



Division Update for Individuals, Families and Providers

June 27, 2024

Agenda

- Information Bulletin: Requirements for Direct Support Professionals
- HCBS Student Loan Redemption Program
- NCI State of the Workforce Survey
- New Support Coordinator Requirement: Mandatory Address Verification
- Virtual Welcome to DDD Sessions for Students and Families
- Family Networking and Peer-to-Peer Networking Sessions
- Voting
- Important Resources

Information Bulletin: Requirements for Direct Support Professionals

- June 11th Information Bulletin: [Requirements for Direct Support Professionals](#)
- Reminder to agencies to ensure Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), regardless of relationship to the person served, are and continue to be in compliance with staff requirements in Supports Program and Community Care Program policy manuals.
- Included in April 2024 policy-manual updates: A Direct Support Professional and/or Self-Directed Employee may not be regularly scheduled to work more than 16 consecutive hours in a 24-hour period.

Information Bulletin: Requirements for Direct Support Professionals

- Provider agencies should review *Section 15: Quality Assurance, Technical Assistance, and Auditing* in the policy manuals to ensure all DSP requirements are being met, which include but are not limited to:

Background and Exclusion Checks	Incident Reporting
Training and Development	Risk Management

Information Bulletin: Requirements for Direct Support Professionals

- Provider agencies also should review requirements for any service in Section 17 of the policy manuals that the agency provides, which include but are not limited to:

Service Limits	Mandated Staff Training and Personal Development
Provider Qualifications	Documentation and Reporting
Need for Service and Process for Choice of Provider	Medication Standards
Minimum Staff Qualifications	Quality Assurance and Monitoring

Information Bulletin: Requirements for Direct Support Professionals

- While all requirements are important, the bulletin draws specific attention to adherence to requirements pertaining to service documentation and the submission of incident reports (including those related to reports of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation; unsafe living conditions; etc.).

HCBS Student Loan Redemption Program

- Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Families, and Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) to launch Home and Community-Based Services Loan Redemption Program (HCBS-LRP), a new initiative that will provide student loan redemption up to \$50,000 to licensed health care, behavioral health, and social services professionals in exchange for a year of service at an eligible HCBS provider agency.
- Application will open July 1 and close July 31, 2024.
- [Provider Agency Webinar](#) (recorded)
- Webinar for potential applicants: Friday, June 28, 2024, 3 – 4 p.m.
 - [Register for Applicant Webinar](#)

HCBS Student Loan Redemption Program

- Psychiatrists, licensed psychologists, licensed social workers, licensed clinical social workers, psychiatric nurse mental health clinical specialists, board-certified behavior analysts, board-certified behavior analysts-doctoral, licensed clinical or certified alcohol and drug counselors, licensed professional and associate counselors, licensed or associate marriage and family therapists, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and DCF care managers will be eligible to apply if they work in any of the following settings:
 - DHS Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services-contracted agencies
 - DHS Division of Developmental Disabilities-funded agencies and self-directing employees
 - DCF-approved settings in specified programs
 - NJ FamilyCare managed care organizations (private duty nurses only)

NCI State of the Workforce Survey

- Deadline for provider agencies to respond has been extended by NCI to **July 31, 2024**. NCI has informed us this is the last year they will offer an extension.
- Initial invitations were emailed to eligible DDD providers – *to the provider email address on file in iRecord* – on March 5, 2024, with follow-up invitations sent monthly, bi-weekly and then weekly through July.
- If your agency has not received an invitation to participate, please email DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov as soon as possible.

NCI State of the Workforce Survey

- Data collected through the State of the Workforce Survey helps us examine and respond to challenges experienced by New Jersey's Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce serving adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, ***and has played a key role in the state's DSP wage increases.***
- Participation by as many eligible providers as possible is critical to ensure valid results. To learn more, visit [National Core Indicators®](#) or see our [NCI State of the Workforce Overview](#).

Mandatory Residential Address Verification for Support Coordinators

- In February 2024, a new litmus strip was added to the Residential Address tile in iRecord.
- Indicates residential address **verification status** and turns from yellow to green when a support coordinator verifies the residential address.
- Beginning June 1, 2024, support coordinators are required to verify an individual's residential address within the 30 days prior to approval of Individualized Service Plans, including initial plans, anniversary plans, NJCAT reassessment plans, retirement plans, and waiver program transition plans.
- If a residential address was verified more than 30 days prior to plan approval, the support coordinator must verify it again.

Virtual Welcome to DDD Sessions for Students and Families

- Provided by DDD [Office of Transition from School to Adult Life](#).
- These sessions, offered each quarter, are an opportunity for youth with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families to learn about and prepare for the transition to adult life and New Jersey's adult IDD service system.

Virtual Welcome to DDD Sessions for Students and Families

- Wednesday, July 3, 2024, Noon – 1 p.m. – an introduction to DDD and how to prepare to access DDD services, with plenty of time for Q&A!
 - [Register for July 3 DDD Welcome Session](#)
- Thursday, July 25, 2024, 6 – 7:30 p.m. – participants can join breakout rooms to learn more about a variety of topics.
 - [Register for July 25 DDD Welcome Session](#)

Family, Peer-to-Peer Networking Sessions

- Office of Education on Self-Directed Services – [Family and Peer-to-Peer Networking Sessions: Summer 2024](#)
- Upcoming Sessions – advance registration required!
 - For families who are or are interested in self-directing:
 - [Family Networking Session, Wednesday, July 10](#), 1 – 3 p.m., in-person, for families in Camden County area
 - [Family Networking Session, Thursday, August 8](#), 1 – 3 p.m., in-person for families in Cape May County/Atlantic County area
 - For individuals who are or are interested in self-directing some or all of their DDD-funded services:
 - [Peer-to-Peer Networking Tuesday, July 9](#), 6 – 7:30 p.m., virtual via Zoom



1-877-NJ-VOTER | 1-877-658-6837

To Register to Vote in New Jersey you must be:

- A United States citizen
- At least 17 years old, though you may not vote until you have reached the age of 18
- A resident of the county for 30 days before the election
- A person not serving a sentence of incarceration as the result of a conviction of any indictable offense under the laws of this or another state or of the United States.

Ways to Register to Vote in New Jersey

- Online
- Paper Application

Ways to Vote in New Jersey

- Vote-by-Mail Ballot
- In-person Early Voting
- At Your Polling Place on Election Day

General Election Dates to Remember

- October 15, 2024: Deadline to Register to Vote in General Election
- Oct. 26, 2024 – Nov.3, 2024: In-Person Early Voting for General Election
- November 5, 2024: General Election Day

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.