



Providing families with access, answers and action




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# The Transition Into the Adult System

A STEP BY STEP PROCESS FOR CHILDREN AGING OUT OF THE CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE AND ENTERING INTO THE ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE (DDD)



A smooth transition identifies the right combination of ongoing services, new supports, resources, and community connections that will help your child and family succeed.

## Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities(IDD)



- **New Jersey's Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)** provides public funding for services and supports that help NJ adults ages 21 and older, with IDD, live as independently as possible. Services and supports are available in the community from independent providers and from 5 state-run developmental centers.
- DDD uses a Medicaid-based, fee-for service (FFS) reimbursement system. (standardized service rates, billed in smaller units, services purchased individually)
- Individuals will be enrolled into the Supports Program (SP) or the Community Care Program (CCP), depending on specific needs.



# STEPS TO ACCESSING DDD SERVICES & SUPPORTS

This timeline applies to students who will have exhausted their educational entitlement by turning 21 years of age within the 2021 - 2022 school year.

# Step 1: Become Eligible For Medicaid

To be eligible for DDD services, **you MUST be eligible for Medicaid**

## **Medicaid:**

- **provides health insurance** to parents/caretakers and dependent children, pregnant women, and people who are aged, blind, or disabled.
- **pays for** hospital services, dr. visits, prescriptions, nursing home care, and other healthcare needs

# Medicaid Eligibility

To be eligible for Medicaid, a person must:

- Be a resident of New Jersey
- Be a US citizen or qualified alien
- Meet specific standards for financial income and resources

The individual must also fall into one of the following categories:

- Families w/dependent children
- People who are 65+, blind, or permanently disabled
- Pregnant women

For Medicaid eligibility information, go to:

[www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/medicaideligibility.html](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/medicaideligibility.html)

Another way to initiate the  
Medicaid Eligibility  
process:

**Supplemental Security  
Income (SSI)**

SSI is **HIGHLY  
RECOMMENDED** for  
individuals with **IDDs** who  
turn 18 and expect to  
pursue **DDD** services.

The **SSI** program pays  
**benefits to adults with  
disabilities (after they turn  
18)** who have limited  
income and resources.

The **Social Security  
Administration** does **NOT**  
count parental income and  
resources for **SSI** eligibility.

Every **NJ** resident who  
receives **SSI** will  
automatically receive **NJ  
Medicaid**.

Having **SSI** protects  
**Medicaid** eligibility  
for the future.





For information on how to apply for SSI benefits:

<https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-apply-ussi.htm>

- If someone is NOT eligible for SSI due to having a monthly income and/or financial resources that are above SSI limits (\$750/month in general, less than \$2000 in assets), they can still apply for Medicaid:

- Visit your county board of Social Services
- Apply online at [www.njfamilycare.org](http://www.njfamilycare.org)
- Call 1-800-701-0710 to request a paper application



## Step 2: Apply for DDD Eligibility

- After the student turns 18, contact the DDD Community services office nearest your place of residence.  
**Paterson Office: (973) 977-4004**
- To download the DDD Eligibility Application, go to:  
[www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/apply/index.html](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/apply/index.html)

# To receive DDD Services, an individual must:

1.

Apply and be determined to meet the functional criteria of having an IDD

2.

Be Medicaid eligible **and maintain eligibility**

3.

**Establish that NJ is the applicant's primary residence**

# What are the functional criteria?

Your child must have a chronic developmental disability (which can be physical and/or intellectual) that manifested (developed) prior to age 22 and is a lifelong condition. This condition or combination of conditions must substantially limit your child in at least three of these areas of life activity:

Self care	Economic self-sufficiency
Learning	The ability to live independently
Mobility	Communication
Self-direction	

## Step 3: Complete the NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJCAT)

- An assessment used by the Division to assess an individual's support needs in three main areas: SELF CARE, BEHAVIORAL, and MEDICAL
- The NJ CAT results establish the tier (A-E) in which an individual is assigned.
- The tier is associated with a corresponding individualized budget/
- The tier determines the reimbursement rate that a provider will receive for that individual for particular services.
- Completed by those who know the individual's needs best and is conducted by the DDD Community Services Office nearest your residence, as part of the eligibility application process.

## Step 4: Complete the Support Coordination Agency Selection Form

When the student is in his/her last year of school-based services and is 21 or turning 21, the Support Coordination Agency Selection Form is completed and submitted.





## What is Support Coordination?

A Division-funded service that assists individuals in gaining access to needed program and state services, as well as needed medical, social, educational, and other services.



# What Do Support Coordinators Do?



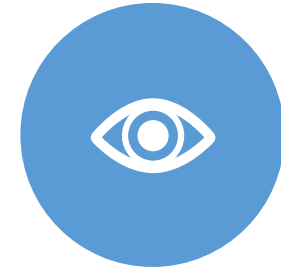
INDIVIDUAL  
DISCOVERY



PLAN  
DEVELOPMENT



COORDINATION  
OF SERVICES



MONITORING

# Individual Discovery

- Support Coordinators use a ***person-centered*** approach, always keeping in mind the individual's needs, desires, short-term and long-term goals.
- The individual is ***always*** involved in the planning process.
- The Support Coordinator will fill out the PCPT (Person-Centered Planning Tool) with the family.



# Plan Development and Coordination of Services

**The Support Coordinator will write the ISP (Individualized Service Plan):**

- Based on information from the NJCAT and PCPT
- Using and coordinating community resources
- With a thorough understanding of the services funded by the Division





## Monitoring and follow-up are required to ensure:

- The delivery of quality services
- Services are provided in a safe manner
- Progress is made towards the individual's identified outcomes
- Services and supports remain within the allotted budget

# Monitoring Schedule with your Support Coordinator



MONTHLY CONTACT  
(PHONE)



QUARTERLY CONTACT  
(FACE-TO-FACE)



ANNIVERSARY MEETING  
(WITH PLANNING TEAM)

# Examples of Division-Funded Services

Assistive Technology	Natural Supports Training	Prevocational Training
Occupational Therapy	Career Planning	Community Based Supports
Behavioral Supports	Physical Therapy	Respite
Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)	Cognitive Rehabilitation	Day Habilitation
Speech, Language and Hearing Therapy	Environmental Modifications	Goods and Services
Support Coordination	Supported Employment (Small Group)	Transportation
Fiscal Management Services	Interpreter Services	Community Inclusion
Supports Brokerage	Vehicle Modification	Supported Employment (Individual)

September –  
June:

## Preparation and Planning

### Participate in activities offered through Planning for Adult Life

- Planning for Adult Life ([www.PlanningForAdultLife.org](http://www.PlanningForAdultLife.org)) has a variety of resources available for students with IDD's ages 16-21 and their families, including:
  - **Webinar Wednesdays** : covers topics of interest related to transition to adult life.
  - **Opportunity Expos**: events held in different areas of the state throughout the year, where students and families can meet and learn about SC agencies and service providers.

September –  
June:

## Preparation and Planning

- Learn about Support Coordination
- Attend Boggs Center trainings on effective partnering with Support Coordination Agencies
- Research Support Coordination Agencies and Service Providers



September –  
June:

## Preparation and Planning

Through **person-centered planning**, assist the student in identifying his/her vision for work and life and supports that may be needed to achieve this vision.

For help getting started, review DDD's Person-Centered Planning Tool:

[www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/person-centered-planning-tool.docx](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/person-centered-planning-tool.docx)

**February/March:**  
Support  
Coordination  
Agency Selection

- Complete and submit the **Support Coordination Agency Selection Form** (Step 4)
- Identify both a first-choice and second-choice agency to increase your chance of getting an agency of your own choosing.

# What To Look For In A Support Coordination Agency

- Have they been trained in the Individualized Support Plan (ISP) and the Person-Centered Planning Tool (PCPT)?
- Do they have 10-15 years of experience?
- Are they familiar with resources and Information in your county?
- Will they have your plans and services up and running within 30 days?



# What To Look For In A Support Coordination Agency

- Can they connect you to local support groups?
- Are they available for emergencies 24 /7?
- Do they provide a great customer service experience?
- Do they approve their own ISPs or will you have to wait for the Division's approval?
- **WE DO!!**



## April: Support Coordination Agency Assignment

### **DDD assigns the student to a Support Coordination Agency:**

- Based on the SCA Selection Form that was completed
- And the available capacity of the agencies selected.

## April – June: Service Plan Development

### Develop the Individualized Service Plan (ISP)

- Support Coordinator (SC) and other members of planning team will meet
- SC will write the Individualized Service Plan (ISP), with guidance from planning team, information from the NJCAT, and the PCPT

**\*\* The ISP should be completed and approved before the student exits the school system, so that services will be in place upon graduation. \*\***

# References

Information presented in this presentation is derived from information and material resources from NJ Support Coordination at Caregivers of New Jersey, as well as the following valuable resources:

- **The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey**
- **NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities**





## NJ Support Coordination at Caregivers of New Jersey

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