



**NJCCD's Eye on Advocacy** weekly e-newsletter published every Tuesday focused on important news and events for the intellectual and/or developmental disabilities community. You are welcome to submit news items and feedback to [njccdd@njccdd.org](mailto:njccdd@njccdd.org).

**Subscribe to NJCCD's Publications**

Thank you to **New Jersey Senator Troy Singleton**, an active and founding member of the New Jersey Legislative Disability Caucus and strong supporter of NJCCD's advocacy work, who shared this message celebrating Black History Month.

We join the Senator in saluting all who are committed to making the world more equitable and fully inclusive. We share his vision of opportunity for everyone to explore their potential and use their talents to make society a better place.

[View the Senator's Video](#)



In its first issue of 2024, **People & Families Magazine** explores the topic of **"Maneuvering Through Barriers"**.

A shortage of care workers has caused Susan Coll-Guedes and her son Alex to spend nearly 300 days at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. There are people like Alex who want to live in freedom. However, they are in hospitals, facilities and nursing homes because care workers aren't available for them.

To honor those who have passed away, we remember Gary Rubin, a member of the NJCCD for nearly 15 years, Norman Reim, a strong advocate for people with disabilities who served as NJCCD Director of Communications, and Beverly Roberts, Director of Mainstreaming Medical Care at The Arc of New Jersey.

These stories and so much more we invite you to [subscribe to People & Families Magazine](#)

[Read More Here](#)

## Take Action



**Request for Public Comments on Co-Occurring Conditions in Autism**

A federal panel charged with guiding the government's autism efforts is looking for input on how other physical and mental health conditions impact those on the spectrum and the services they need.

The Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, or IACC, is asking members of the public to weigh in on how so-called co-occurring conditions affect individuals with autism and the "research, services, and policy needs that may be helpful to consider in addressing issues related to these conditions."

The panel comprised of government officials and members of the autism community is tasked with advising the secretary of health and human services and coordinating federal autism activities, and it's expected to use feedback collected to inform its recommendations. Deadline February 14, 2024.

[Submit Comments Here](#)

**SUMMER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

DISABILITY RIGHTS NJ IS SEEKING SUMMER INTERNS TO BEGIN SPRING 2024

- Rising 2L or 3L Law Students
- Graduate or Undergraduate studying Social Work or Human Services
- Individuals with IDD or their family members

[DISABILITYRIGHTSNJ.ORG/CAREERS](https://disabilityrightsnj.org/careers)

Disability Rights New Jersey is offering several opportunities this summer. The Sarah Mitchell Internship opportunity for a law student and social worker/humanities undergraduate or grad student; the NJ Bar Foundation Summer

Associate for a law student; and four NJCCD internships for people with IDD or their families. Please help spread the word!

Want to make a difference this summer? Fuel your passion with exciting work! Apply at [disabilityrightsnj.org/careers](https://disabilityrightsnj.org/careers) for one of several paid internship opportunities available beginning this spring.

[Learn More Here](#)

### DCF Shares Q&A Documents for RFQs for Summer Camp and Alternative Recreational Services, and One-to-One Support Services for Summer Camp and Alternative Recreational Services

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) has shared Questions and Answers (Q&A) documents and Program Description Forms for two Requests for Qualifications (RFQs):

- RFQ: [Summer Camp and Alternative Recreational Services](#)
  - [Q&A Document](#)
  - [Program Description Form](#)
- RFQ: [One-to-One Support Services for Summer Camp and Alternative Recreational Services](#)
  - [Q&A Document](#)
  - [Program Description Form](#)

Click the links above to access the respective documents, and click [here](#) to access DCF's RFQ webpage to access the RFQs and accompanying documents directly from the DCF site.

# Upcoming Events

Values  
into action



## Finally Home NJ Learning Sessions

This project is funded by the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities

Welcome to Finally Home NJ Learning Sessions Center. Here you will find updates and registration information for our upcoming series of Learning Sessions.

### Finally Home NJ Learning Session

Attend a series of Learning Sessions focusing on the housing and support needs of people with complex medical and behavioral needs including those who are aging.

### Highlighting the Concerns of Marginalized Communities

February 13, 2024 - 6:30PM – 8PM,  
**Advocacy and Systems Change**  
February 20, 2024 - 6PM - 7PM

### Finding and Financing Housing

February 22, 2024 - 6PM - 7PM

### Re-Envisioning Hope

February 26, 2024 - TBD

Information is still coming in, so please check back regularly for updates.

[Learn More](#)



New Jersey  
Legislative  
Disability  
Caucus

WEBINAR

**POSITIVE IMPACTS AND  
NEW POSSIBILITIES IN THE  
DISABILITY COMMUNITY**  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024 AT 12 NOON



The NJ Council on  
Developmental Disabilities  
njcdd.org

**The New Jersey Legislative Disability Caucus invites you to our Positive Impacts and New Possibilities in the Disability Community Webinar on Tuesday, February 20 starting at 12:00 pm. Assembly Majority Leader Greenwald will lead the discussion along with Disability Caucus Collaborators.**

[Register Here](#)

WEBINAR FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH  
INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

### Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund



Speaker: Amy Taklii, ISW  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024  
6:30PM to 8:00PM

SEMINARIO WEB PARA FAMILIAS DE NIÑOS CON  
DISCAPACIDAD INTELLECTUAL O DEL DESARROLLO

### Fondo de ayuda para enfermedades catastróficas en niños



Oradora: Amy Taklii, LSW  
Martes, 20 de febrero de 2024  
6:30PM to 8:00PM

### Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund

February 20, 2024 | 6:30PM - 8:00PM  
The Regional Family Support Planning Council #1 (Morris, Sussex, Warren) invites parents to our special meeting to learn the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund, a financial reimbursement program for New Jersey Families with potentially catastrophic medical expenses due to a child's illness or condition.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Expenses that are Medically necessary FDA approved
- Expenses incurred under the age of 22 (7-year lookback)
- An application for uncovered eligible expenses over a 12 month must total at least 10-15 percent of family income for that year

Multi-lingual closed captioning is available for this event. If you need special accommodations, please register by February 23rd with the details of your request or contact Kyoko Coco, Kyoko.Coco@njcdd.org, at 609-341-3112.

[Download the Flyer Here](#)

[Register Here](#)

### Fondo de ayuda para enfermedades catastróficas en niños

20 de Febrero de 2024 | 6:30PM - 8:00PM  
El Consejo Regional de Planificación de Apoyo Familiar #1 (Morris, Sussex, Warren) invita a los padres a nuestra reunión especial para conocer el Fondo de Ayuda para Enfermedades Catastróficas en Niños, un programa de reembolso financiero para familias de Nueva Jersey con gastos médicos potencialmente catastróficos debido a la enfermedad de un niño o condición. Los solicitantes deben cumplir con los siguientes criterios:

- Gastos que son médicamente necesarios/aprobados por la FDA
- Gastos incurridos antes de los 22 años (retrospectivo de 7 años)
- Una solicitud para gastos elegibles no cubiertos durante un período de 12 meses debe sumar al menos entre el 10 y el 15 por ciento del ingreso familiar para ese año.

Hay subtítulos multilingües disponibles para este evento. Si necesita adaptaciones especiales, regístrese antes del 23 de febrero con los detalles de su solicitud o comuníquese con Kyoko Coco, Kyoko.Coco@njcdd.org, al 609-341-3112.

[Descargue el folleto aquí](#)

[Registrar Aquí](#)

### Navigating the System: What Parents Need to Know

Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
6:00 pm-7:00 pm

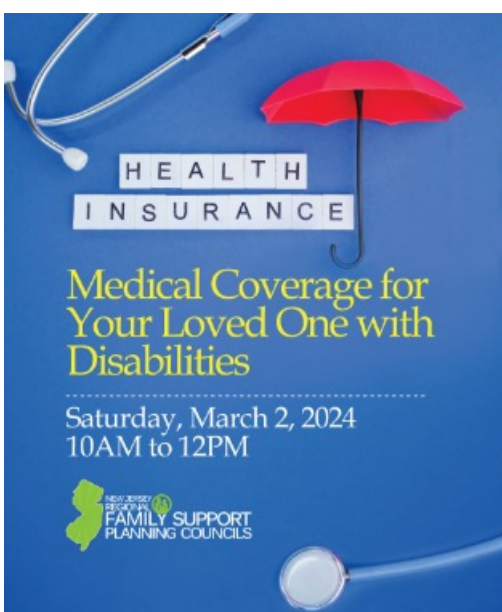
This presentation will offer an overview of the different state services that are available here in New Jersey for Children and Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

- Under 21
- Over 21
- Transition from children's system of care to division of developmental disabilities

[Register Here](#)



The Arc  
of New Jersey



**Medical coverage for your loved ones with disabilities**

\*\*\*Sorry, no providers, please. This event is designed for parents, siblings, and other family members of individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) \*\*\*

Insurance is a critical necessity, particularly if your loved one has a disability. Insurance can be complicated because the rules can be different from insurer to insurer and your specific circumstances. Know that you are not alone. Come and learn about Medicaid redetermination (also as known as "Medicaid Unwinding") and other medical coverage.

[Register Here](#)

**Cobertura médica para sus seres queridos con discapacidad**

\*\*\*Lo sentimos, no hay proveedores, por favor. Este evento está diseñado para padres, hermanos y otros familiares de personas con discapacidades intelectuales/del desarrollo (I/DD) \*\*\*

El seguro es una necesidad crítica, especialmente si su ser querido tiene una discapacidad. El seguro puede ser complicado porque las reglas pueden ser diferentes de una aseguradora a otra y de sus circunstancias específicas. Sepa que usted no está solo. Venga y obtenga información sobre la redeterminación de Medicaid (también conocida como "Desconexión de Medicaid" Medicaid Unwinding) y otras coberturas médicas.

[Registrar Aquí](#)

**FINALLY HOME NJ SYMPOSIUM**

Values into action

Saturday, March 9 10:00am - 2:00pm  
TCNJ Student Center 2000 Pennington Rd  
Ewing Township, NJ 08618  
Lunch and refreshments will be served.

Join the Finally HOME NJ project with Values Into Action for our In-person Housing Symposium!

This Symposium seeks to share the many stories and lessons we've learned throughout the course of this project.

The Symposium will feature speakers who will share their experiences and insights on the viable and sustainable housing related approaches and practices in supporting people with complex and aging needs.

Please note that this is an in-person event and there will not be a livestream.

Space is limited to a total of 100 people.

Register here:  
<https://forms.gle/pG6zAd2Dka5yHxUJ7>

For questions, please contact Alex Broseau at [AlexB@Viapa.org](mailto:AlexB@Viapa.org)

This work is supported by the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, in part by grant number 1300000200 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Washington, D.C. 20037 as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$1,000,000.00 and is not intended to constitute an endorsement, either explicit or implied, by the U.S. Government or any other government agency. For more information, please contact the project lead, Alex Broseau, at [AlexB@Viapa.org](mailto:AlexB@Viapa.org). This work is not intended to constitute an endorsement, either explicit or implied, by the U.S. Government or any other government agency.

**Join the Finally Home NJ Project with Values Into Action for our Finally HOME NJ Symposium!**

March 9, 2024 | 10am - 2pm  
2000 Pennington Rd, Ewing, NJ 08618

This Housing Symposium seeks to share the knowledge and lessons learned throughout the course of Finally HOME NJ, a one-year grant project funded by the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities.

The Symposium features Self-Advocates speakers with lived experience to share their insights on the viable and sustainable housing related approaches and practices in supporting people with complex support and aging needs.

Please note that this is an in-person event and there will not be a livestream. Due to the limited space available, we cannot register more than 75 people at this time.

[Register Here](#)

NEW JERSEY  
FAMILY SUPPORT  
PLANNING COUNCILS

**SPAN Parent Advocacy Network and Special Education Parent Advisory Groups (SEPAG)**

Thursday, March 14 2024  
6:30PM

CONSEJO REGIONAL DE  
PLANIFICACIÓN DE  
APOYO FAMILIAR  
DE NUEVA JERSEY

**Red de defensa de padres de SPAN y grupos asesores de padres de educación especial (SEPAG)**

Jueves, 14 de Marzo de 2024  
18:30PM

**SPAN Parent Advocacy Network and Special Education Parent Advisory Groups (SEPAG)**

The Regional Family Support Planning Council #6 (Ocean and Monmouth) cordially invites you to this special forum with Peg Kinsell, Peg Kinsell, Policy Director and Director of Military Family Support 360, at SPAN Parent Advocacy Network. She will present what SPAN does and how they support the Special Education Parent Advisory Groups throughout the State.

Bring your questions! There will be ample time for Q&A.

Multi-lingual closed captioning is available for this event. Please indicate the language you use on the registration page.

[Register Here](#)

**Red de defensa de padres de SPAN y grupos asesores de padres de educación especial (SEPAG)**

El Consejo Regional de Planificación de Apoyo Familiar #6 (Ocean y Monmouth) lo invita cordialmente a este foro especial con Peg Kinsell, Peg Kinsell, directora de políticas y directora de Military Family Support 360, en SPAN Parent Advocacy Network. Ella presentará lo que hace SPAN y cómo apoyan a los Grupos Asesores de Padres de Educación Especial en todo el estado.

¡Trae tus preguntas! Habrá tiempo suficiente para preguntas y respuestas.

Hay subtítulos multilingües disponibles para este evento. Por favor indique el idioma que utiliza en la página de registro.

[Registrar Aquí](#)

The NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Advocate - Collaborate - Educate njcdd.org

**2024 PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE REGISTER EARLY**

**2024 Public Meetings**

NJCDD members meet quarterly to discuss state and national issues impacting people with developmental disabilities and their families. During these public meetings, members hear from projects funded by NJCDD. They also discuss best practices and policies needed to be an active and effective organization.

[Learn More](#)

**Date: March 14, 2024**

Time: 9:30 am to 1:30 pm  
Location: Hilton Garden Inn Hamilton  
800 US-130, Hamilton Township, NJ 08690  
[Register Here](#)

**Date: May 09, 2024**

Time: 9:30 am to 1:30 pm  
Location: Hilton Garden Inn Hamilton  
800 US-130, Hamilton Township, NJ 08690  
[Register Here](#)

**Date: August 15, 2024**

Time: 9:30 am to 1:30 pm  
Location: Hilton Garden Inn Hamilton  
800 US-130, Hamilton Township, NJ 08690  
[Register Here](#)

**Date: November 14, 2024**

Time: 9:30 am to 1:30 pm  
Location: Hilton Garden Inn Hamilton  
800 US-130, Hamilton Township, NJ 08690  
[Register Here](#)

# Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series

## SPRING 2024 WEBINARS

April 5, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### **Supporting Community Life Engagement for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

This session will focus on how day services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can support community life engagement (CLE).

Friday, April 12, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### **The Evolution of Autism Policy in the US: Implications for the Future**

The prevalence of autism in the US has increased rapidly in the last three decades. In this session, participants will learn about how policies and programs to meet the needs of this growing group have been created and put in place.

Friday, May 10, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### **Trauma Informed Supports for People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities**

This session will provide a view of trauma from the perspective of the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

Friday, May 17, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### **Improving Employment Outcomes: The Lessons We Are Learning**

As interest in Employment First gains ground, state agencies and service providers are being called upon to rethink how they support people with disabilities and help them become valued members of our workforce.

[Register Here](#)