

Eye on Advocacy

Weekly E-Newsletter

December 2, 2025

5 YEAR PLANNING

2027 • 2031



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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2027-2031 Proposed Five-Year State Plan: Public Comment Phase

• WE NEED YOUR INPUT •

5 YEAR PLANNING

2027 • 2031



Following a comprehensive review and analysis of issues affecting people with IDD and their families, including input from families, people with IDD, and other stakeholders; and in accordance with federal rules concerning the work of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, the NJCDD voted on November 12 to approve and publish for public comment the Goals and Objectives for the five-year State Plan for 2027–2031.

Individuals and organizations who wish to provide written comments may do so in one of the following ways.

- **Completing a survey (available in multiple languages)**
- **Sending an email to njcdd@njcdd.org**
- **Sending a letter to the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, PO Box 700, Trenton, NJ 08625-0700**

All comments must be submitted by **January 15, 2026**. Please note that mailed comments must be postmarked by December 31, 2025 to be considered.

Click here to read the following documents

[Proposed Plan](#)

[Plain
Language
Plan](#)

[Background
and Process](#)

Survey Links

[English](#)

[Arabic](#)

[Chinese](#)

[Gujarati](#)

[Korean](#)

[Portuguese](#)

[Spanish](#)

Upcoming Events

For more details on the events listed in this issue, scroll down

- Growing Together: Supporting Sibling Bonds Across the Lifespan: [Register Here](#)
- The Protecting Care: What NJ Advocates Need to Know about H.R. 1: [Register Here](#)
- Boggs Center Training: [Register Here](#)
- The Boggs Center Lecture Series: [Learn More](#)
- Fiscal Intermediary (FI) Transition Updates [Learn More](#)



UPCOMING FREE WEBINAR

Growing Together

Supporting Sibling Bonds Across the Lifespan

Thursday, December 4
12:00 - 1:00PM EST

Siblings of individuals with intensive needs often carry unique joys and challenges throughout their lives. This talk explores the emotional dynamics that can shape sibling relationships, ranging from love and pride to stress and resentment. The presentation offers practical ways families can foster connection, understanding, and mutual support. Together, we'll discuss both proactive and responsive strategies to help siblings feel seen, supported, and confident in their roles, both now and in the future.

SPEAKERS
 Bianca Coleman, Ph.D., NCSP, BCBA-D, LBA
 Behavior Therapy Associates
 Jennifer Cruz, Ph.D., NCSP
 Behavior Therapy Associates

REGISTER AT
go.rutgers.edu/GrowingTogether

www.clep.rutgers.edu



Community Living Education Project
 Proud to be a part of
 Rutgers School of Public Health
 Behavior Therapy Associates



Growing Together

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[Register Here](#)



PROTECTING CARE:

WHAT NEW JERSEY ADVOCATES NEED TO KNOW ABOUT H.R. 1

WEBINAR WITH Q&A

H.R. 1, formerly known as the One Big Beautiful Bill, will have major implications for New Jersey's Medicaid program, NJ FamilyCare. This webinar will equip advocates with the information they need to understand and respond.

DISCUSSION INCLUDES:

- ✓ High-level overview of H.R. 1, outlining its origins, major provisions, and its direct and indirect impacts on vulnerable populations
- ✓ Funding restrictions and new administrative requirements that could limit access to optional Medicaid services, like HCBS
- ✓ Implications for the Medicaid expansion population, including work requirements, eligibility redeterminations, and cost sharing provisions.
- ✓ NJ-specific strategies and advocacy opportunities to protect access to care

**THURS, DEC 11TH
2PM TO 3:15PM**



SCAN TO REGISTER

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COALITION AT DISABILITYRIGHTSNJ.ORG/GSSC/

Protecting Care: What NJ Advocates Need to Know about H.R. 1

The Garden State Coalition for Care presents a webinar for advocates with Q&A discussion: Protecting Care: What NJ Advocates Need to Know about H.R. 1

H.R. 1, formerly known as the One Big Beautiful Bill, will have major implications for New Jersey's Medicaid program, NJ FamilyCare. This webinar will equip advocates with the information they need to understand and respond.

Experts from the Garden State Coalition for Care will provide a high-level overview of H.R. 1, outlining its origins, major provisions, and its direct and indirect impacts on older adults and people with disabilities, and their caregivers. The presentation will highlight how funding restrictions and new administrative requirements could limit access to optional Medicaid services, including home and community-based services that support people remaining in their homes and communities.

[Register Here](#)

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

The Boggs Center offers training and consultation on topics relevant to addressing the needs of and supporting people with developmental disabilities and families across the lifecycle.

You may view and register for many of these trainings using [The Boggs Center Online Registration System](#).

Learn more about Boggs Center training and consultation opportunities:

Aging & Grief
Behavior & Mental Health
Community Supports & Quality
Community-Based Instruction
Employment
Meaningful Days
PCAST - Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition
People With DD And Families
Supports Brokerage
Support Coordination
Transition
Workforce Development & Frontline Supervisors

[Learn More](#)

Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series

FALL 2025 WEBINARS

Registration is open for the Fall 2025 Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series.

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

[Learn More](#)

All sessions will be held online using The Zoom Webinar platform.

OFFICIAL SITE OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Governor Phil Murphy • Lt. Governor Tahesha Way

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Department of Human Services

Division of Developmental Disabilities

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Home / For Individuals and Families / Home and Community Based Services / Self-Directed Services/Self-Direction

Fiscal Intermediary (FI) Transition Update

Personal Preference Program Fiscal Intermediary Transition Webinars

The Personal Preference Program (PPP) is hosting two webinars for PPP participants, authorized representatives, families, workers, and community members regarding the fiscal intermediary transition with fiscal intermediaries, Palco and Public Partnerships, LLC (PPL). Each fiscal intermediary will have a dedicated session to provide transition updates, address questions, and gather feedback from the community.

Registration is required and you may register for both sessions
Please note that these sessions are for PPP only and cannot address DDD's transition to Acumen.

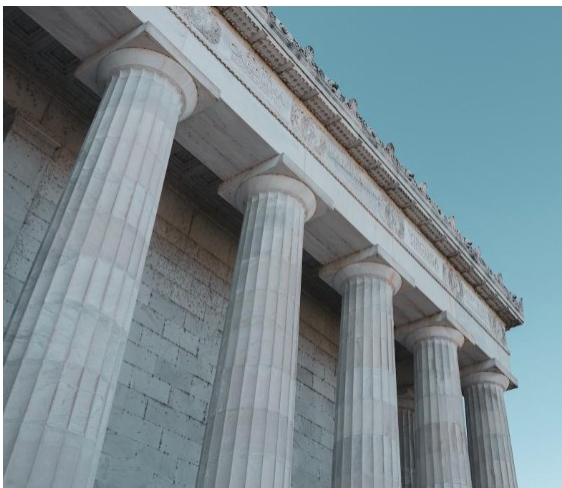
Session 2: PPP FI Transition: Public Partnerships, LLC (PPL)
 Date & Time Jan 7, 2026 from 12:00 – 1:00 PM

If you wish to submit questions/comments please email the PPP Team at MAHS.PPP@dhs.nj.gov by Monday, January 5, 2026.

[Register Here for Session 2](#)

Please visit the PPP's web page for fiscal intermediary, Managed Care Organization, and the PPP State Program Office contact details.
 Link here: PPP.NJ.go

In the News



Help with a Federal Agency

If you can't get an answer from a federal agency in a timely fashion, or if you feel you have been treated unfairly, our office may be able to help resolve a problem or get you the information you need. While we cannot guarantee you a favorable outcome, we will do our best to help you receive a fair and timely response to your problem.

Residents of the 7th Congressional District of New Jersey can contact us for assistance in dealing with Federal agencies. In order to better serve you, this form will generate a printable pdf document that you should sign and mail, fax, or deliver in person to our office.

[Read More](#)



New Jersey awards \$35 million to expand affordable housing across 23 communities

By Shore News Network
TRENTON, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) announced more than \$35 million in new Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) investments for fiscal year 2026, funding 23 housing developments across the state that will create nearly 230 new affordable rental and homeownership units. An additional \$10 million was awarded to Habitat for Humanity projects to build and rehabilitate homes for low- and moderate-income families.

The latest round of awards brings the Murphy administration's total investment in state and federal housing trust funds to more than \$260 million, supporting nearly 1,400 affordable homes statewide.

[Read More](#)

Resources

Supports Brokers

Assisting and Empowering You to Self-Direct



Getting Started

In New Jersey, people can self-direct all or some of their Home and Community Based Services, made available through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Supports Program or Community Care Program. Self-directed services are provided by a person you hire, known as a self-directed employee (SDE), or a service provided by a business/vendor that serves the general public, and are paid through use of a fiscal intermediary. Your Support Coordinator will work with you and, as needed, your family to help you understand what it means to self-direct by sharing information, as well as:

- Talking with you to learn about your strengths, needs, and interests, and what you want and don't want in your life
- Supporting you to describe your life goals
- Identifying different types of support that can be used to help you achieve your life goals, including DDD services, relationship-based supports (such as a family member or neighbor), community resources, technology, and other state and local service systems
- Explaining how self-directed services are different from provider-managed services, and which DDD services can be self-directed and which cannot
- Describing the role of the fiscal intermediary and the differences between the two options – Agency with Choice and Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent
- Sharing information about the resources you use when you self-direct one or more of your services

A fiscal intermediary will be used to process payment and assigned tasks related to your approved self-directed services.

When you choose to self-direct, you can hire a Supports Broker.

Supports Brokerage is a service that is available in the DDD Supports Program and Community Care Program. Your Support Coordinator can help you to identify a Supports Brokerage agency. A **Supports Broker** can help you coordinate and maintain your self-directed services. They empower you to take control of your self-directed services, grow community connections, and direct the life you want.

Learn More

- Check out *Understanding Self-Directed Services in New Jersey* by the Boggs Center: <https://boggscenter.rutgers.edu/resources/publications/understanding-self-directed-services-in-new-jersey-and-the-role-of-the-supports-broker>
- Visit the **Office of Education on Self-Directed Services** webpage: <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/individuals/community/education>
- Email DDD.OESD@nj.gov



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Division of
Developmental
Disabilities



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

Supports Brokers: Assisting and Empowering You to Self-Direct

In New Jersey, people can self-direct all or some of the Home and Community Based Services, made available through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Supports Program or Community Care Program. Supports Brokers can help people who choose to self-direct to coordinate and maintain their self-directed services. The Boggs Center is excited to share **Supports Brokers: Assisting and Empowering You to Self-Direct**, a new one-page fact sheet to help people with disabilities and families better understand self-direction and the roles and responsibilities of Supports Brokers.

[Download Fact Sheet](#)



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

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.

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on Disability and Human Development
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Selecting a Service Provider: Making Choices, Becoming Empowered

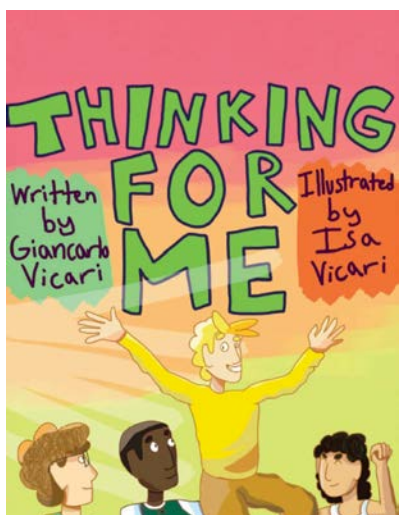
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[Download guide – English](#)

[Download guide – Spanish](#)

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[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](#)



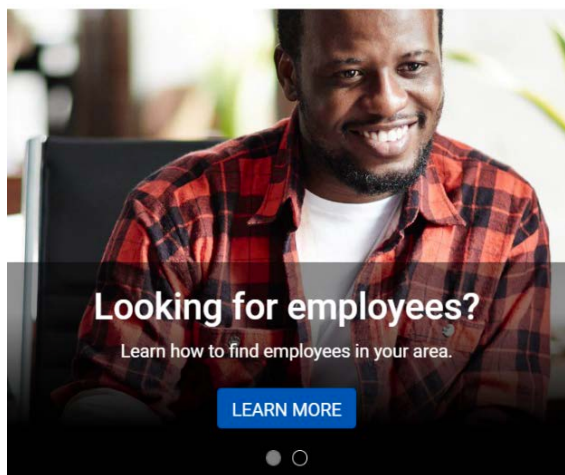
Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals
with Intellectual or Developmental
Disabilities and Their Families

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



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](#)



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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.