

New Jersey Resources for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and their Families/Guardians

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) authorized the creation of programs in every U.S. state and territory that are collectively known as the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Network. The DD Network includes State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, State Protection and Advocacy Systems, and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

The DD Network is overseen by the federal Administration on Community Living's (ACL)

Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), which "is dedicated to ensuring that people with disabilities have opportunities to make their own choices, contribute to society, have supports to live independently, and live free of abuse, neglect, and exploitation."

In New Jersey, the DD Network consists of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability Rights New Jersey, and The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities.

DD Network State Council on Developmental Disabilities: New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD)

Phone: 800.792.8858 | Email: njcdd@njcdd.org | Website: www.njcdd.org

MISSION: To assure that individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) in New Jersey, and their families, participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion in all facets of life through culturally competent programs. The mission according to the federal DD Act is to engage in advocacy, capacity building and systemic change activities.

VISION: All individuals with I/DD are participating, equally-included members of their communities who:

- make real choices and have control over their own lives
- have the freedom to strive, excel, and make mistakes
- are in a position to achieve personal goals and affect policy and process decisions that affect their lives
- have the same rights, privileges, responsibilities, and opportunities of citizenship as does any other New Jersey resident

FAMILY SUPPORT PLANNING COUNCILS: Operate statewide, in all 21 New Jersey counties, for education and long-term support for families of individuals with I/DD.

DD Network State Protection and Advocacy System: Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ)

Phone: 800.922.7233 | Email: advocate@drnj.org | Website: www.drnj.org

DRNJ is a private, nonprofit, consumer driven organization established to:

- advocate for and advance the human, civil and legal rights of citizens of New Jersey with disabilities
- provide legal and non-legal individual and systems advocacy and legal representation on behalf of individuals with disabilities in the areas of abuse and neglect, discrimination, community-based services, healthcare, decision making, equal educational opportunities, assistive technology, and work and vocational rehabilitation services and the rights of beneficiaries receiving social security;
- advise and assist persons with disabilities, family members, attorneys and guardians in obtaining and protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities
- provide information and referral, education, training and technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, the agencies that serve them, advocates, attorneys, professionals, courts and others regarding the rights of individuals with disabilities.

DD Network University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities: The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

Phone: 732.235.9300 | Website: www.rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter

The Boggs Center is New Jersey's federally designated University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and is part of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Pediatrics. The Boggs Center provides community and student training and technical assistance, conducts research, and disseminates information and educational materials. Activities of The Boggs Center are guided by its Consumer Advisory Council, and partnerships with people with disabilities, families, state and community agencies, and policy makers.

University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities work to achieve the goal of independence, productivity, self-determination, and opportunities for full participation in community activities for people with developmental disabilities and their families through the following activities, delivered in a culturally competent manner:

- Interdisciplinary education of students and fellows at the graduate, postgraduate, and undergraduate levels
- Continuing education for individuals who support or assist individuals with developmental disabilities and their families
- Community and family education, technical assistance, and model demonstration activities
- Applied research and policy analysis
- Dissemination of information, research findings, and policy analyses

Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and their Families

Paul Aronsohn, Ombudsman

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Separately from the DD Network, New Jersey appointed its first Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and their Families in April 2018. New Jersey's first-ever Ombudsman for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families is available to:

- Serve as a source of information
- Help resolve disagreements with state agencies
- Work to facilitate the provision of services and supports
- Identify common concerns and make recommendations to the Governor; and assist in the creation of public information programs

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