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

Subscribe to NJCDD's Publications

October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month

Since almost five percent of all students in our nation's public schools are classified as having specific learning disabilities (SLD), every teacher can expect to find students with learning disabilities in the classroom.

Success for these students requires a focus on individual achievement, individual progress, and individual learning. Despite these obstacles, recent research tells us that we can teach these students how to learn.

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.

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

Download Flyer

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.

Register Here for These Events

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

Employment Specialist Supplemental Training Opportunities

Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

Navigating Challenging Conversations on the Path to Employment

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

Register Here

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

Register Here

Training Opportunities for People with Disabilities and Families

College For All: A Webinar for Students and Families on Alternate Pathways to Post-Secondary Education
October 23, 2025 I
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM I Zoom

Register Here

Holding the Compass 4: Step In or Step Back? - The Evolving Dynamics of School Partnerships
January 12, 2026
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm I Zoom

Register Here

Employment for All: A Webinar for Parents and Families of Individuals with Disabilities on Supported Employment
October 30, 2025
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM I Zoom

Register Here

Holding the Compass 5: SSI, Medicaid, and Work: Setting Your Child up for Employment Success
February 9, 2025
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm I Zoom

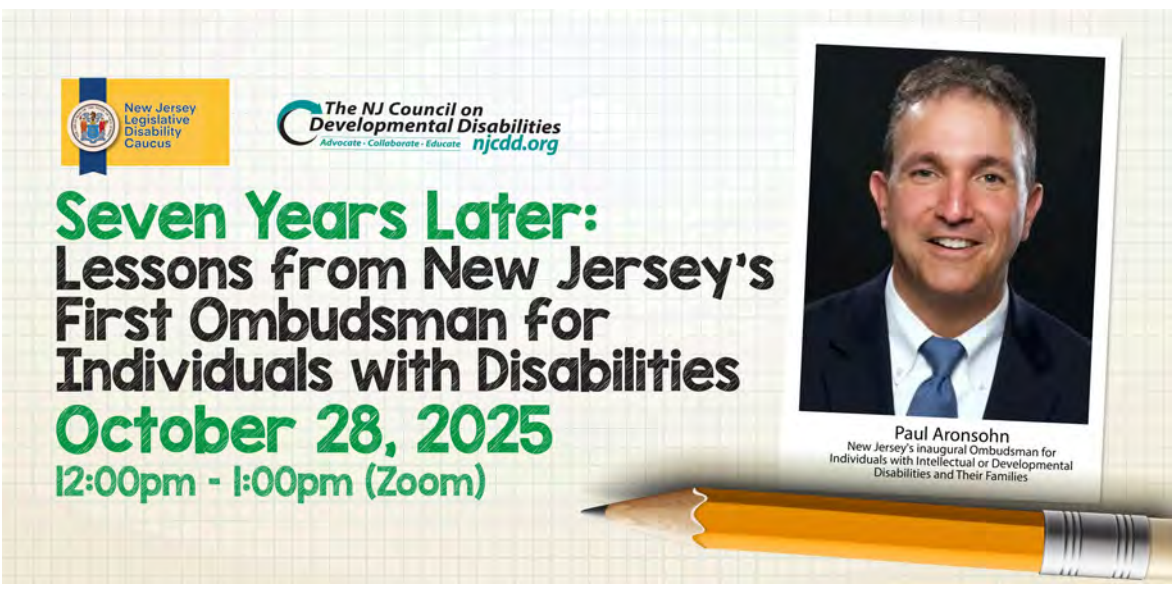
Register Here

Holding the Compass 3: College is Possible - Exploring Inclusive Options After High School
November 17, 2025
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm I Zoom

Register Here

Holding the Compass 6: Beyond Guardianship - Exploring Decision-Making Options at 18
March 9, 2026
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm I Zoom

Register Here



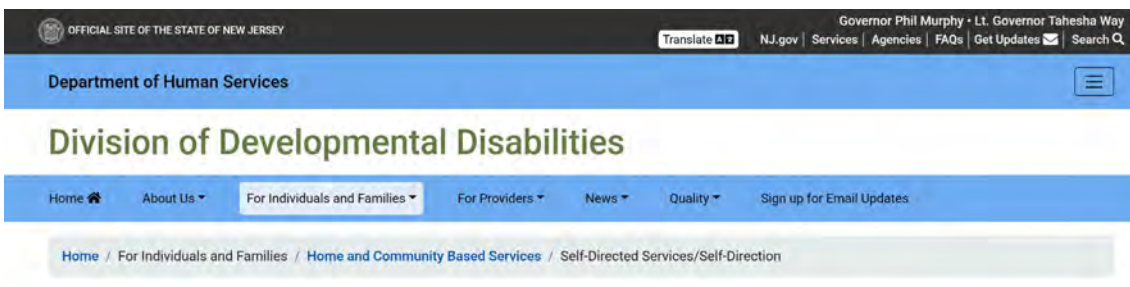
Join us for an insightful discussion with Paul Aronsohn, New Jersey's inaugural Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families on Acober. As he prepares to conclude his historic tenure at the end of Governor Murphy's administration, Paul will share candid 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.



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 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

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 I 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM I Webinar

Direct Support Workforce Solutions: Strategies for Individual and Collective Action Toward Workforce Stability
October 31, 2025 I 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM I Webinar

Remote Support Services and Other Technology Examples from the Smart Home Discovery Place
November 7, 2025 I 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM I Webinar

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

The Changing Landscape of Post-Secondary Options
November 20, 2025 I 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM I Webinar

Spirituality and Belonging: Pathways Into Community
December 5, 2025 I 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM I Webinar

Roadblocks in Family Partnerships: Repairing Communication in Challenging Situations
January 15, 2026 I 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM I Webinar

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

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

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

Long-Term Planning
March 19, 2026 I 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM I Webinar

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.

Regístrate Aquí

Descarga el folleto **aquí**

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

Aging & Grief Training Opportunities

Growing Older Together: Aging Siblings and Intellectual Disability
November 5, 2025 I 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM I Zoom

Register Here

NJCDD Hybrid Public Meeting
November 13, 2025
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Register Here

The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) Hybrid Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2025, from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn, located at 800 US Route 130 in Hamilton, NJ. To attend in person or make a public comment, please send your in-person RSVP or written public comments to Jacinta.Williams@njcdd.org by Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

ACCOMMODATION:
For in-person accommodations, language interpretation, and/or other accommodations, please contact Jacinta Williams at Jacinta.Williams@njcdd.org with your specific accommodation request at least two weeks in advance or by Wednesday, October 30, 2025.

Reunión Pública Híbrida de NJCDD
13 de Noviembre de 2025
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Regístrate Aquí

La Reunión Pública Híbrida del Consejo de Discapacidades del Desarrollo de Nueva Jersey (NJCDD) se llevará a cabo el Jueves 13 de Noviembre de 2025, de 9:30 a.m. a 1:30 p.m., en el Hilton Garden Inn, 800 US Route 130, Hamilton, NJ. Para asistir en persona o hacer un comentario público, envíe su confirmación de asistencia en persona o comentarios públicos por escrito a Jacinta.Williams@njcdd.org antes del Miércoles 12 de Noviembre de 2025.

ALOJAMIENTO:
Para alojamientos en persona, interpretación de idiomas y/o otros ajustes, comuníquese con Jacinta Williams en Jacinta.Williams@njcdd.org con su solicitud específica de alojamiento al menos con dos semanas de anticipación o antes del Miércoles 30 de Octubre de 2025.

In the News

The Bergen Record

Over a year after their daughter's sudden group home death, a NJ couple still want answers

Jean Rimbach and Ashley Balcerzak, NorthJersey.com

It's been more than a year since 21-year-old Katherine "Katie" Moronski died just two days after moving into a group home for adults with developmental disabilities in Sussex County, the result of a fatal mix of her prescription medications, which the staff was responsible for administering. Yet her parents are still waiting for the results of a state investigation into their daughter's sudden and unexpected death.

Read More

Resources

Division of Family Development

The Division of Family Development (DFD) is the state agency that supervises four programs that support New Jersey Families. Use the links below to navigate to the service you are looking for.

The Child Care Assistance Program can help lower-income families who are working, in training or in school, or a combination of these activities to pay a portion of their child care.

Get help paying for, or finding, childcare in NJ

The New Jersey Child Support Program helps establish and enforce child support orders, locate parents, establish paternity, and provide options for paying support.

Learn more about Child Support

NJ SNAP is the food assistance program that helps low-income individuals and families buy the groceries needed to eat healthy.

Learn more, and apply, for food assistance

WFNJ provides temporary cash assistance and many other support services through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program for families and General Assistance (GA) for single adults and couples without children.

Learn more about WFNJ cash assistance

Voting: It's Your Right

Voting: It's Your Right is a guide about voting rights and the voting process in New Jersey written in clear language for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The 7th Edition, available electronically in English and Spanish, provides readers with information on:

- Registering and preparing to vote
- Options for voting by mail and in-person
- Voting rights and accessibility
- Contacting election officials with questions

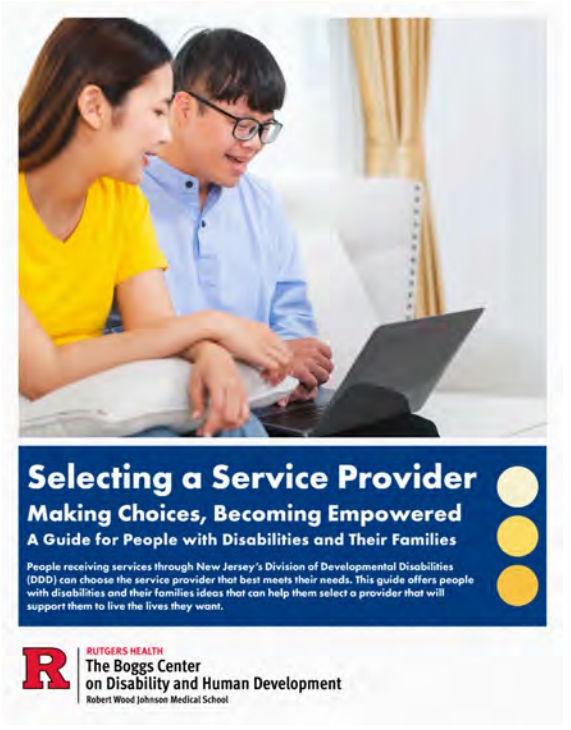
Download guide – English

Download guide – Spanish

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

Access the Order Form Here

Voting: It's Your Right is also available as an **E-Learning course**



Selecting a Service Provider: Making Choices, Becoming Empowered

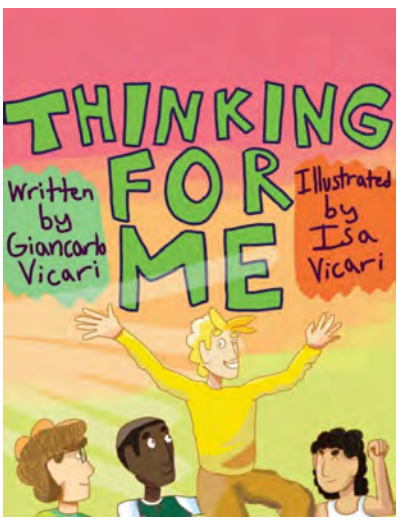
People receiving support through New Jersey's Division of Developmental Disabilities can choose the service provider that best meets their needs. This guide offers people with disabilities and their families ideas that can help them select a provider that will support them to live the lives they want.

Download guide – English

Download guide – Spanish

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

Access the Order Form Here



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

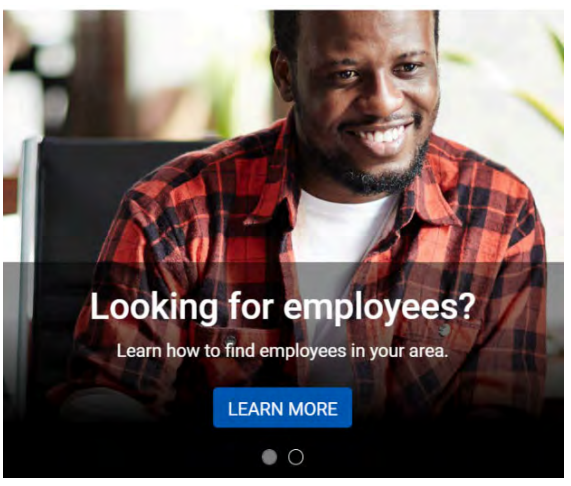
Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families

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



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

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

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

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

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

NJCDD Disclaimer: *New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities does not endorse or recommend any programs, providers, or organizations. This is for information-sharing purposes only.*