

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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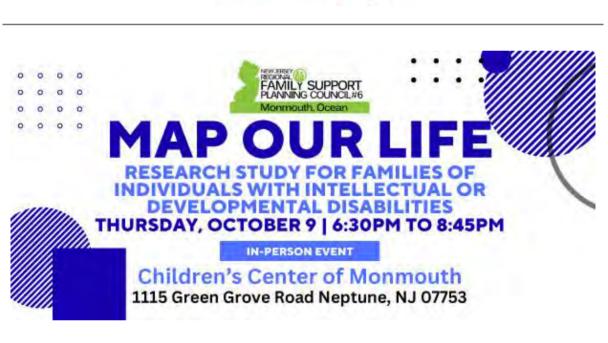


Spinal Cord Awareness Month

The United Spinal Association represents our nation's 5.5 million wheelchair users. They proudly trace their roots to the paralyzed World War II vets who came home to an inaccessible nation and made it their new mission to create a fully inclusive society. The Association honors them by using today's tools to directly provide topnotch service and resources to their members, chapters, and the broader disability community.

Learn More

Take Action



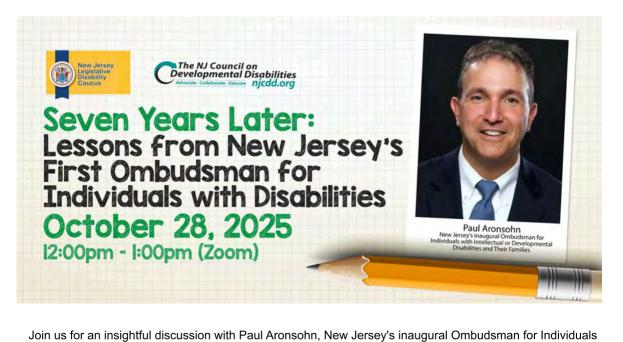
Learn about a clinical research study focused on testing a long-term care planning tool for family caregivers of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD).

RSVP Here

Download the Flyer HERE

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Christine Bakter, Deputy Director, New Jersey Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families, Arshnoor Kaur and Nicole Sampaio, Research Coordinators, Northwell Health



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.





SparkNight is the free monthly art party at the museum inviting everyone to explore art, engage their creativity, and have fun! You are invited to attend the launch event for Disability Awareness Month. Free and open to the public. Complimentary light refreshments.

> Thursday, October 02, 2025, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 pm Zimmerli Art Museum, 71 Hamilton St, New Brunswick, NJ, 08901

> > Learn More

Please contact for more information education@zimmerli.rutgers.edu.

If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the access provided, please call Nicole Simpson, Access Coordinator, at 848-932-6178 or email nsimpson@zimmerli.rutgers.edu in advance of your participation.



Register Here

Each year, the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project (NJSAP) and the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (NJSSAN) work together to host the annual Fall Conference. This event is an opportunity for disability advocates to network, learn about current advocacy issues, and attend professional development workshops.

The theme of our 2025 in-person conference will be "Play Your Part." The Advisory Board members of the NJSSAN picked this topic to bring awareness that every person is a vital part of advocacy as a whole. Advocacy is stronger when we all speak up together and everyone 'plays their part'!

During our opening session, we will hear from some amazing speakers, including Patrice Jetter. There will also be an exhibitor hall, a keynote speaker, and a panel led by members of our NJSSAN. The Conference will end with a dance party/networking session. DJ Redline will be the DJ for our dance party/networking session. Exhibitors will also be available throughout the conference.



Facility Transition, Medicaid & **Person-Centered Planning** Join staff from Disability Rights New Jersey's

Know Your Rights: Nursing

Institutional Rights team as they present a rightsbased 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



with Intellectual/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



Download Flyer

Assistive Technology 3-Part Webinar Series

Disability Rights New Jersey will be hosting a threepart 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



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

Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series

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

"But They Won't Understand:" Dispelling the Myths of Grief, Loss, and I/DD October 8, 2025 I 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM I Zoom

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

Growing Older Together: Aging Siblings

and Intellectual Disability November 5, 2025 I 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM I Zoom

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

The Changing Landscape of Post-Secondary Options

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

Spirituality and Belonging: Pathways Into

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** 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







HUMAN SERVICES





September 2025 Policy Manual **Updates** — Re-Release On September 17, the Division of Developmental

Disabilities released version 7.0 of the Community Care Program policy and procedure manual and version 10.0 of the Supports Program policy and procedure manual. Since that release, we recognized that additional minor updates were needed. As a result, version 7.0.1 of the Community Care Program policy and procedure manual and version 10.0.1 of the Supports Program policy and procedure manual were released today. You will find a summary of changes on page two of each manual, including the minor revisions since the first release on September 17. Community Care Program Policy Manual (Sep. 2025, v7.0.1) Supports Program Policy Manual

(Sep. 2025, v10.0.1)



Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey Concussion Awareness

Day Event In recognition of the event, BIANJ hosted an educational program for media and more than 200 student-athletes at Metuchen High School. BIANJ Board President Steven Benvenisti was joined on stage by Senator Patrick Diegnan, Tony Maselli (Chief Operating Officer, New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association), Dr. Vincent

Caputo (Metuchen Superintendent of Schools), and Metuchen High School students and staff, namely Ed Porowski (principal), Molly Grant (athletic trainer), Mike Knoth (varsity girls soccer

coach), and Lilya Barlas (student-athlete and

concussion survivor).

Presentation

September 19 was Concussion Awareness Day in New Jersey:a day annually dedicated on the third Friday of September to raise awareness of the causes, signs and symptoms, and dangerous effects of concussion.





Selecting a Service Provider: Making Choices, Becoming **Empowered**

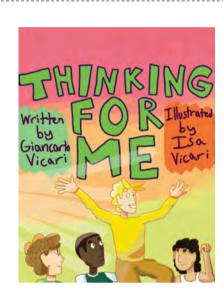
People receiving support through New Jersey's Division of Developmental Disabilities can choose the service provider that best meets their needs. This guide offers people with disabilities and their families ideas that can help them select a provider that will support them to live the lives they want.

Download guide - English

Download guide - Spanish

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

Access the Order Form Here



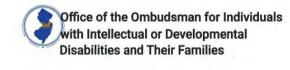
Thinking for Me Comic

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





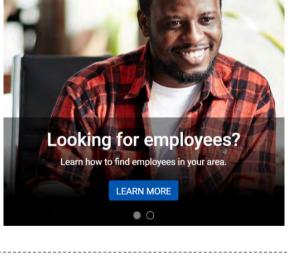
Transition Resources New Jersey State Resources

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.

One challenge common to every individual with an

Learn More

Jobs that Care New Jersey



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!

The Direct Care and Service Workforce is critical to

please check out the information on this site to learn more and to find jobs in your area. Learn More

If you are interested pursuing a rewarding career,



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



EARN ABOUT SSI & SSDI. BENEFITS, AND MORE!



BENEFICIOS POR DISCAPACIDAD HTTPS://NJ.DB101.ORG ENCUENTRE EL SEGURO

- MÉDICO A SU MEDIDA **ESTIMADOR DE BENEFICIOS**
- Y TRABAJO CONOZCA LOS BENEFICIOS
- DE SSI Y SSDI, ¡Y MAS!

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.







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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