

State of New Jersey



NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Division Update for Individuals, Families, and Providers

July 28, 2022

Agenda

- August Webinar
- COVID-19 Statistics
- Fiscal Year 2023 Budget
- Individual Supports Rate Increase
- Day Services Rate Increase
- Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule
- Provider Ready Directory
- 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- Grant Program to Provide Technology Tools
- Resources

COVID-19 Update Webinar Schedule

- August Update Webinar:
 - Thursday August 25, 2022 – 10:30 am.
- [Register for the August Webinar.](#)



New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*



State of New Jersey	
Positive	2,199,011
Deaths	31,146

**This update is as of July 27, 2022.*

For regular updates: <https://covid19.nj.gov/>.

Consider downloading COVID Alert NJ on your Apple or Android smartphone: <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/app>.

DDD Specific COVID-19 Statistics*



	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Own Home		
Positive	4,056	2,180	850	7,086
Deaths	136	86	42	264

DDD-specific statistics are updated weekly. Community data includes individuals **actively under DDD services in settings such as group homes, supervised apartments, out of state, and own-home settings.*

Full detail, including data for individuals not under services for whom reporting is voluntary and provided for informational purposes only, can be found at [NJ Department of Human Services COVID-19 Information](#).

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

- The New Jersey Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget has been signed.
- Compared to FY22, the FY23 budget adds over \$110M to the Division's budget. Some areas this provides funding for are:
 - January 1, 2023 DSP and Supervisor Wage Increase.
 - Annualization of FY22 Employment/Day Rate Increases.
 - Increase to Individual Supports (Used for residential services).

Individual Supports Rate Increase

- Increase to Individual Supports (Used for residential services).
- Notice of rate increase was published on the [Public Notices](#) section of the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services website.
- This represents a 1% increase to the following rates:

- Base (Hourly Rate)
- Base with Acuity (Hourly Rate)
- Tier A
- Tier Aa
- Tier B
- Tier Ba
- Tier C
- Tier Ca
- Tier D
- Tier Da
- Tier E
- Tier Ea

Individual Supports Rate Increase

- Increase to Individual Supports (Used for residential services).
 - Updated [rates](#) were posted on July 15, effective July 16, 2022.
 - Medicaid and IT systems were updated July 23, 2022 to reflect the new rate.
 - Adjusted prior authorizations were issued **retroactive to July 16, 2022.**
 - If a provider submitted a claim for services rendered after July 16th but before July 23rd it will need to recycle claims for that time period using the new prior authorizations.
 - See [FY23 Individual Supports Rate Increase](#) for detail.





Day Services Rate Increase

- On October 1, 2021, Day Services Rates were increased due to one-time funding.
- The amount of the increase was calculated using projections that did not meet actual utilization of services.
- To address this, effective July 1, 2022, the Division increased day service rates by an additional 3%.
- Notice of rate increase was published on the [Public Notices](#) section of the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services website.
- A direct link to the notice can be found [here](#).

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule

- The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) is requesting Public Comment on Heightened Scrutiny Review as part of the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) Settings Rule](#).
- This rule applies to settings that receive HCBS funding and requires it to provide beneficiaries full access to the benefits of integrated community living and person-centered care.
- Public comment is being sought for the sites that require Heightened Scrutiny, the tools that will be used, and the process by which the Department of Human Services is conducting this review.





Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule

- The request for Public Comment is published on the [DMAHS Public Notices website](#). A direct link to the notice can be found [here](#).
- Public Comment may be submitted to DMAHS.HCBS-Settings-Rule@dhs.nj.gov through **August 19, 2022**.
- Additional information on the Home and Community Based Settings Rule can be found at:
 - DMAHS HCBS Site - https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/info/hcbs_resources.html
 - DDD HCBS Site - <https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/providers/federalrequirements/hcbsplan/>

Provider Ready Directory

- The Division utilized a Request for Letters of Interest (“RLI”) process to develop a Provider Ready Directory (PRD) in 2020/2021.
- The PRD includes Division/Medicaid providers who are readily available to assume service delivery for residential and/or day agencies in the event that a provider is no longer able to do so.
- The Division is reminding eligible providers that a provider can be added to the PRD at any time through the RLI process. Please see the below links for more information and apply if interested.
 - [Request For Letters of Interest to be Added to a Provider Ready Directory.](#)
 - [Request For Letters of Interest to be Added to a Provider Ready Directory – Questions and Answers.](#)
- Providers currently included on the PRD are reminded to alert the Division of changes, included agency contact, by emailing DDD.RFP@dhs.nj.gov.

988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

- [988](#) is now available for call, text, or chat to those experiencing a mental health-related or suicidal crisis, or those looking to help a loved one through a crisis.
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline continues to be available to persons of all abilities, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- The Division of Developmental Disabilities, and other governmental Departments, have worked with 988 to provide disability specific service information and other available resources.
- This will equip 988 to meet the presenting need of the caller and, as appropriate, connect them with other appropriate resources depending on their unique needs.



988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

- Providers rendering services to persons with IDD and/or TBI are reminded that 988 is distinct from 911.
- Under [Danielle's Law P.L. 2003, c.191](#), 911 must continue to be called in any situation where a prudent person could reasonably believe a life threatening emergency exists. More information can be found [here](#).
- For more information about 988, please visit the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline website](#).
- Additionally, a helpful *Frequently Asked Questions* document for persons with IDD can be found [here](#).



Grant Program to Provide Technology Tools

- The [Richard West Assistive Technology Advocacy Center](#), in partnership with the [New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities](#), is offering a grant program designed to provide technology tools for individuals to support independence and community involvement.
- Requests are limited to electronic devices to support the needs of adults (21 and over). **The deadline to apply is September 15, 2022.** Interested persons are encouraged to apply early funds are limited.
- For more information, and to complete an application, please click [here](#).



Important Resources

- [Disability Rights New Jersey](#)
 - 1-800-922-7233 (toll-free in New Jersey only)
- [Ombudsman for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families](#)
 - 1-609-984-7764
- [New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)
 - 1-800-792-8858



Important Resources

- For assistance during this time:
 - For issues, call the Division Community Services office for your county or 1 (800) 832-9173.
 - For routine questions: DDD.FeeForService@dhs.nj.gov
 - For COVID-related questions: DDD.COVID-19@dhs.nj.gov
 - To report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation: call 1 (800) 832-9173, then press 1.

Highlighted Resources

- For individuals, families and caregivers:
 - [Boggs Center COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)
 - [COVID-19 Materials for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Care Providers.](#)
- For individuals:
 - NJ Self-Advocacy Project's [Stay Healthy at Home Webinar Series.](#)
- For Direct Support Professionals:
 - [National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals \(NADSP\) COVID-19 Toolkit for DSPs.](#)
 - [CDC Guidance for Direct Service Providers.](#)