

## MARCH IS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

This year's theme is "A World of Opportunities".

We are celebrating people and working together to remove obstacles.

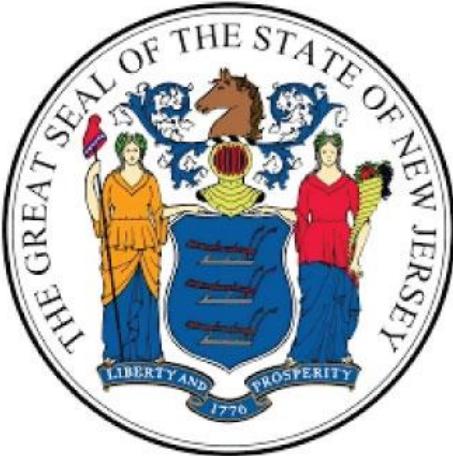
The goal is to build a community that is committed to creating a world where everyone can do well and succeed. Join us in making a world where everyone has the chance to thrive.

---

[NJCDD's Eye on Advocacy](#) weekly e-newsletter published every Tuesday focused 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](mailto:njcdd@njcdd.org).

[Subscribe to NJCDD's Publications](#)

# Take Action



**New Jersey Senate and Assembly  
Public Hearings  
FY2025 State Budget**  
**March 11th, 19th, 20th, and 26th**

Following the release of Governor Murphy's proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 State Budget, the New Jersey Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Budget Committee have announced they will be conducting their respective public hearings on the FY2025 State Budget.

Interested individuals can begin registering to testify at one of the public hearings. Participants will only be allowed to testify at one Senate public hearing and/or one Assembly public hearing. Those participants from statewide and national organizations with multiple chapters, offices, locations, etc., should consolidate their efforts and select one person to represent each of these organizations at one public hearing. Presentations may include information pertaining to more than one chapter, office, location, etc.

**The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee will host its first hearing in person on March 19, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. ET** at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, at the Campus Center Atrium, 150 Bleeker Street, Newark, NJ. [Click here to register to attend.](#)

**The second Senate hearing** will be held virtually without the possibility of in-person attendance on March 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. ET. [Click here to register to attend.](#)

**The Assembly Budget Committee will hold its first public budget hearing** in person on March 11, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. ET in Committee Room 11 on the 4th Floor of the State House Annex, 145 West State Street, Trenton, NJ. [Click here to register to attend.](#)

**The Assembly Budget Committee will hold its second hearing** in person on March 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. ET in Committee Room 11 on the 4th Floor of the State House Annex, 145 West State Street, Trenton, NJ. [Click here to register to attend.](#)

NJAMHAA encourages all members to participate in these public hearings as it is more important than ever to both propose and secure additional funds in the budget. For content to incorporate into testimony, please refer to [NJAMHAA's funding priorities and Diverse Faces](#): All Are Worthy of Full Investment campaign [brochure](#) and [videos](#).

**he New Jersey Legislature Budget Public Hearings webpage** [click here to register for any of these hearings and for more information.](#)

---



## START Services RFP

### Developing one mobile crisis prevention and intervention program

The New Jersey Department of Human Services' (DHS) Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) has rescinded the Request for Proposals (RFP) originally released on January 31, 2024, titled *START Services NJ: Development of Mobile Crisis Prevention and Response Program(s) to Serve People with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability and Co-Occurring Mental Health Needs Based on the National START Model*.

A replacement RFP was released on February 28, 2024, titled *START Services NJ: Development of a Mobile Crisis Prevention and Intervention Program to Serve People with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability and Co-occurring Mental Health Needs in Southern New Jersey Based on the National START Model*.

The successful bidder will partner with the [National Center for START Services™](#) to develop one mobile crisis prevention and intervention program, consisting of a clinical team and therapeutic coaching team, to serve adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental health needs who live in the southern region of New Jersey (as defined in the RFP).

[The Notice of Funding Availability](#) and [Request for Proposals: START Services NJ](#) are posted on the DHS [Request for Proposals/Information](#) webpage. The deadline to submit questions is March 13, 2024 and the deadline for proposal submissions is April 17, 2024.

An advertisement for Disability Rights NJ's Summer Internship Opportunities. It features the text 'SUMMER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES' in large yellow and blue letters, with 'DISABILITYRIGHTSNJ.ORG/CAREERS' at the top and 'Apply here' with an arrow pointing up. Below the text is a photo of five diverse individuals, including two women in wheelchairs, standing together. The bottom left corner contains the text 'DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW JERSEY ADVANCING JUSTICE. ADVOCATING INCLUSION.' and the bottom right corner has a small 'Learn More' button.

Disability Rights New Jersey is offering several opportunities this summer. The Sarah Mitchell Internship opportunity for a law student and social worker/humanities undergraduate or grad student; the NJ Bar Foundation Summer

Associate for a law student; and four NJCDD internships for people with IDD or their families. Please help spread the word!

Want to make a difference this summer? Fuel your passion with exciting work! ❤️ ➡️ Apply at [disabilityrightsnj.org/careers](http://disabilityrightsnj.org/careers) for one of several paid internship opportunities available beginning this spring.

[Learn More Here](#)



## **AAIDD Education Interest Network: Self-Advocate Scholarship**

We invite anyone that identifies as a self-advocate to submit a short proposal to receive a scholarship on behalf of the AAIDD Education Interest Network (EIN). The purpose of the AAIDD EIN is to advance the field in educating children, youth, and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This year's scholarship will go to a self-advocate who has taken steps to promote inclusion in education (at the K-12 and/or college/university levels).

### **Applicants are required to:**

1. have an intellectual and/or developmental disability (IDD)
2. be willing to publicly identify as having IDD
3. believe in the need to enhance the education of youth and young adults with IDD.

The scholarship recipient will be recognized at the AAIDD EIN in-person Business Meeting during the conference. The scholarship recipient will also be invited to share about their efforts related to inclusive education during the meeting.

### **Scholarship Award totals \$750 and Includes:**

- \$300 Conference Registration (paid by the organization)
- \$450 Cash Stipend for Travel (paid by a check upon arrival to the conference)

The submission deadline is: **April 5, 2024**

[Apply Here](#)



**Center for Transition to  
Adult Health Care  
for Youth with Disabilities**

## **Development and Leadership Opportunities Open for Youth with I/DD**

Applications due Friday, March 8, 2024

The Center for Transition to Adult Health Care for Youth with Disabilities, an ACL grantee, is recruiting youth and young adults ages 12-26 with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to

participate in development and leadership opportunities. These opportunities will allow members to grow, build relationships, and impact national work while receiving a stipend for their time and work. There are two opportunities available

- **Youth Steering Committee (YSC)**  
**Member:** The YSC is a group of youth ages 17-26 who guide the center's design and operation. The YSC guides the work plan, develops resources, and supports evaluation efforts. YSC members receive ongoing support and education to build their knowledge about health care transition and leadership skills.
- **Youth Development Initiative (YDI)**  
**Committee Member:** The YDI is a group of youth ages 12-17 with I/DD who will receive training and mentoring by young adult leaders also with I/DD. This initiative will help them understand health care transition, advocacy, and self-determination. These skills support youth in their own transition and prepare them for potential leadership opportunities.

Contact [rshandler@spanadvocacy.org](mailto:rshandler@spanadvocacy.org) with any questions.

[Apply Here](#)

---

## State-Wide Survey of Older Adults, 2024

New Jersey Advocates for Aging Well (NJA) conducting a statewide survey to gather older adult insight and opinions on aging in the state. Please help this effort by completing the survey and/or sharing this information with your network and consumers. This survey is open to the address below. If you are age 60+, consider NJA their primary residence, and live independently in the community, NOT in skilled nursing settings. The survey period ends March 15, 2024. The survey can be completed electronically by visiting the NJAAW website <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X8X3VDS> and mailed to 3705 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 102, Hamilton, NJ 08619.



[Take the Survey Online Here](#)

# Upcoming Events

## FINALLY HOME NJ SYMPOSIUM



Saturday, March 9 10:00am - 2:00pm  
TCNJ Student Center 2000 Pennington Rd  
Ewing Township, NJ 08618  
Lunch and refreshments will be served.

Join the Finally HOME NJ project with Values Into Action for our in-person Housing Symposium!

This Symposium seeks to share the many stories and lessons we've learned throughout the course of this project.

The Symposium will feature speakers who will share their experiences and insights on the viable and sustainable housing related approaches and practices in supporting people with complex and aging needs.

Please note that this is an in-person event and there will not be a livestream.

Space is limited to a total of 100 people.

**Register here:**  
<https://forms.gle/pGe6zAd2Dka5yHwU7>

For questions, please contact Alex Brosseau at [AlexB@Viapa.org](mailto:AlexB@Viapa.org)

This work is supported by the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, in part by grant number 210INJICDD, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Washington, D.C. 20201 as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$2,096,439.00 with \$835 funded by ACL/HHS and \$1,913 funded by the State of NJ. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express their own findings and conclusions. Such findings and conclusions may not necessarily represent the official ACL policy and do not necessarily represent the official view of, nor an endorsement by, ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.



Join the Finally HOME NJ Project with Values Into Action for our Finally HOME NJ Symposium!

**March 9, 2024 | 10am - 2pm**

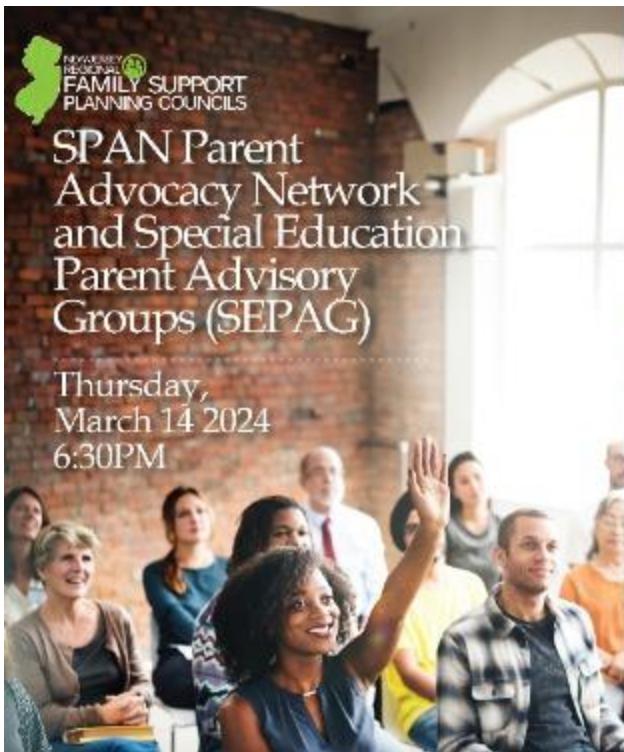
**2000 Pennington Rd, Ewing, NJ 08618**

This Housing Symposium seeks to share the knowledge and lessons learned throughout the course of Finally HOME NJ, a one-year grant project funded by the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities.

The Symposium features Self-Advocates speakers with lived experience to share their insights on the viable and sustainable housing related approaches and practices in supporting people with complex support and aging needs.

Please note that this is an in-person event and there will not be a livestream. Due to the limited space available, we cannot register more than 75 people at this time.

[Register Here](#)



## **SPAN Parent Advocacy Network and Special Education Parent Advisory Groups (SEPAG)**

The Regional Family Support Planning Council #6 (Ocean and Monmouth) cordially invites you to this special forum with Peg Kinsell, Peg Kinsell, Policy Director and Director of Military Family Support 360, at SPAN Parent Advocacy Network. She will present what SPAN does and how they support the Special Education Parent Advisory Groups throughout the State.

Bring your questions! There will be ample time for Q&A.

Multi-lingual closed captioning is available for this event. Please indicate the language you use on the registration page.

[Register Here](#)

## **Red de defensa de padres de SPAN y grupos asesores de padres de educación especial (SEPAG)**

El Consejo Regional de Planificación de Apoyo Familiar #6 (Ocean y Monmouth) lo invita cordialmente a este foro especial con Peg Kinsell, Peg Kinsell, directora de políticas y directora de Military Family Support 360, en SPAN Parent Advocacy Network. Ella presentará lo que hace SPAN y cómo apoyan a los Grupos Asesores de Padres de Educación Especial en todo el estado.

¡Trae tus preguntas! Habrá tiempo suficiente para preguntas y respuestas.

Hay subtítulos multilingües disponibles para este evento. Por favor indique el idioma que utiliza en la página de registro.

[Registrar Aquí](#)



The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) Hybrid Public Meeting will be held on Thursday March 14, 2024 from 9:30am to 1:30pm at the Hilton Garden Inn, 800 US Route 130, Hamilton NJ. To attend in person or make a public comment, please submit your In-Person RSVP or written public comment to [Jacinta.williams@njcdd.org](mailto:Jacinta.williams@njcdd.org) by Wednesday March 13, 2024.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS:

For in-person accommodations, language interpretation and/or other accommodations, please contact Jacinta Williams at [Jacinta.williams@njcdd.org](mailto:Jacinta.williams@njcdd.org), with your specific accommodation request at least two weeks in advance or by **February 29, 2024**.

[Register Here](#)

La reunión pública híbrida del Consejo de Discapacidades del Desarrollo de Nueva Jersey (NJCDD, por su sigla en inglés) se llevará a cabo el jueves 14 de marzo de 2024 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 un comentario público por escrito a [Jacinta.williams@njcdd.org](mailto:Jacinta.williams@njcdd.org) antes del miércoles 13 de marzo de 2024.

#### ADAPTACIONES:

Para adaptaciones en persona, interpretación de idiomas u otras adaptaciones, comuníquese con Jacinta Williams en [Jacinta.williams@njcdd.org](mailto:Jacinta.williams@njcdd.org), con su solicitud de adaptación específica con al menos dos semanas de anticipación o antes del **29 de febrero de 2024**.

[Registrar Aquí](#)

## Inclusion of Service Dogs

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

11:00am – 12pm

This session will discuss Nimit Kaur's journey with her guide dog and to explore the distinction between service animals and emotional support animals as well as relevant legislation.

[Register Here](#)

Inclusive Healthy  
Communities

NJ Division of Disability Services



## ADA Overview

Thursday, March 21, 2024

11:00am – 12:15pm

This session will review how the ADA defines "a person with a disability," where and when the ADA applies, who has obligations under the ADA, and the various enforcement agencies involved with the ADA.

[Register Here](#)

RUTGERS

Robert Wood Johnson  
Medical School

THE BOGGS CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

*New Jersey's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service  
New Jersey's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program*

# Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series

SPRING 2024 WEBINARS

Friday, April 5, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### Supporting Community Life Engagement for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

This session will focus on how day services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can support community life engagement (CLE).

Friday, April 12, 2024 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### The Evolution of Autism Policy in the US: Implications for the Future

The prevalence of autism in the US has increased rapidly in the last three decades. In this session, participants will learn about how policies and programs to meet the needs of this growing group have been created and put in place.

Friday, May 10, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### Trauma Informed Supports for People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

This session will provide a view of trauma from the perspective of the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

Friday, May 17, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### Improving Employment Outcomes: The Lessons We Are Learning

As interest in Employment First gains ground, state agencies and service providers are being called upon to rethink how they support people with disabilities and help them become valued members of our workforce.

[Register Here](#)

# In the News



## **U.S. Dept. of Education's Office for Civil Rights Releases New Resources on Students with Disabilities**

On February 20, The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) released four new resources with information for students, parents and families, and schools addressing civil rights of students with disabilities, as well as a data snapshot about education access for students with disabilities drawn from OCR's 2020-21 [Civil Rights Data Collection \(CRDC\)](#).

OCR issued these new resources to inform students with disabilities, and their families and schools, about their legal rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students with disabilities by institutions that accept federal financial assistance, which includes almost all public schools and public and private institutions of higher education.

[Learn More on News & Resources](#)



## **U.S. Dept. of Education's Office for Civil Rights Releases New Resources on Students with Disabilities**

On February 20, The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) released four new resources with information for students, parents and families, and schools addressing civil rights

of students with disabilities, as well as a data snapshot about education access for students with disabilities drawn from OCR's 2020-21 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC).

OCR issued these new resources to inform students with disabilities, and their families and schools, about their legal rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students with disabilities by institutions that accept federal financial assistance, which includes almost all public schools and public and private institutions of higher education. To view the release announcement and the new resources

# Resources

## 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](#).

## An Enhanced Family Support Crisis Handbook 4th Edition

Available in English and Spanish



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.

Access the multi-language handbook

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.



**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.