NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES | Division of Developmental Disabilities

Division Update for Individuals, Families and Providers

October 22, 2026

Agenda

- Next DDD Update Webinar
- DHS FY28 Budget Virtual Listening Session
- Required Provider Reporting for FY2026 DSP Wage Increase
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) for Providers
- DSP Workforce Development Opportunity: FY2027 GAINS (Growing Apprenticeship in Nontraditional Sectors) Grant Program
- NCI-IDD In-Person Survey
- Reminder – Unit Authorization and Billing Parameters for Behavioral Supports
- Coming Soon: Online DDD Application for Determination of Eligibility
- Hybrid NJ MAAC Meeting in October
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) 2026 Webinar Series
- The Boggs Center's Fall 2026 Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series
- In-Person Workshop: Using Conversations & Tools to Build a Person-Centered Life
- National Caregivers Conference
- Don't Forget to Vote
- Caregiver and Other Resources

Next DDD Update Webinar

The next DDD Update Webinar is scheduled for **Wednesday**, November 25, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. (**Day before Thanksgiving**)

- Register for November Webinar

To view the complete schedule of upcoming DDD Update Webinars, and/or view past webinars/webinar slides, visit Monthly Public Update Webinar.

Department of Human Services FY28 Budget Virtual Listening Session

- All are welcome to offer verbal or written testimony to inform the Department of Human Services (DHS) budget for Fiscal Year 2028 which spans from July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028.
- To accommodate as many speakers as possible, verbal testimony is limited to 3 minutes.
- Sign language and captioning will be provided. Please note any other accommodation requests when registering.

Virtual DHS FY28 Budget Listening Session
Monday, November 9, 2026 at 1 p.m.
Register to testify virtually or to provide written testimony

Required Provider Reporting for FY2026 DSP Wage Increase

- In the FY26 State Budget, the New Jersey Legislature approved a wage increase for Direct Support Professionals (DSP) and DSP Supervisors.
- On January 1, 2026, to reflect this DSP wage increase, DDD increased the provider reimbursement rates for the Community Care Program and Supports Program services below. (See details in the Quick Guide to FY26 Rate Increases.)

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

Required Provider Reporting for FY2026 DSP Wage Increase

- Agencies approved by DDD and Medicaid, as of July 1, 2025, to provide any of these services **must submit a report** showing they have passed this extra funding through as an increase to the base wage of every DSP and DSP Supervisor. For details, refer to:
  - FY26 DSP Wage Increase Bulletin
  - FY26 DSP Wage Increase FAQ

Required Provider Reporting for FY2026 DSP Wage Increase

How and When to Submit

- Use the FY26 DSP Wage Report Template.xlsx.
- Follow the FY26 DSP Wage Reporting Instructions.pdf
- Look at the FY26 DSP Wage Report Example.xlsx for guidance.
- Submit your agency's report (and any questions) to **DDD.DSPWageReports@dhs.nj.gov** no later than **December 11, 2026**.
  - **This is a new email address for submitting agency DSP wage reports. Please do not submit wage reports to any other email address.**

Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan (EPRP) for Providers

- P.L. 2021, c.292 required DHS to create and publish an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) for Licensed Service Providers (LSPs). It was first published in 2022 and is required to be updated every two years, or as needed in a public health emergency. The last update occurred in October 2024. The response plan:
  - Establishes best practices for operations undertaken during a public emergency;
  - To the extent feasible, identifies methods and channels through which LSPs may obtain equipment or services during the course of a public emergency;
  - Addresses various possible public emergency scenarios; and
  - Is consistent with relevant guidance that is published by federal and state agencies.
- On October 7, 2026, DHS/DDD published the updated Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP). Please note the only changes in the 2026 plan were updated links; there were no content changes.

DSP Workforce Development Opportunity: FY2027 GAINS (Growing Apprenticeships in Nontraditional Sectors) Grant Program

- The NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) is accepting letters of intent for the Growing Apprenticeships in Nontraditional Sectors (GAINS) grant program (see DOLWD Notice of Grant Opportunity for details).
- GAINS gives money to agencies or businesses so they can build registered apprenticeship programs. These programs train workers for new, in-demand jobs in fields like healthcare, public services, and early childhood education.

DSP Workforce Development Opportunity: FY2027 GAINS (Growing Apprenticeships in Nontraditional Sectors) Grant Program

How agencies and businesses can use GAINS funding

- Participating agencies and businesses can use the money to pay for:
  - **Apprentice wages.** Up to half of a new apprentice's hourly pay during on-the-job training. This is capped at $12,000 per apprentice. All apprentices must earn at least $18 per hour.
  - **Classroom learning.** Classes for apprentices, called Related Technical Instruction, that lead to a nationally recognized credential.
  - **Program costs.** The costs to set up and run the apprenticeship program.
  - **Support services.** Help that removes barriers to work, such as childcare, transportation, housing services, and counseling.

DSP Workforce Development Opportunity: FY2027 GAINS (Growing Apprenticeships in Nontraditional Sectors) Grant Program

Important GAINS Grant Program Dates

- **November 10:** DOLWD is hosting its second and final virtual technical assistance workshops.
  - Register for 11/10/26 GAINS virtual workshop
- **November 27:** Letter of Intent (LOI) must be submitted by noon on Friday 11/27/26 (required to participate).
- **December 4:** Full application must be submitted by noon on Friday, 12/04/26.

NCI In-Person Survey 2026-2027

- DDD participates in National Core Indicators® - Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (NCI®-IDD), a national effort to measure and improve the performance of public developmental disabilities agencies through the use of surveys.
- **Beginning October 2026**, DDD staff will be contacting individuals and guardians, by phone or email, to ask them to participate in the NCI 2026-27 In-Person Survey.
- The In-Person Survey (IPS) is conducted annually and is a voluntary, face-to-face conversation with an adult with an intellectual or developmental disability who is receiving at least one service in addition to case management (support coordination). Specially trained DDD staff meet virtually or in-person with the person to conduct the NCI survey.

Unit Authorization and Billing Parameters for Behavioral Supports

Reminder to Support Coordinators and Behavioral Supports Providers

- On September 15, 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

Coming Soon: Online DDD Application for Determination of Eligibility

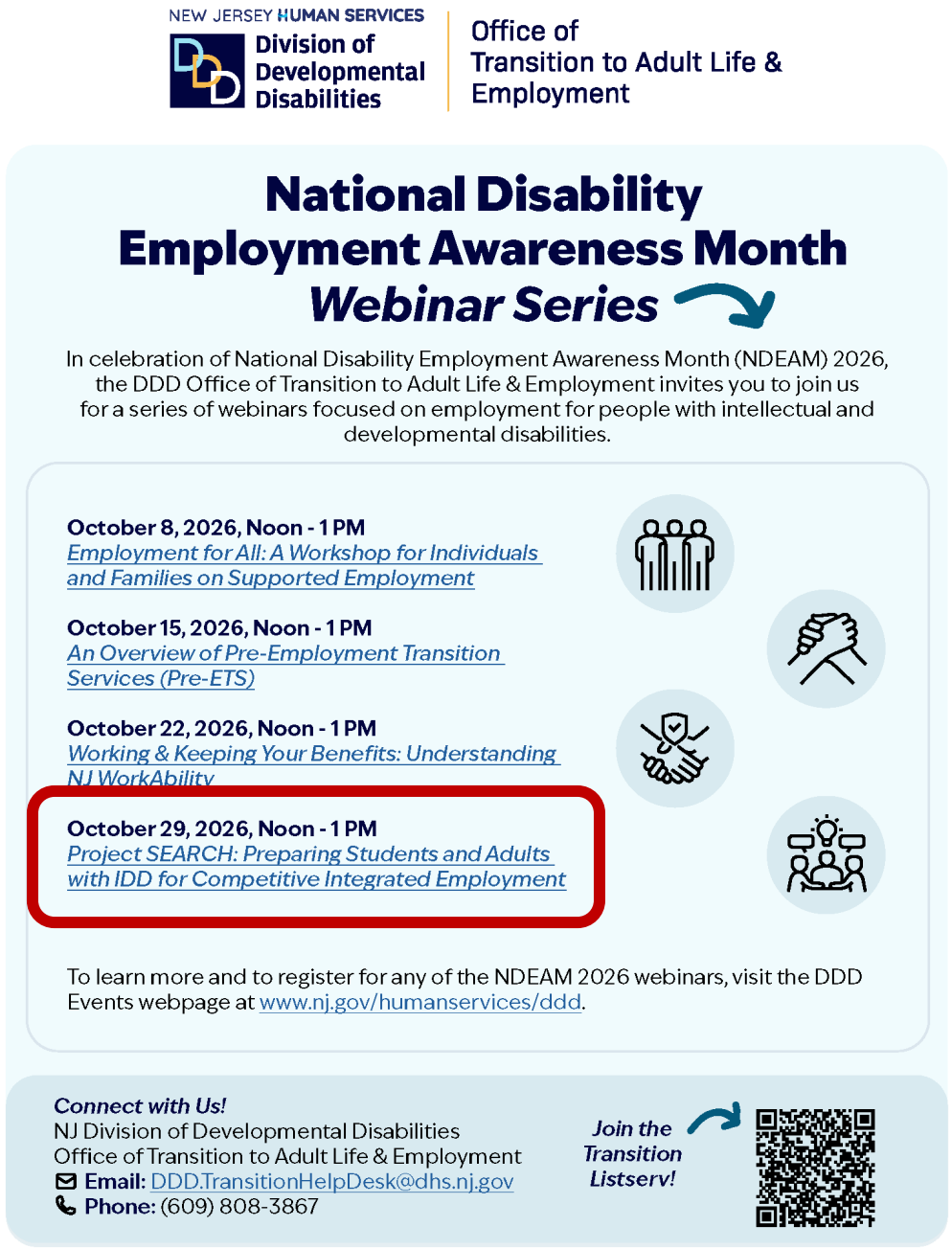
- DDD is pleased to announce that its Application for Determination of Eligibility will soon be available electronically.
- It is expected to be available in the coming months and help streamline the application process.
- DDD will continue to have a PDF/paper application available for applicants who prefer that method or who do not have online access.



Hybrid NJ Medical Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC) Meeting in October

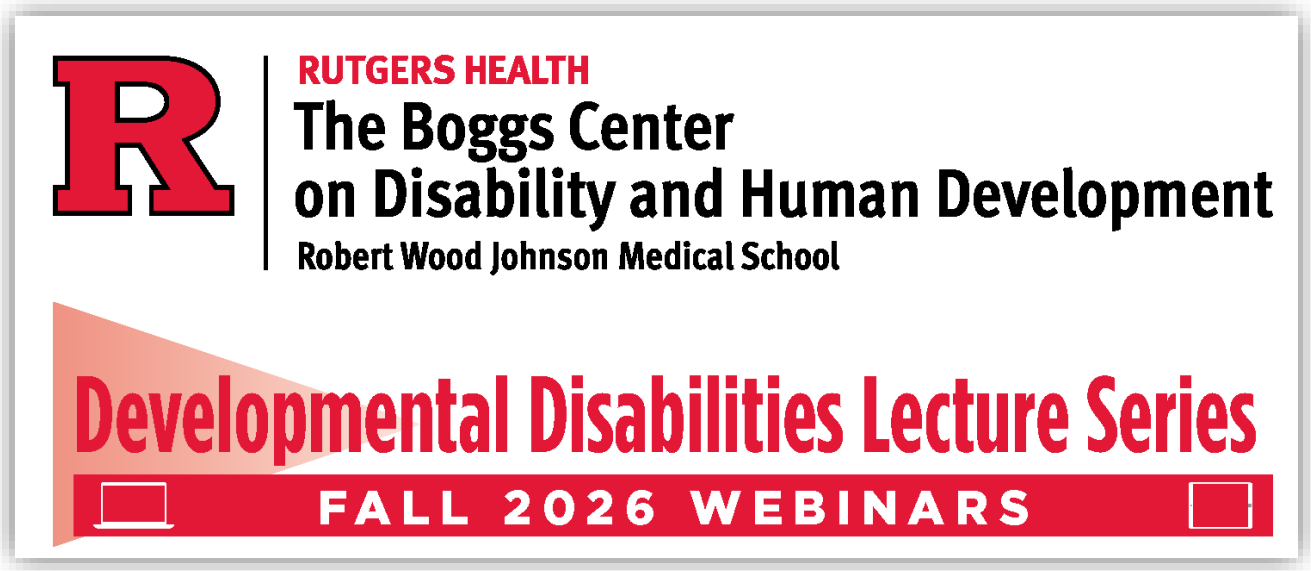
- Federal law and State statute establishes the Medical Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC). The MAAC's primary objective is to advise the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) on matters of medical care and health services for NJ FamilyCare (Medicaid) members, and to foster communication with the public.
- The October NJ MAAC meeting is open to the public and will include a public comment period.
- Stakeholders can attend in person or virtually – in-person location is the Conference Center at Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd., West Windsor, NJ

NJ MAAC Hybrid Meeting
October 29, 2026, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Register to attend 10/29/26 MAAC meeting virtually or in-person



One webinar remaining in DDD's National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Webinar Series!

- **October 29, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.** – 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 for other employment-related resources.



Funding for the Series is provided by the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Human Services, State of New Jersey, and Administration on Disabilities, US Department of Health and Human Services.

- The Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series, held every spring and fall, is a community and continuing education program provided for professionals, policymakers, individuals with disabilities, and family members to enhance their knowledge and skills in innovative approaches and state of the art practices for people with developmental disabilities.
  - View the Fall 2026 Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series Brochure
  - Register for Fall 2026 DD Lecture Series Webinars



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 **October 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 October 29 In-Person Workshop

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

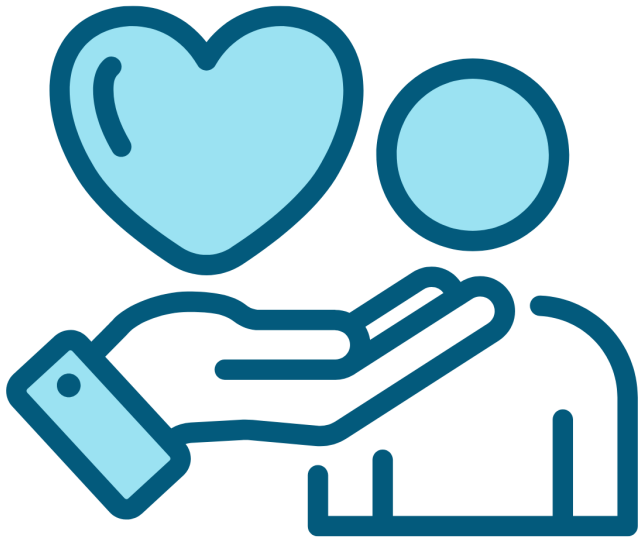
General Election Dates to Remember

- ✓ **October 24 – November 1 – Early in-person voting**
- ✓ **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.

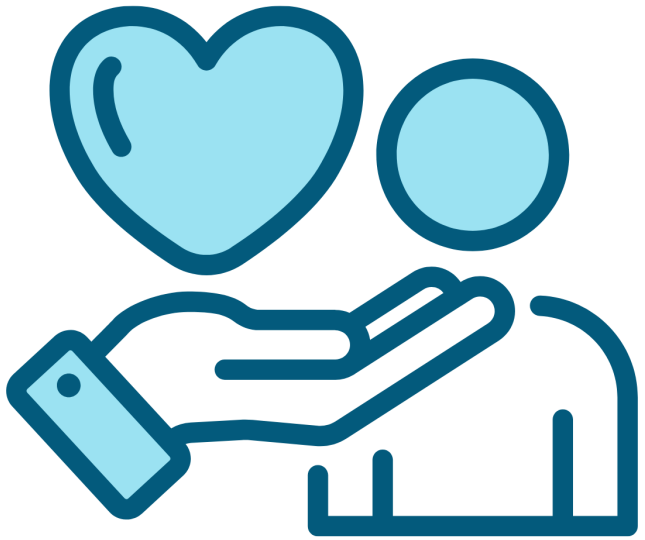
Caregiver Resources



- **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.

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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