



THE BRIDGE



Your weekly access to SPAN news, events and resources

CELEBRATING
**AUTISM
ACCEPTANCE
MONTH**



April 3, 2024 | Issue 124 ([View newsletter as webpage](#)) [Para leer este boletín en Español, haga clic aquí](#)

Important News



Biden Administration Finalizes Rule to Make Enrolling in Medicaid and CHIP Easier for Millions of Children and Families

On March 27, the Biden administration [announced](#) a final rule that improves how millions of Americans, including children, apply for and renew coverage through Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Basic Health Program (BHP). The rule standardizes enrollment and renewal processes nationwide and applies consumer protections from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to Medicaid and CHIP enrollees, like banning lifetime limits and waiting periods.

[Read the full announcement here.](#)

Resources

EDUCATE | ENGAGE | EMPOWER



Register early, space is limited!



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION:

TRANSITION MINI-CONFERENCE

Building A Future Of Possibilities

This FREE conference is for youth and their parents/caregivers on the transition to adult life, adult services, self-advocacy, assistive technology, and more.

Do You Understand Your Youth's Transition Plan?
Does your youth need to build their self-advocacy skills?
Are you a Youth preparing to transition from school to adult life?
Join us in person to learn strategies and resources from SPAN!

Youth Track: An interactive day of self-advocacy skill building for youth ages 14-21

Family/Caregiver Track: Understanding the IEP Transition Plan for post-secondary education and Employment. Understanding the transition to adult services.

Lunch will be provided

Saturday, April 6, 2024
2 Jean Walling, Civic Center Dr,
East Brunswick, NJ 08816
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Find the registration by clicking here: [Transition Mini-Conference](#)



SCAN ME

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network | 570 Broad St | 7th FL | Newark, NJ | 07102 | 800-654-SPAN | www.spanadvocacy.org

Partners in Education Transition Mini- Conference: Building a Future of Possibilities

10:00AM - 3:00PM ET
Saturday, April 6
East Brunswick Public Library
Civic Center Dr.
East Brunswick, NJ 08816
In Person

This FREE conference is for youth and their parents/caregivers on the topics of transition to adult life, adult services, self-advocacy, assistive technology, and more.

- Do you understand your youth's transition plan?
- Does your youth need to build their self-advocacy skills?
- Are you a youth preparing to transition



Free Healthcare Enrollment Assistance Offered

New Jersey Citizen Action Education Fund provides free ACA education, outreach, and assistance services to New Jersey residents to help them understand and apply for affordable health care coverage options through New Jersey's health insurance marketplace, GetCoveredNJ, as well as NJFamilyCare.

They offer free one-on-one health care enrollment assistance, in English and Spanish.

To learn more, [visit their website here](#).



from school to adult life?

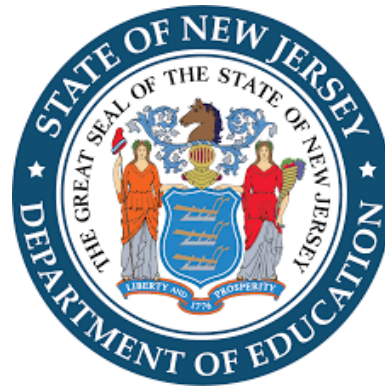
Join us in person to learn strategies and resources from SPAN!

To learn more and register, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events

SPAN offers a variety of learning opportunities for families and the professionals who work with them.

Highlighted Event This Week



Understanding the State's Bill of Rights for Deaf Students

The New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Special Education is offering a virtual presentation to explain the state's bill of rights for deaf students.

This session will describe the components of the communication plan that is required in the Individualized Education Program or 504 Plan of all students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

SURVEY: Do You Know the Developmental Disability Agencies Available to You?

In recognition of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March, the *New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities* and the *Ombudsman's Office for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and their Families* have launched a survey to assess individuals with disabilities and their families' awareness and satisfaction with several organizations. These government agencies are committed to providing services, education, and advocacy for the developmental disability community. Your participation in this survey will help the participating agencies and organizations identify areas for improvement, so they can all do better to meet the needs of this community.

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](#)

Additionally, the New Jersey Regional Deaf Education Centers of Excellence pilot programs will share how assistance can be provided with meeting some requirements of the state's bill of rights for deaf students.

This roundtable will be held virtually on two different dates, one session in English and the other in Spanish. American Sign Language interpreters will be present.

- Thursday, April 11, 2024, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in **English**. [Register here](#).
- Thursday, April 18, 2024, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in **Spanish**. [Register here](#).

Please register TODAY as the deadline is through April 3. Space is limited.

[See all of SPAN's upcoming events with details and registration links here](#)

Para recibir la edición en Español de este boletín semanalmente en su correo electrónico

[haga clic aquí para suscribirse](#)

- Gujarati-Survey [Here](#)

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

THE SPAN YOUTH HUB

A Weekly Blog for Youth And Young Adults



Finding Motivation

Read our latest youth blog post, "Finding Motivation," to discover how motivation affects our actions, pushes us towards our goals, and how to find motivation when needed.

To access the post, [click here.](#)

Subscribe to *The Bridge* by [CLICKING HERE](#)
Share your SPAN testimonial story! [CLICK HERE](#)
Join the SPAN Team - [View Open Positions here](#)

SPAN Parent Advocacy
Network | spanadvocacy.org



[DONATE](#)