ

Session Dates

Participation in all sessions is mandatory. Save the dates as you wait for notification of acceptance:

- Oct. 27, 2026
- Nov. 10, 2026
- Nov. 24, 2026
- Dec. 8, 2026
- Jan. 5, 2027
- Jan. 19, 2027
- Feb. 2, 2027
- Feb. 16, 2027
- Mar. 2, 2027
- Mar. 16, 2027
- Mar. 30, 2027
- Apr. 13, 2027
- May 4, 2027

Have questions?

Email Joyce Jelley
(joyce.jelley@rutgers.edu)
and Jessica Short
(jessica.short@rutgers.edu).

Scan or click the
QR code to learn
more and apply.



The Boggs Center Frontline Supervisor Training Program

- The Boggs Center on Disability and Human Development is offering an 8-month, 13-session Frontline Supervisor Training Program focused on developing knowledge, skills, and abilities based on the National Frontline Supervisor Competency set.
 - Application, which must include a letter of recommendation from your agency, must be submitted by **September 28, 2026**.
 - Please note: this training is for direct support supervisors and is not intended for support coordination supervisors.

[Apply for Frontline Supervisor Training Program](#)

Connected IN Caregiving

National Caregivers Conference

The National Caregivers Conference brings together family caregivers, professional caregivers, healthcare leaders, and advocates to explore emerging trends, best practices, and real-world solutions that strengthen caregiving nationwide.

National Caregivers Conference

November 1-2, 2026

Hyatt Regency Princeton, Princeton NJ

- Sunday, November 1 – Pre-Conference, 3 PM to 8 PM
- Monday, November 2 – Full Conference, 8:30 AM to 4 PM



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

- ✓ By mail
- ✓ In-person early voting
- ✓ In-person at your polling place on Election Day

General Election Dates to Remember

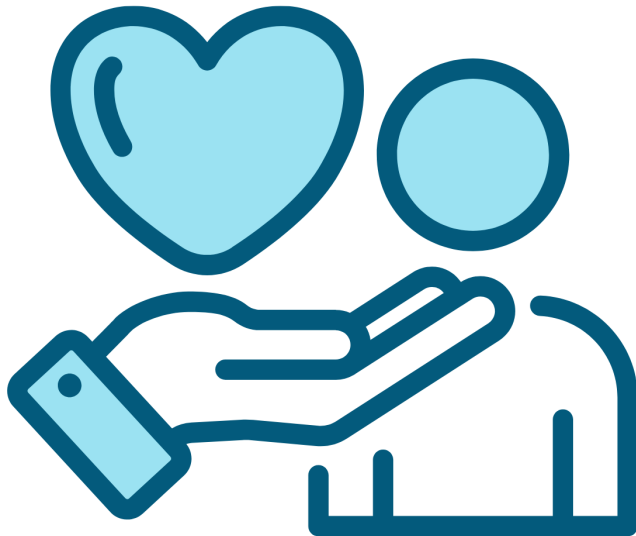
- ✓ October 13 – Voter registration deadline for General Election
- ✓ Oct. 24 – Nov. 1 – Early voting period
- ✓ October 27 – Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot for General Election
- ✓ November 3 – Election Day

Voting Guide for People with Disabilities and Their Caregivers:

- [Voting – It's Your Right](#)
- [Votar – Es Su Derecho](#)

Caring for an adult with disabilities is a deeply meaningful and loving role, but it can also bring emotional, financial, and practical challenges. DDD is committed to promoting the services and resources available through DHS and our community partners to help caregivers safeguard their well-being and access the mental health support they deserve.

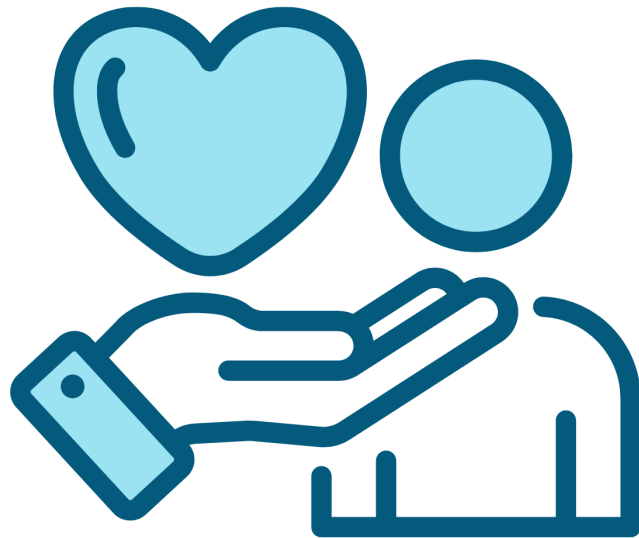
Caregiver Resources



- [NJ Disability Information Hub: Resources for Families and Caregivers](#)
- [Aging and Disability Resource Connection](#)
 - An Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is designated in each of New Jersey's 21 counties to serve as the primary entity responsible for developing comprehensive, coordinated systems of community-based services for older adults. AAAs also serve as Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) lead agencies in their county, ensuring seniors, adults with disabilities and their caregivers have easy access to information and long term services and supports.
- [Mom2Mom](#) **877-914-6662**
 - A 24/7 mental health and peer support helpline for parents of adults with special needs. Staffed by trained peer counselors who are caregivers themselves and can provide emotional support, guidance, and shared experience.

Caring for an adult with disabilities is a deeply meaningful and loving role, but it can also bring emotional, financial, and practical challenges. DDD is committed to promoting the services and resources available through DHS and our community partners to help caregivers safeguard their well-being and access the mental health support they deserve.

Caregiver Resources



- **[NJ Mental Health Cares](#) 866-202-HELP (4357), TTY Relay 711**
 - A free, confidential helpline offering emotional support, information, and referrals to behavioral health services, including legal, housing, employment, rehabilitation, inpatient/outpatient care, self-help groups, and more. Available to all New Jersey residents. 8 a.m. to p.m. daily
- **[NJ Self-Help Clearinghouse](#) 800-367-6274**
 - Helps individuals find or form self-help support groups for a wide range of challenges, ensuring caregivers and families do not feel alone. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily
- **[988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) Call or Text 988**
 - A national 24/7 hotline providing one-on-one support for mental health, suicide, and substance-use crises. Call, text, or chat 988 to reach a trained crisis counselor. Support available in English and Spanish, with interpreter services in 240+ languages. In New Jersey, four Lifeline centers respond to 988 contacts.

Resources

Community Resources

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

DDD Resources

- For issues, call the DDD [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