



Division Update for Individuals, Families, and Providers

December 14, 2023

Agenda

- Upcoming Webinars
- Licensing of Residential Settings
- Provider Search
- New Job Recruitment Website
- New Incident Reporting Webinar
- New Self-Direction Resource
- Self-Directed Employees and Overtime
- NJ Minimum Wage
- January 1, 2024 Direct Support Professional and Supervisor Rate Increase
- Resources

Next DDD Update Webinar

- January Update Webinar:
 - Thursday, January 25, 2024 – 10:30 am.
 - [Register for the January Webinar.](#)
- The 2024 schedule of update webinars, including registration links, is available on the Division's [Public Update Meetings](#) webpage.

Licensing of Residential Settings

- Support Coordinators and DDD/Medicaid-approved providers are reminded that any setting with the following attributes **must be licensed** under [N.J.A.C. 10:44A – Standards for Community Residences for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities:](#)
 1. Individuals living in the setting are enrolled on the Community Care Program (CCP); – AND –
 2. The setting is provider managed; – AND –
 3. The individual living in the setting, as documented in the Individualized Service Plan (ISP), requires personal guidance.

Licensing of Residential Settings

- What is a Provider Managed Setting?
 - A setting in which a single provider agency coordinates CCP services and manages all aspects of residential services for one or more individuals living in that location.
- What is Personal Guidance (Per [N.J.A.C. 10:44A](#))?
 - The assistance provided to an individual with developmental disabilities in activities of daily living because he or she routinely requires help completing such activities of daily living and/or cannot direct someone to complete such activities when physical disabilities prevent self completion; or there is a documented health or mental health problem requiring supervision of the person for the protection of the individual or others. In the absence of a court determination, the planning team determines the need for personal guidance for each individual.

Licensing of Residential Settings

- Failure to license settings that have these attributes will result in negative action(s) including but not limited to denial of claims for Individual Support Services provided in the setting.
- Please see the Individual Supports Service Definition in the [Community Care Program Manual](#) (Page 123) for full detail.

Provider Search

- DDD offers an online Provider Search tool located at <https://irecord.dhs.state.nj.us/providersearch> to assist individuals, families, and Support Coordinators in identifying DDD/Medicaid Approved service providers.
- DDD service providers are reminded and encouraged to review their agency's information within Provider Search and update it as needed.

Provider Search

- To update their information, a service provider should follow these steps:
 - Go to Provider Search - <https://irecord.dhs.state.nj.us/providersearch>.
 - Download Provider Data Spreadsheet under the *Message of the Day*. Alternatively, the Provider Data Spreadsheet can be directly accessed [here](#).
 - Enter an updated description of the agency onto the form. Please note that there is a 570 character limit.
 - Email completed form to DDD.ProviderHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov.
 - Narrative will be updated within 5 business days.

New Job Recruitment Website

- The Department of Human Services and The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities collaborated on and are pleased to announce the launch of [Jobs that Care New Jersey](#).
- People can use this new website to find jobs as:
 - Direct support professionals who support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to participate in home and community life while promoting well-being; and
 - Certified home health aides who assist adults age 60 and older, and children and adults with disabilities or chronic medical conditions, to live in their homes by supporting daily activities.

New Job Recruitment Website

- As the website evolves, additional jobs in the direct support and service workforce will be added.
- Employers are encouraged to review the website and post job openings on the indicated job websites (Ex. Indeed, Monster, etc.).
- A promotional campaign will occur in 2024 to highlight the website and recruit direct care workers to the home and community-based care field.
- This website is supported, in part, by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award to the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

New DDD Incident Reporting Webinar

- The DDD Office of Risk Management and Office of Education on Self-Directed Services have collaborated to develop a new webinar, *Incident Reporting: An Overview for Individuals, Families and Caregivers*. While the targeted audience is people receiving DDD-funded services and their families and caregivers, the information is also relevant for support coordinators and coordination supervisors, supports brokerage and other service provider staff, and self-directed employees. Anyone may register to attend.
 - Wednesday, January 3, 2024, from 2 – 3 p.m.
 - [Register now for Jan. 3 Incident Reporting Webinar](#)

New Self-Direction Resource

- The fiscal intermediaries for DDD's two self-directed service models – Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent (VF/EA) and Agency with Choice (AWC) have both released a list of community vendors that individuals and their families have used to provide one or more of the following services:
 - Goods & Services
 - Assistive Technology (other than AT Evaluation)
 - Environmental Modification
 - Vehicle Modification
 - Transportation-Single Passenger Rate

New Self-Direction Resource

- The FI community vendor lists are provided as a helpful resource for Support Coordinators, and individuals in the Supports Program (SP) or Community Care Program (CCP) and their families.
- Placement on either list does not imply endorsement or approval by PPL, Easterseals NJ Financial Management Services, or the Division.

New Self-Direction Resource

- The vendor lists are not exhaustive and are in no way intended to reflect all vendors who may offer the same or similar goods or services to the general public in any given area.
- Community vendors are able to provide goods and services in either the VF/EA model or AWC model - this will depend on the self-directed service model the individual is or intends to enroll in.
 - [PPL VF/EA Community Vendor List](#)
 - [Easterseals NJ \(Financial Management Services\) AWC Community Vendor List](#)

Self-Directed Employees and Overtime

- Self-Directed Employees and Overtime
 - The Division continues to finalize policies that will allow for permanency of overtime for Self-Directed Employees (SDEs).
 - Given the upcoming holiday season, implementation and compliance with upcoming policy release is projected to occur in 2024.

New Jersey Minimum Wage

- In February 2019, Governor Murphy signed [New Jersey's Minimum Wage Law](#) requiring a minimum hourly wage of \$15 to be implemented statewide by January 1, 2024. Under the law, the minimum wage increases by \$1 per hour – or more if warranted based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- Minimum wage in New Jersey will increase to [\\$15.13](#) per hour on January 1, 2024.
- Any employer of staff in the DDD system, including individuals/families who employ Self-Directed Employees, must ensure that employee hourly wages are at or above the \$15.13 minimum by January 1, 2024.

New Jersey Minimum Wage

- Individuals who receive DDD-funded services from a **self-directed employee** will need to make sure they comply with the new law by ensuring their employee's hourly wage for any service provided is at least \$15.13 by January 1, 2024.
- To increase a self-directed employee's hourly wage, individuals must contact their Support Coordinator and the fiscal intermediary that issues payments to their employee.
- Please note that fiscal intermediaries are prohibited by law from compensating self-directed employees for any amount less than \$15.13 per hour beginning January 1, 2024.

January 1, 2024 Direct Support Professional and Supervisor Rate Increase

- The Division will be populating new rates for applicable services to operationalize a DSP and DSP Supervisor Rate Increase that will be effective January 1, 2024.
- Rates will be published before the end of the 2023.

Important Resources

- [Disability Rights New Jersey](#)
 - 800-922-7233 (toll-free in New Jersey only)
- [Ombudsman for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families](#)
 - 609-984-7764
- [New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)
 - 800-792-8858
- [The Boggs Center](#)
 - 732-235-9300

Important Resources

- For issues, call the Division Community Services office for your county or 800-832-9173.
- For routine questions: DDD.FeeForService@dhs.nj.gov
- To report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation: call 800-832-9173, then press 1.