



NJ Division of  
Disability Services

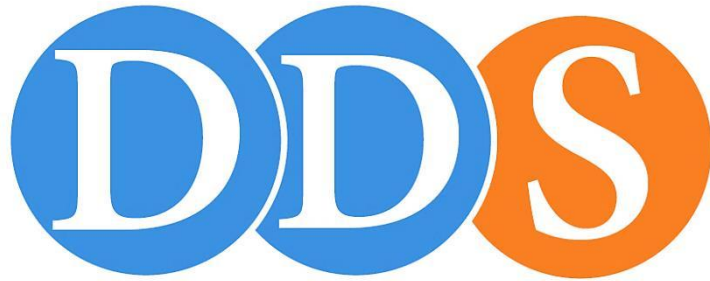
*Presents*

**NAVIGATING  
DISABILITY SERVICES  
IN NEW JERSEY**

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Administrator of Information and Referral Services

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**NJ Division of  
Disability Services**

*Welcome!*

It is estimated that one in five people - about 1.75 million New Jerseyans - has a disability that may limit their physical or cognitive function.

Through our toll free hotline -- **1-888-285-3036** – DDS responds to as many as 15,000 requests each year for ***Information and Referral Assistance*** on issues affecting people with various disabilities across the State.

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**NJ Division of  
Disability Services**

- **What is a Disability?**
  - **Definitions**
  - **NJ Disability Network – Services &  
Programs**
  - **Resources**
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- Disability is the broad term used to define an impairment that substantially limits one or more of an individual's major life activities.
- Impairment may be physical, cognitive, emotional, sensory, or developmental in nature.
- An individual may have one or multiple disabilities.
- A disability can be inherited, congenital, acquired, or of an unknown origin and does not necessarily imply ill health.
- In New Jersey, disability determination is defined on a case by case basis, using various definitions depending on the service for which an individual is applying.

# **WHAT IS A DISABILITY?**

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The World Health Organization (WHO) developed the international classification of functioning, disability, and health (ICF), which defines a disability as:

- Multi-dimensional; affecting body structure, function, activity, and participation.
- Accounts for the fact that biological, psychological, and social factors all play a significant role in how the person with a disability views him/herself and is perceived by others.

**Social Security law defines disability as:**

- The inability to engage in substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment, which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.

# **VARYING DEFINITIONS OF DISABILITY**

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The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 defines disability as:

- A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.

A developmental disability is:

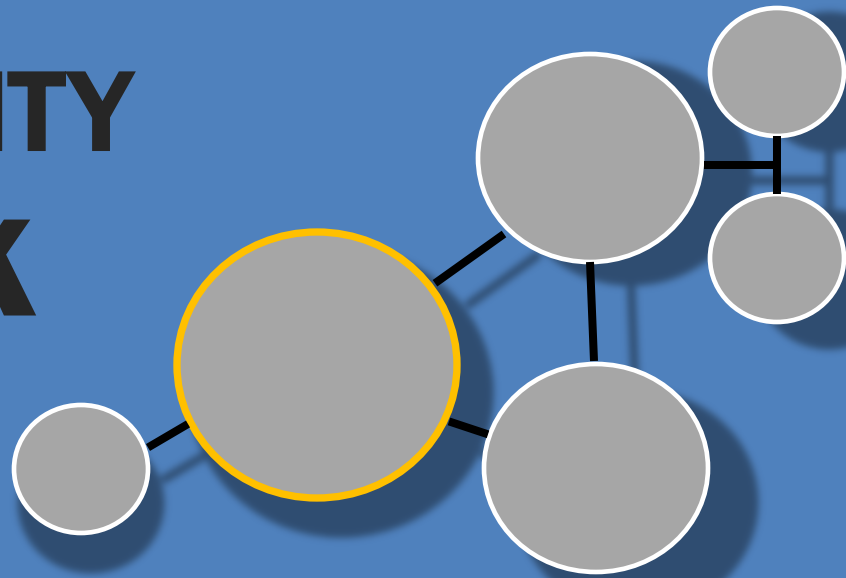
- A condition that involves physical or intellectual impairment having developed before age 22, which is expected to continue throughout the individual's lifetime, and is manifested through impairments in at least three of the following life activities: self-care, learning, mobility, communication, self-direction, economic self-sufficiency, and the ability to live independently.

# VARYING DEFINITIONS OF DISABILITY

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# THE DISABILITY NETWORK



**New Jersey has an extensive array of resources to support and provide services to people with disabilities.**

**Services are available at state, county, and local government levels, as well as through various community organizations.**

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# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

### *NJ Department of Human Services (DHS)*

- Provides services across the lifespan to protect, assist, and empower people and families to achieve their maximum potential.
  - DHS serves seniors, individuals and families with low incomes; people with mental illnesses, addictions, developmental disabilities, or late-onset disabilities; people who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind; parents needing child care services, child support and/or healthcare for their children; and families facing catastrophic medical expenses for their children.
  - Consists of eight major divisions, one fund, and various other administrative offices
  - [www.state.nj.us/humanservices](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices)
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# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

### *Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI)*

- Promotes and provides services in the areas of education, employment, independent living and eye health through informed choice and partnership with persons who are blind or visually impaired, their families and the community.
- Services Provided: Information and referral, vocational rehab., funding for assistive devices, access to the Library for the Blind, and prevention outreach in the form of vision screenings and community education.
- 877-685-8878 OR  
[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cbvi/home/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cbvi/home/index.html)



# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

### *Division of Aging Services (DoAS)*

Serves as a single point of access for seniors, people with disabilities, and their caregivers regardless of Medicaid eligibility.

- Allows for continuum of coordinated and integrated disability and long-term supports and services.
- Promotes aging in place.
- [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home/index.html)

### *Aging and Disability Resource Connection*

- Provides intake and screening to the elderly, disabled, caregivers and professionals looking for services or programs.
- 1-877-222-3737 OR [www.adrcnj.gov](http://www.adrcnj.gov)



# STATE GOVERNMENT

(DIV. OF AGING SERVICES  
CONTINUED...)



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

## *Office of the Public Guardian and Elder Rights (OPG)*

- Makes legal, financial and healthcare decisions for individuals aged 60 and older who have been determined by a Superior Court judge to be incapacitated.
- 609-588-6500 OR  
<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/services/pg/>

## *Adult Protective Services Program (APS)*

- Investigates allegations of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of adults 18+ years old, living in the community.
  - Contact County Office to report an allegation.  
<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home/adultpsp.html>
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# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

### *Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH)*

- Advocates for people in NJ who are deaf or hearing impaired to assist them in accessing programs and services routinely available to others.
- Services Include:
  - Sign language interpreter and caption service directories
  - Assistive communication device demonstration centers
  - Assistive listening loan program via county libraries
  - Equipment distribution program (telephone devices, alerting devices, speech devices)
  - Hearing aid project: refurbished hearing aids for eligible low-income seniors
- 609-588-2648 OR  
[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/home/index.html)



# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

### *Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)*

- Provides services and supports to adults (21+) with developmental disabilities
- Promotes community based alternatives to institutional care and maximum level of independence.
- Case management/support coordination, day, residential, and family support services.
- Adult mobile response: SCCAT 888-393-3007
- Contact the Community Services Office serving your county.  
[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/index.html)

### *Division of Disability Services (DDS)*

- Provides information and referral services to people with disabilities and their families.
  - Focuses on people who have become disabled as adults, “adult onset disabilities”, but serves all ages and disabilities.
  - Currently oversees Medicaid waivers and other programs to support people with disabilities (ACCAP, TBI, CRPD)
  - Publishes New Jersey Resources.
  - 1-888-285-3036 OR [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds/home/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds/home/index.html)
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# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

### *Division of Family Development (DFD)*

- Provides leadership and supervision to the public and non-profit agencies that deliver financial assistance and critical safety net services to individuals and families in New Jersey.
  - Directs Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (WFNJ/TANF) and WFNJ/General Assistance (WFNJ/GA) – the two programs that make up the state’s welfare program; NJ SNAP (formerly Food Stamps); Child Support services and Child Care services.
  - The agencies responsible for administering DFD programs are: the county and municipal welfare agencies, One-Stop Career Centers , Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs), court and probation offices.
  - [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/home/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/home/index.html)
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# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

### *Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS)*

- Administers the state-and federally- funded Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare programs for certain groups of low- to moderate- income adults and children.
- Maintains the Medical Assistance Customer Centers (MACCs) throughout the state (divided by counties served)
- 1-800-356-1561 OR [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/home/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/home/index.html)

### *Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services*

- A combined system of services and supports for people with mental health and addiction disorders
  - Offers outcome-oriented treatment and resources to assist people in achieving wellness and recovery
  - Mental Health Services: 1-800-382-6717
  - Addiction Services: 609-292-5760
  - [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/divisions/dmhas](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/divisions/dmhas)
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# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

### *Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund (CICRF)*

- Financial assistance program for New Jersey Families whose children have expenses related to an illness or condition that remain otherwise uncovered by insurance, State or Federal programs, or other sources, such as fundraising.
  - Managed by the CICRF Commission
  - Funded by fees collected from state employers who contribute an amount per employee; not tax dollars
  - Independently screens and distributes funds to families facing catastrophic medical expenses for their children
  - 1-800-335-FUND (3863) OR  
[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cicrf/home/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cicrf/home/index.html)
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# STATE GOVERNMENT



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

### *Department of Children and Families (DCF)*

- Ensures the safety, well-being, and success of children, youth, women, families, and communities through the provision of comprehensive services.
- [www.state.nj.us/dcf](http://www.state.nj.us/dcf)

#### Highlights of DCF Divisions

- *Children's System of Care (formerly the Division of Child Behavioral Health Services)*
    - Provides behavioral health and developmental disability services for children and youth under the age of 21.
    - Children's mobile response and stabilization
    - Performcare-24/7 Hotline: 1-877-652-7624
  - *Child Protection and Permanency (formerly DYFS)*
    - Centralized child abuse/neglect hotline:  
1-877-NJ ABUSE (652-2873)
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# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

## *Department of Children and Families (DCF)*

### Highlights of DCF Divisions - continued

- *Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit*
    - *A child protective service unit that investigates allegations of child abuse and neglect in out-of-home settings such as foster homes, residential centers, schools, detention centers, etc. 609-888-7440*
  
  - *Offices of Education, Adolescent services, Family and Community Partnerships*
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# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



### *Department of Community Affairs (DCA)*

- Provides administrative guidance, financial support, and technical assistance to local governments, community development organizations, businesses and individuals to improve the quality of life in New Jersey.
  - [www.state.nj.us/dca](http://www.state.nj.us/dca)
  - *Division of Housing and Community Resources*
    - Oversees programs that prevent homelessness and offer affordable housing.
    - (609) 633-6286
  - *Sandy Recovery Division*
    - Manages the majority of the federal funds that will be used to assist New Jersey in recovering from Superstorm Sandy.
    - (609) 633-1328
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# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



Superstorm Sandy  
Recovery Division



Municipal State Aid



Superstorm Sandy Bidding  
Opportunities



Property Tax Information



New Jersey Housing  
Resource Center



2013 New Jersey Mayors  
Directory Search



DCA Employment  
Opportunities



New Jersey Foreclosure  
Assistance



Affordable, supportive  
housing for people with  
developmental disabilities



Revitalizing designated  
urban communities and  
stimulating growth



DCA Alert



New Jersey Non Profit  
Information



NJDCA Grant Management  
System



DCA RIMS Online Services



Landlord-Tenant  
Information





# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



### *Department of Education (DOE)*

- The Office of Special Education Programs, within the Division of Student and Field Services, has oversight responsibilities for the provision of education and related support services to students with disabilities aged 3 to 21.
- [www.state.nj.us/education/specialed/](http://www.state.nj.us/education/specialed/)



# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

### *Department of Law and Public Safety*

#### ➤ *Division on Civil Rights*

- Investigates issues/complaints of discrimination in accordance with the LAD.
- Works closely with advocacy groups for the disabled.
- [www.state.nj.us/lps](http://www.state.nj.us/lps)

#### ➤ *Office of Emergency Management*

- Provides support to individuals with access and functional needs as part of the “whole community” planning process.
  - Register Ready – New Jersey’s Special Needs Registry for Disasters.
  - [www.state.nj.us/njoem](http://www.state.nj.us/njoem)
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# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE LT. GOVERNOR KIM GUADAGNO

### *Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs*

- *Assists veterans in community reentry, employment, housing, health services, and accessing social services.*
  - *Ensures federal benefits are appropriately utilized before state benefits.*
  - *VETERANS HOTLINES*
    - ***Benefit Hotline: 1-888-8NJ-VETS***
    - ***Counseling Hotline: 1-866-VETS-NJ4***
  - *Division of Veterans' Healthcare Services*
    - *Operates long-term care nursing homes for Veterans.*
    - [www.state.nj.us/military](http://www.state.nj.us/military)
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# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



State of New Jersey  
Department of the Treasury

### *Division of Property Management and Construction*



- The Office Of Disabilities Management
- Responsible for issues of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) in state-owned buildings and state-run programs.
- Provides technical assistance concerning accessibility standards and adaptive devices to promote full inclusion.
- 609-292-7299 or [www.state.nj.us/treasury](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury)

### *Office of the Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly*

- Protects the health, safety, welfare, civil and human rights of older people living in institutions
- The Office is in, but is independent of, the *NJ Department of the Treasury*.
- Intake Line: 1-877-582-6995
- [www.state.nj.us/ooie](http://www.state.nj.us/ooie)



# STATE GOVERNMENT

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



### *Department of Labor and Workforce Development*

- *Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVR)*
    - Provides employment placement and training for individuals with disabilities.
    - Contact your county office to initiate services.
    - [www.state.nj.us/labor](http://www.state.nj.us/labor)
-

# COUNTY SERVICES & PROGRAMS

## *Boards of Social Services*

- Provide information about and/or access to government assistance programs
- [www.mynjhelps.org](http://www.mynjhelps.org)



## *Centers for Independent Living (CILs)*

- Community-based, consumer driven organizations
- Offer peer counseling, skills training, advocacy, and a variety of services based on individual needs
- Many funded through DVRS
- [www.njsilc.org](http://www.njsilc.org)





# COUNTY SERVICES & PROGRAMS



## *Offices on Aging: Area Agency On Aging (AAA)*

- Designated office in each of the state's 21 counties
- Responsible for developing comprehensive, coordinated systems of community-based services for older adults
- Serve as Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) lead agencies to ensure seniors, adults with disabilities, and caregivers have access to information and long-term services and supports
- [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home/aaaa.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home/aaaa.html)

## *Offices for People with Disabilities*

- Empower people with disabilities to self-advocate and live independently in the community
  - Provide information, referral, and technical assistance on a local level on issues of concern including, but not limited to the following: accessibility, housing, financial assistance, and transportation
  - [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds/home/cntyofficeindex.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds/home/cntyofficeindex.html)
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# LOCAL SERVICES & PROGRAMS

## ***Municipal Offices***

- Information and technical assistance regarding local programs and resources
- May have grants dedicated to particular population
- May require residents to share costs of certain services

## ***Community Organizations***

- Provide formal and informal supports and services
- YMCA/YWCA
- Religious organizations
- Service organizations
- Neighborhood groups

## ***Disability Specific Groups***

- Offer support and/or technical assistance to individuals and/or caregivers
  - Promote information, education, and additional resources
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# **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

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# ADDITIONAL **RESOURCES**

## Agency Services **Advocacy**

Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) [www.drnj.org](http://www.drnj.org)

## **Education**

Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) [www.drnj.org](http://www.drnj.org)

Educational Law Center [www.edlawcenter.org](http://www.edlawcenter.org)

## **Legal Services**

Community Health Law Project: (CHLP) [www.chlp.org](http://www.chlp.org)

Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) [www.drnj.org](http://www.drnj.org)

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) [www.lsnj.org](http://www.lsnj.org)

## **Social Service, Immigration, and Refugee Matters**

Lutheran Social Ministries [www.lsmnj.org](http://www.lsmnj.org)

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# ADDITIONAL **RESOURCES**

## ***Recycled Durable Medical Equipment (DME)/ Medical Equipment/Assistive Technology***

Back in Action [www.backinaction.org](http://www.backinaction.org)

Goodwill Home and Medical Equipment [www.goodwillhomemedical.org](http://www.goodwillhomemedical.org)

Help Kids Hear [www.helpkidshear.org](http://www.helpkidshear.org)

## ***Cultural Resources***

New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence  
[www.state.nj.us/njsncc](http://www.state.nj.us/njsncc)

## ***Utility Services***

Board of Public Utilities (BPU) [www.bpu.state.nj.us](http://www.bpu.state.nj.us)

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# QUESTIONS?

*Please contact*



NJ Division of  
Disability Services

**1-888-285-3036** (M-F 9AM – 5PM)

Speak with an Information and Referral Specialist  
to confidentially discuss your situation and to request a  
current Resource Directory

*Thank You!*

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