



[**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.

[Subscribe to NJCDD's Publications](#)

In April, we celebrate World Autism Awareness Month (WAAM), and April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD).

The aim is to put a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism and others living with autism face every day. As a growing

global health issue owing to its increasing exposure in the press and common knowledge, autism is an issue that is only gaining more understanding and WAAD activities are planned every year to further increase and develop world knowledge of children and adults who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

What's more, World Autism Awareness goes one step further to celebrate the unique talents of those with autism, while putting a huge focus on the warm embrace and welcome that these skills deserve through community events around the globe.

Things to do for National Autism Awareness Let's take time to celebrate children who are neurodiverse. There are many opportunities to have fun with your kids, so plan a day trip for one of these activities. These sensory-friendly events are inclusive and fun for all from [NJ Family](#).

Autism Awareness Month Events



SABE is Hiring Administrative Support Person

The SABE Support Person will provide administrative, "behind the scenes" support to SABE Board members so that they may fully participate in SABE-related activities. This job is 20 hours per week and is located in Washington, D.C.

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) is the United States' national self-advocacy organization. We are a national board of regional representatives and members from every state in the US.

[Learn More Here](#)

Take Action



The Gary Rubin Independence and Advocacy Fund from The New Jersey American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (NJAAID)

The New Jersey American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (NJAAID) dedicates this emergency fund to Gary Rubin, and NJCDD council member and a former NJAAID board member nationally recognized and respected advocate. Gary has dedicated his life and energy to promoting the independence of people with disabilities, closing institutions, and expanding community supports.

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can apply for this grant up to \$5,000 in order to meet emergency needs such as medical care, utility bills, housing needs, scholarships, and other major emergencies.

Contact Walter Kalman at wkalman@njaidd.org for more information.

[Download the Brochure 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](#)



Do You Know the Developmental Disability Agencies Available to You?

In recognition of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Ombudsman's Office for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and their Families are excited to launch a survey to assess individuals with disabilities and their families' awareness and satisfaction with several organizations.

This survey is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Chinese, and Gujarati. See below for the links to the specific language.

English- Survey [Here](#)

Spanish- Survey [Here](#)

Portuguese- Survey [Here](#)

Korean- Survey [Here](#)

Chinese- Survey [Here](#)

Gujarati- Survey [Here](#)

The survey will be available until
April 15th, 2024.

If there are any questions about the survey or if you need any assistance in completing it, please contact **Kerry McGrath** at kerry.mcgrath@njcdd.org or (609)-984-4516. A live interpreter is available upon request.



¿Conoce las agencias de discapacidad del desarrollo disponibles para usted?

En reconocimiento del Mes de Concientización sobre las Discapacidades del Desarrollo, el Consejo sobre Discapacidades del Desarrollo de Nueva Jersey y la Oficina del Defensor del Pueblo para Personas con Discapacidades Intelectuales o del Desarrollo y sus Familias se complacen en lanzar una encuesta para evaluar la conciencia y satisfacción de las personas con discapacidades y sus familias con varias organizaciones.

Esta encuesta está disponible en inglés, español, portugués, coreano, chino y gujarati. Consulte a continuación los enlaces al idioma específico.

[**Inglés- Survey Here**](#)
[**Español- Survey Here**](#)
[**Portugués- Survey Here**](#)
[**Coreano- Survey Here**](#)
[**Chino- Survey Here**](#)
[**Gujarati- Survey Here**](#)

La encuesta estará disponible hasta el
15 de abril de 2024.

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre la encuesta o si necesita

ayuda para completarla, comuníquese con **Kerry McGrath** en kerry.mcgrath@njcdd.org o (609)-984-4516. Un intérprete en vivo está disponible a pedido.



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.

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**.



Your Voice Matters!

2024 State Rehabilitation Council Public Forums Listening Session

- State Rehabilitation Council & the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services representatives will be available to listen to you
- Help shape program delivery & policy to increase employment for people with disabilities
- Share your lived experiences
- Help us learn about the issues, concerns, strengths and suggestions you may have

Save The Date and Register

Tuesday, April 30th at 6:30pm
Wednesday, May 1st at 3:00pm
Monday, May 6th at 10:00am

Registration Deadline: Tuesday April 23rd

REGISTER NOW!



State Rehabilitation Council Public Forums Listening Session

- State Rehabilitation Council & the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services representatives will be available to listen to you
- Help shape program delivery & policy to increase employment for people with disabilities
- Share your lived experience
- Help us learn about the issues, concerns, strengths and suggestions you may have.

Save the Date and Register

- Tuesday, April 30, 2024 | 6:30-8:00pm
- Wednesday, May 1, 2024 | 3:00-4:30pm
- Monday, May 6, 2024 | 10:00-11:30am

[Register Here](#)

Upcoming Events

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 | 10:00 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](#)



Housing options for people with disabilities

**Saturday, April 6
10am to 12noon**



Opciones de vivienda para personas con discapacidad

**Sábado 6 de Abril
10am a 12 mediodía**

Housing options for people with disabilities

Saturday, April 6 | 10am to 12noon

One size does not fit all. This is especially true when it comes to housing and supports for people with I/DD. Come and meet families who bravely endeavor to navigate their unique housing journey for their loved ones with disabilities. You will learn about various housing settings such as traditional licensed group homes, "unlicensed" shared homes created by parents, apartments, and integrated housing. The panel will be joined by professionals who embrace person-centered planning and assist individuals with I/DD and their families to meet their housing and support needs.

--

You can choose to attend via Zoom or in person at Hilton Garden Inn Hamilton, 800 US-130, Hamilton Township, NJ 08690. If you wish to attend in person, please register by 3/29/24.

For questions, please contact Kyoko, Kyoko.Coco@njcdd.org, at 609-341-3112.

[Learn More](#)

Opciones de alojamiento para personas con discapacidad

Sábado 6 de abril | 10 am a 12 mediodía

Una talla no sirve para todos. Esto es especialmente cierto cuando se trata de vivienda y apoyo para personas con I/DD. Venga y conozca a familias que valientemente se esfuerzan por recorrer el viaje único de vivienda para sus seres queridos con discapacidades. Aprenderá sobre diversos entornos de vivienda, como hogares grupales tradicionales con licencia, hogares compartidos "sin licencia" creados por padres, apartamentos y viviendas integradas. Al panel se unirán profesionales que adoptan la planificación centrada en la persona y ayudan a las personas con I/DD y a sus familias a satisfacer sus necesidades de vivienda y apoyo.

--Puede optar por asistir a través de Zoom o en persona en Hilton Garden Inn Hamilton, 800 US-130, Hamilton Township, NJ 08690. Si desea asistir en persona, regístrese antes del 3/29/24.

Si tiene preguntas, comuníquese con Kyoko, Kyoko.Coco@njcdd.org, al 609-341-3112.

[Learn More](#)



SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

LISTENING SESSIONS

Monday, April 29th 1-2:30pm
Thursday, May 2nd 7-8:30pm
Monday, May 6th 1-2:30pm



TRANSPORTE ESCOLAR SEGURIDAD

SESIONES DE ESCUCHA

Lunes, 29 de abril 1-2:30pm
Jueves, 2 de mayo 7-8:30pm
Lunes, 6 de mayo 1-2:30pm



School Transportation Listening Sessions

The New Jersey Department of Education is hosting three school transportation safety listening sessions with the support of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities and SPAN Parent Advocacy Network. The Department of Education's new Director of the Office of School Bus Safety, James Scaringelli, and the Special Education Ombudsman, Cynthia Hoenes-Saindon, would like to hear from individuals with disabilities and their families about their experiences, concerns and recommendations with school transportation for students with disabilities.

Monday, April 29th: 1-2:30pm

Thursday, May 2nd: 7-8:30pm

Monday, May 6th 1-2:30pm

Transporte escolar Sesiones de escucha

El Consejo de Discapacidades del Desarrollo de Nueva Jersey, SPAN la Red de Defensa de Padres y el Departamento de Educación de Nueva Jersey están organizando sesiones de escucha sobre seguridad en el transporte escolar. El nuevo Director de la Oficina de Seguridad en los Autobuses Escolares, James Scaringelli, y la Defensora del Pueblo de Educación Especial, Cynthia Hoenes-Saindon, quisieran escuchar a las personas con discapacidades y sus familias sobre sus experiencias e inquietudes con respecto al transporte escolar para estudiantes con discapacidades.

Lunes, 29 de abril: 1-2:30 pm

Jueves, 2 de mayo: 7-8:30 pm

Lunes, 6 de mayo: 1-2:30 pm

Multi-lingual closed captioning is available for this event. Contact Kerry McGrath at kerry.mcgrath@njcdd.org or 609-984-4516 if you have any questions.

Hay **subtítulos multilingües** disponibles para este evento. con Kerry McGrath en kerry.mcgrath@njcdd.org o al 609-984-4516 si tiene alguna pregunta.

Resources



Shared Responsibility and Collaborative Partnerships

Material shares by the Annual Disability Symposium held at the Weingarten Center at UPenn. on March 8 to assist our community when it comes to handling ADA issues.

Creating an accessible, inclusive environment does not solely rest on the shoulders of a university's disability staff. It is a shared responsibility for all members of a

responsibility for all members of a college/university community to work towards the common goal of creating facilities, programs, and services that are accessible and welcoming for people with disabilities.

Presentation Slides and Materials

- [Engaging Students Who Don't Identify as Disabled](#)
- [The SWAT Team: Developing Student Workers to Implement Accessibility on Campus](#)
- [Partners in Service: Collaborating to Increase Access to Service Opportunities for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [How to NOT Feel So Alone: Maximizing Community Partnerships](#)
- [Dual Perspectives on College Readiness: ODS and DOS brave the storm together!](#)

[Read More Here](#)

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.