

Eye on Advocacy e-newsletter

October 14, 2025

October 15
DISABILITY
MENTORING DAY



NJCDD's Eye on Advocacy weekly e-newsletter is published every Tuesday, focusing on important news and events for the intellectual and/or developmental disabilities community. You are welcome to submit news items and feedback to njcdd@njcdd.org

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October 15
DISABILITY
MENTORING
DAY



Disability Mentoring Day

Sponsored by the American Association of People with Disabilities, Disability Mentoring Day was launched in 1999 as part of an effort by the White House to raise awareness of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Students with disabilities (mentees) are matched with workplace mentors based on their career interests. Students learn how to prepare for the workplace and experience a typical day on the job, while employers become aware of the importance of hiring people with disabilities.

Learn More

Upcoming Events

NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES



Division of
Developmental
Disabilities

Office of Education on Self-Directed Services

Family Networking Sessions: Fall 2025 (October - November)

The Office of Education on Self-Directed Services hosts networking sessions for people and families who are self-directing services or interested in self-direction.

- All sessions are held in person unless otherwise noted.
- Advance registration is required.

Tues., Oct. 14 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Statewide VIRTUAL via ZOOM

[Register for October 14 Session](#)

Wed., Oct. 22 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Cape May & Atlantic Counties Ocean City Free Public Library

[Register for October 22 Session](#)

Wed., Oct. 29 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Burlington County Burlington County Library

[Register for October 29 Session](#)

Wed., Nov. 5 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Bergen County Bergen County Special Services School District

[Register for November 5 Session](#)

Know Your Rights: Nursing Facility Transition, Medicaid & Person-Centered Planning

Join staff from Disability Rights New Jersey's Institutional Rights team as they present a rights-based webinar on nursing facility transition, Medicaid, and person-centered planning rights to educate people with paralysis residing in nursing facilities about their rights to support independence and community inclusion.

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 2-3pm

A webinar for individuals with paralysis, their family members and professionals

ASL interpretation and captioning will be available.

Register Here

Download Flyer

DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW JERSEY

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

NURSING FACILITY
TRANSITION, MEDICAID
& PERSON-CENTERED
PLANNING

A WEBINAR FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH PARALYSIS,
THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS,
AND PROFESSIONALS

TUESDAY
OCT. 14
2PM TO 3PM

ASL interpretation
and captioning
will be available

Join staff from Disability Rights New Jersey's Institutional Rights team as they present a rights-based webinar on nursing facility transition, Medicaid, and person-centered planning rights to educate people with paralysis residing in nursing facilities about their rights to support independence and community inclusion.

REGISTER TODAY!

SCAN THE QR CODE OR FOLLOW THE LINK:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/PFaBcWuwRq2yV7z2YrzyQ>

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [DISABILITYRIGHTSNJ.ORG/EVENTS](https://disabilityrightsnj.org/events)

NEW JERSEY
REGIONAL
FAMILY SUPPORT
PLANNING COUNCILS

Supporting Families,
Empowering Futures
for Youth with
Intellectual and or
Developmental
Disabilities



OCTOBER 15, 2025 | 6:00PM-7:30PM

Supporting Families, Empowering Futures for Youth
with Intellectual and or Developmental Disabilities

Join us on Wednesday, October 15 between 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm for a free, virtual information session designed for families of youth with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Learn how to access valuable services and resources available through the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division of Children's System of Care (CSOC). This session is co hosted by CSOC and the Regional Family Support Planning Councils.

Register Here

Download the flyer [HERE](#)

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Department of Human Services

Division of Developmental Disabilities

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Fiscal Intermediary (FI) Transition Update

The transition of the Division of Developmental Disabilities' (DDD) Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent (VF/EA) Self-Directed Services Model from Public Partnerships LLC (PPL), the current fiscal intermediary, to Acumen Fiscal Agent (Acumen), is underway.
For information, visit:
[Acumen-NJ](#)
[DDD | 2025 Fiscal Intermediary Transition \(PPL to Acumen\)](#)

October 16

Webinar for Community Vendors and
Individuals/Families who use Vendor Services

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Webinar for Individuals/Families, Authorized
Representatives, Employers of Record, and Self-
Directed Employees

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Webinar for Community Vendors and
Individuals/Families who use Vendor Services

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

October 30

Webinar for Support Coordinators and
Supports Brokers

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Webinar for Individuals/Families, Authorized
Representatives, Employers of Record, and Self-
Directed Employees

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Webinar for Community Vendors and
Individuals/Families who use Vendor Services

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

RUTGERS HEALTH

The Boggs Center
on Disability and Human Development

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Employment Specialist Supplemental
Training Opportunities

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - A
Refresher for Job Coaches

October 17, 2025
2:00 PM - 1:00 PM | Zoom

Register Here

Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

October 22, 2025
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Zoom

Register Here

Navigating Challenging Conversations on the Path to Employment

December 3, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Zoom

Register Here

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
WEBINAR SERIES

Disability Rights New Jersey will be hosting a three-part Lunch and Learn webinar series focusing on assistive technology solutions for individuals living with paralysis, family members and professionals who support them. Beyond the tools, the sessions will offer opportunities to brainstorm implementation ideas to ensure success and promote independence.

Sept 24 - It's in There - Built in Accessibility

Join us as we explore features you might already have access to and didn't know it. Discover how to leverage the resources you currently have at your disposal and the built-in features of your devices to avoid spending money on apps or new hardware that can accomplish what your existing device can.

Oct. 22 - Alternate Access for People with Paralysis

Join us as we explore customizable input methods to hands-free controls, and discover how these advancements enable people to interact with devices, environments, and tools in innovative ways.

Nov. 19 - Smart Home Technology

Join us as we explore how to use smart home technology to access audiobooks, improve personal security, turn on lights, appliances, access music, podcasts and much more.

You can attend one session or all three!

ATAC

DISABILITY RIGHTS
NEW JERSEY

These events are co-sponsored by the
Christopher & Dana
Reeve Foundation

WEDNESDAY
SEPT. 24
OCT. 22
NOV. 19
12:00 NOON
FOR MORE
INFORMATION
OR TO REGISTER


Assistive Technology 3-Part
Webinar Series

Disability Rights New Jersey will be hosting a three-part Lunch and Learn webinar series focusing on assistive technology solutions for individuals living with paralysis, family members and professionals who support them. Beyond the tools, the sessions will offer opportunities to brainstorm implementation ideas to ensure success and promote independence. Attend any or all sessions.

Oct. 22 - Alternate Access for People
with Paralysis

Join us as we explore customizable input methods to hands-free controls, and discover how these advancements enable people to interact with devices, environments, and tools in innovative ways.

Nov. 19 - Smart Home Technology

Join us as we explore how to use smart home technology to access audiobooks, improve personal security, turn on lights, appliances, access music, podcasts and much more.

Download Flyer

Register Here for These Events

SELF-DIRECTION
CONFERENCE

SUSTAINABILITY & BEYOND

OCTOBER 23 & 24

20% OFF

NETWORKING
EVENT

10/23
6-8PM

CONFERENCE
DAY

10/24
8AM-4PM

Use code
SAVE20

Come see us at this impactful
and inspiring event!

REGISTER
NOW!

DON'T MISS OUT!
REGISTER TODAY!

TCNJ Brower Student Center
Ewing, NJ

THE COLLABORATIVE
FOR CITIZEN
DIRECTED SUPPORTS

Empowering Self-Direction: A Sustainable Future

You are invited to the Collaborative for Citizen Directed Supports - Self-Direction Conference: Sustainability & Beyond in New Jersey. Don't miss out on this opportunity to join a movement that is focused on building a stronger, more sustainable community that thrives on self-direction!

Location:
The College of New Jersey – Brower Student Center, Ewing, NJ

Conference Date:
Networking & Exhibitor Social:
Thursday, October 23, 2025 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Conference
Friday, October 24, 2025 | 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Individuals, families, professionals, and advocates gather for this transformative event to explore the power of self-direction.

[Register Here](#)

New Jersey
Legislative
Disability
Caucus

The NJ Council on
Developmental Disabilities

Advocate - Collaborate - Educate
njcdd.org

Seven Years Later:
Lessons from New Jersey's
First Ombudsman for
Individuals with Disabilities

October 28, 2025
12:00pm - 1:00pm (Zoom)



Paul Aronsohn
New Jersey's inaugural Ombudsman for
Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental
Disabilities and Their Families



Join us for an insightful discussion with Paul Aronsohn, New Jersey's inaugural Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families on October 28. As he prepares to conclude his historic tenure at the end of Governor Murphy's administration, Paul will share candid reflections on his seven-year journey advocating for New Jersey's disability community. **Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz, Caucus Co-Chair**, championed the legislation that created this groundbreaking office and will lead the meeting.

[Register Here](#)

**Tuesday, October 28, 2025
12:00pm - 1:00pm (Zoom Webinar)**

Paul, along with advocates, will discuss the victories that transformed lives, the systemic challenges that persist, and a vision for strengthening advocacy efforts under future leadership. From navigating bureaucratic barriers to ensuring people with disabilities and their families receive essential services, hear firsthand about the real-world impact of having a dedicated state Ombudsman and what lies ahead.

This is a unique opportunity to learn from the experiences of the person who helped define this crucial role and to understand how legislative advocacy can create lasting change for our most vulnerable residents.

Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series

FALL 2025 WEBINARS

Registration is open for the Fall 2025 Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series.
All sessions will be held online using The Zoom Webinar platform.

[Visit The Boggs Center Online Registration System](#)

[View Fall 2025 Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series Brochure](#)

Adult Life 101 - A Beginner's Guide to Adult Services

October 31, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Webinar

Direct Support Workforce Solutions: Strategies for Individual and Collective Action Toward Workforce Stability

October 31, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Webinar

Remote Support Services and Other Technology Examples from the Smart Home Discovery Place

November 7, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Webinar

Safe, Connected, and In Control: Trauma Responsive Care for People with Dual Diagnosis

November 14, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Webinar

The Changing Landscape of Post-Secondary Options

November 20, 2025 | 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM | Webinar

Spirituality and Belonging: Pathways Into Community

December 5, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Webinar

Roadblocks in Family Partnerships: Repairing Communication in Challenging Situations

January 15, 2026 | 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM | Webinar

Understanding Social Security Benefits: Setting Your Graduates Up for Employment Success

February 26, 2026 | 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM | Webinar

Long-Term Planning

March 19, 2026 | 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM | Webinar

**NEW JERSEY
REGIONAL
FAMILY SUPPORT
PLANNING COUNCILS**

BUILDING COLLABORATIVE TEAMS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

**Saturday, November 1, 2025
10:00am to 12:00pm**

Building Collaborative Teams Across the Lifespan

[virtual meeting]

**Saturday, November 1, 2025,
from 10AM to 12PM**

Connect. Collaborate. Empower.

Join family advocates and professionals for an interactive virtual session focused on improving communication and collaboration to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Hear stories and expert tips, then join breakout rooms focused on children or adults. Together we will explore strategies for building trust and forming unified support teams.

If you need language support or other accommodations, please contact Kyoko Coco, Kyoko.Coco@njcdd.org, 609-341-3112.

[Register Here](#)

Download the flyer [HERE](#)

Construyendo equipos colaborativos a lo largo de la vida

**Fecha/hora: Sábado 1 de
noviembre de 2025, de 10AM a 12PM**

Conecta. Colabora. Empodera.

Únase a defensores de familias y profesionales en una sesión virtual interactiva enfocada en mejorar la comunicación y la colaboración para apoyar a personas con discapacidades intelectuales y del desarrollo. Escuche historias y consejos de expertos, y luego únase a las salas de trabajo para niños o adultos. Juntos, exploraremos estrategias para generar confianza y formar equipos de apoyo unificados

Habrá subtítulos traducidos con IA disponibles durante este foro virtual. Si necesita apoyo con el idioma u otras adaptaciones, comuníquese con Kyoko Coco, Kyoko.Coco@njcdd.org, 609-341-3112.

[Register Here](#)



Aging & Grief Training Opportunities

Growing Older Together: Aging Siblings and Intellectual Disability

November 5, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Zoom

[Register Here](#)

In the News



National Family Caregivers Month in 2025

November 1 to November 30 National Family Caregivers Month in 2025 will be observed from November 1 to November 30. This month-long observance is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the selfless individuals who provide essential care and support to their loved ones who are ill, disabled, or elderly. It aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by family caregivers and provide resources and support to help them in their caregiving roles.

NOVEMBER IS: SAFETY IN YOUR SETTING MONTH

a collaboration between the DDD Office of Risk Management & the Resource Team

A month to focus on supervision, independence, and how to keep IDD individuals safe

Why have Safety In Your Setting Month?

Individuals with IDD can be at risk if proper supervision is not provided. Due to this, specific training sessions have been selected that relate to individuals who exhibit walkaway behavior. The Division's hope is to educate stakeholders, highlight prevention strategies, and empower providers and Support Coordination Agency (SCA) staff to keep IDD individuals safe, while still allowing them to experience the independence they deserve both in their homes, and in the community.

Round Table Discussion (invite only)

Select providers and SCAs will be invited to join two separate group discussions to provide feedback and context regarding walkaway events from their perspective, and to share best practices surrounding supervision and safety. Various DHS and DDD Units will be present to discuss how the Division can better support providers and SCAs regarding walkaway behavior.

Virtual Trainings

Virtual workshops will be held throughout November. The Division welcomes all stakeholders to attend, including: providers, SCAs, Self Directed Employees, family members, and advocates.

Trainings will include:

- Walkaway Behavior Prevention ([New!](#))
- Walkaway Incident Reports and the Walkaway Checklist ([New!](#))
- Walkaway Safety and Documentation* ([New!](#))
- Overview of the Human Rights Committee (HRC)
- Overview of Crisis Assessment Response & Enhanced Services (CARES)
- Supports for Persons with Criminal Justice Involvement
- Introduction to Dementia ([New!](#))
- Seasonal Health Concerns: Cold Weather

*This training is specifically for SCA Staff



Please see our website for a complete list of Safety In Your Setting Month events and registration links:
www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/individuals/healthsafety/

Contact ddd_resource@dhhs.nj.gov if you have additional questions.

State of New Jersey
Phil Murphy, Governor | Tahesha L. Way, LL, Governor

Department of Human Services
Sarah Adelman, Commissioner

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Resources

Selecting a Service Provider: Making Choices, Becoming Empowered

People receiving support through New Jersey's Division of Developmental Disabilities can choose the service provider that best meets their needs. This guide offers people with disabilities and their families ideas that can help them select a provider that will support them to live the lives they want.

[Download guide – English](#)

[Download guide – Spanish](#)

Limited quantities are available in hard copy format through the Publications Order Form.

[Access the Order Form Here](#)



Selecting a Service Provider Making Choices, Becoming Empowered

A Guide for People with Disabilities and Their Families

People receiving services through New Jersey's Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) can choose the service provider that best meets their needs. This guide offers people with disabilities and their families ideas that can help them select a provider that will support them to live the lives they want.

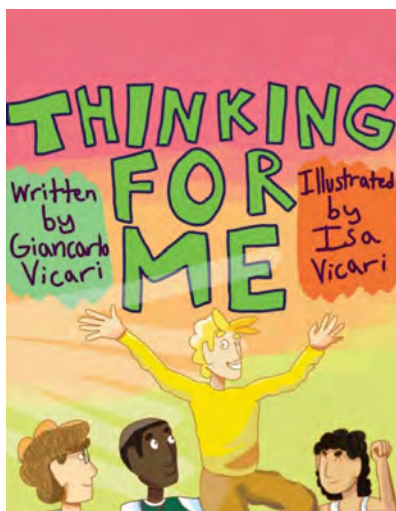
RUTGERS HEALTH
The Boggs Center
on Disability and Human Development
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Thinking for Me Comic

[Learn More](#)

Giancarlo Vicari, Youth Ambassador from New Jersey, created a comic called "Thinking for Me" about turning 18 and talking to your parents about alternatives to guardianship. We helped make Giancarlo's comic into a 5-minute audio story narrated by Giancarlo and his friends. This audio story is a great resource to share with anyone interested in learning more about supported decision-making and alternatives to guardianship!

[Download the Comic](#)





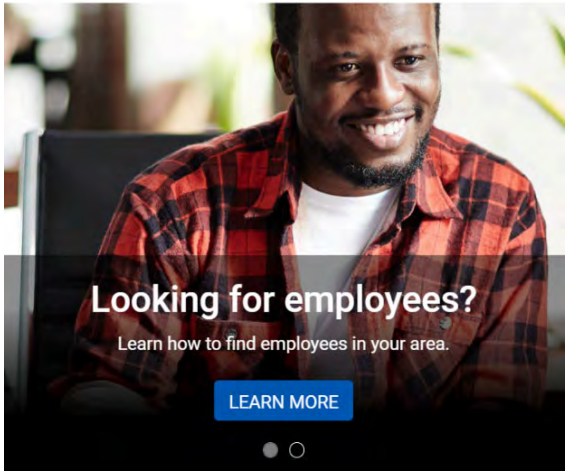
Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals
with Intellectual or Developmental
Disabilities and Their Families

Transition Resources New Jersey State Resources

One challenge common to every individual with an intellectual or developmental disability and their families is the transition from childhood to adulthood. Known as the proverbial "cliff" – the point at which there seems to be a sudden drop in services and supports as children age out of the school system and into adult life. Below are resources to help with this transition.

[Learn More](#)

Jobs that Care New Jersey



Looking for employees?

Learn how to find employees in your area.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The Direct Care and Service Workforce is critical to the lives of people with disabilities and those who are aging. The demand for these jobs is growing fast and will continue to increase in years to come. This workforce is essential to providing the supports individuals need to live healthy, active, and engaged lives in the community. From helping with personal, health, and home care to providing support with community activities, workers in these roles make a difference!

If you are interested pursuing a rewarding career, please check out the information on this site to learn more and to find jobs in your area.

[Learn More](#)



Employment First

The Employment First page on the NJCDD website has been updated with information intended for individuals living with disabilities who are interested in working!

Now, along with information about Employment First in New Jersey, the page features plain language information and links related to:

- [Seeking Employment](#)
- [Benefit Resources](#) as they relate to work
- [Transitioning to employment](#) from high school

[Learn More](#)

**DISABILITY
BENEFITS 101
NEW JERSEY**
[HTTPS://NJ.DB101.ORG](https://nj.db101.org)
+ FIND THE RIGHT HEALTH
COVERAGE FOR YOU
+ BENEFITS AND WORK
ESTIMATOR
+ LEARN ABOUT SSI & SSDI
BENEFITS, AND MORE!



**BENEFICIOS POR
DISCAPACIDAD 101
NUEVA JERSEY**
[HTTPS://NJ.DB101.ORG](https://nj.db101.org)
+ ENCUENTRE EL SEGURO
MÉDICO A SU MEDIDA
+ ESTIMADOR DE BENEFICIOS
Y TRABAJO
+ CONOZCA LOS BENEFICIOS
DE SSI Y SSDI, ¡Y MÁS!

The NJCDD is proud to support NJ DB101, a free, user-friendly, all-in-one place, resource guide for employment and benefit questions/information. Find out how working impacts benefits like SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, and more! Resources are in plain language and available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

[Learn More](#)

**An Enhanced
Family Support
Crisis Handbook**
4th Edition
Available in English and Spanish



Enhanced Family Crisis Handbook

The purpose of this expanded version of the Toolkit is to empower individuals with disabilities and their family and professional caregivers by providing information to more effectively advocate for persons with complex severe behavioral health conditions (which we formerly referred to as “dual diagnosis”) for treatments, supports, services and the conditions that promote mental wellness.

[Learn More](#)

Manual Mejorado de Crisis Familiares

El propósito de esta versión ampliada del kit de herramientas es facilitarles a las personas que tienen discapacidades y a sus cuidadores familiares y profesionales herramientas que los empoderen, al proveer información que permita abogar de una forma más efectiva por las personas que tienen condiciones graves y complejas de salud conductual (a las que antes se denominaban con “diagnóstico dual”) para conseguir los tratamientos, apoyos, servicios y las condiciones que fomentan el bienestar mental.

[Aprende Más](#)



20 West State Street, Trenton, NJ, 08608 | [Preference Manager](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)
Telephone: 1-800-792-8858 | Email: njcdd@njcdd.org

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