



## 2015 Graduates Aging Out of the School System:

### Steps to Accessing Services/Supports from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

*This timeline applies to students who have exhausted their educational entitlement by turning 21 years of age within the 2014/2015 school year*

#### DECEMBER 2014 – JANUARY 2015

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##### ✓ Ensure you are eligible for DDD

If you have not already been deemed eligible for DDD, contact the Intake/Intensive Unit within your DDD Community Services Office or start the application process through the DDD website at:  
[www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/apply/index.html](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/apply/index.html)

Contact information for the DDD Community Services Offices is available at:  
[www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/staff/cso](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/staff/cso)

##### ✓ Ensure you are eligible for Medicaid

Information on Medicaid eligibility as it relates to DDD is available at:  
[www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/medicaideligibility.html](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/medicaideligibility.html)

If you need assistance with applying for Medicaid or have not been able to become eligible, complete the Medicaid Eligibility Troubleshooting Form available on the website provided above and send it to:  
[DDD.MediElighelpdesk@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:DDD.MediElighelpdesk@dhs.state.nj.us)

Questions can be directed to the DDD Medicaid eligibility help desk at:  
[DDD.MediElighelpdesk@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:DDD.MediElighelpdesk@dhs.state.nj.us)

##### ✓ Complete the NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJ CAT)

Contact the Intake/Intensive Unit within your DDD Community Services Office to request access to complete the NJ CAT through the online survey or via phone call. Contact information for the DDD Community Services Offices is available at: [www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/staff/cso](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/staff/cso)

#### ONGOING: DECEMBER 2014 – JUNE 2015

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##### ✓ Participate in activities offered through the *Planning for Adult Life* project

Visit [www.PlanningforAdultLife.org](http://www.PlanningforAdultLife.org) for details about training sessions, resource materials, webinars, student groups, and parent groups covering topics for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities between the ages of 16-21 and their families. Topics covered through this project include but are not limited to employment/post-secondary education, housing, self-direction, self-advocacy/awareness, legal/financial planning, health/behavioral health, building/maintaining community ties, and friendships.

## √ Identify the student's vision for work and life and what supports he/she may need through Person-Centered Planning

You can use DDD's Person-Centered Planning Tool (PCPT) available at:

[www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/person\\_centered\\_planning\\_tool.doc](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/person_centered_planning_tool.doc) to help get you started.

## √ Research service providers

A list of DDD approved Support Coordination Agencies is available under "Additional Information" at: [www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/programs/supportsprgm.html](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/programs/supportsprgm.html)

Information about service providers in your area can be obtained by attending provider fairs offered throughout the state and through DDD's Planning for Adult Life project, your DDD Community Services Office, the "Search Providers" database link at [www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/programs/sppp.html](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/programs/sppp.html) and/or through your Support Coordination Agency.

## FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015

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### √ Complete and submit the *Support Coordination Agency Selection Form*

This form will be provided through the Interim/Intensive Unit within your DDD Community Services Office or is available under "Additional Information" at:

[www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/programs/supportsprgm.html](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/programs/supportsprgm.html)

DDD will process these forms to confirm DDD and Medicaid eligibility and completion of the NJ CAT, but the Support Coordination Agency will not be assigned until April 2015.

A list of currently approved Support Coordination Agencies is available under "Additional Information" at: [www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/programs/supportsprgm.html](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/programs/supportsprgm.html)

## APRIL 2015

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### √ DDD Assigns the Support Coordination Agency

DDD will assign Support Coordination Agencies based on your indicated preference. If you do not have a preference, indicate that on the Support Coordination Agency Selection Form and one will be auto assigned for you.

Once assigned, Support Coordination Agencies can receive DDD funding to attend exit IEP and/or transition related meetings at the school and begin developing the Individualized Service Plan (ISP)

## APRIL – JUNE 2015

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### √ Develop DDD's *Individualized Service Plan (ISP)*

The Support Coordinator will be responsible for writing the ISP, with guidance from the planning team (individual, support coordinator, family, providers, etc.), through the Person-Centered Planning process and information gathered from the NJ CAT.

**\*\*The ISP should be completed and approved prior to exiting the school system in order for services/supports to be available upon graduation\*\***



Planning for Adult Life activities, events, and materials are conducted and developed in partnership with

The Arc of New Jersey with funding from the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities

## **Fact Sheet on SSI**

**SSI – Supplemental Security Income – is highly recommended as soon as possible after 18<sup>th</sup> birthday**

- ◆ The [Supplemental Security Income](#) (SSI) program pays benefits to adults with disabilities (after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday) who have limited income and resources.
- ◆ For adults over the age of 18, the Social Security Administration (SSA) no longer counts the income and resources of parent(s) for eligibility for SSI.
- ◆ Every New Jersey resident who receives SSI will *automatically* receive NJ Medicaid. Having SSI protects Medicaid eligibility for the future.

### **Additional information on SSI for persons with I/DD**

**Q: Since DDD requires Medicaid eligibility to receive DDD services, why should 18 year olds with I/DD apply for SSI instead of applying for NJ Medicaid?**

**A:** When a parent of an individual with I/DD retires, becomes disabled, or dies, the son/daughter starts to receive Social Security Disability (SSD), and the amount of the monthly SSD benefit is based on the parent's work history. Usually, the amount of the SSD benefit is too high for the adult child to be eligible for Medicaid; if the son/daughter previously received Medicaid it would be terminated when SSD begins -- thereby jeopardizing their DDD services.

However, individuals with I/DD who previously had SSI are, in most cases, able to maintain their Medicaid eligibility -- even when they receive a large monthly SSD benefit. Social Security designates this special group as "[1634 DAC](#)". This is why it is so important for everyone with I/DD to apply for SSI at age 18 and obtain Medicaid through their SSI eligibility, rather than applying just for NJ Medicaid. It is also very important for the I/DD individual to maintain their monthly income and assets within the SSI eligibility limits.

**Q: What happens if an individual with I/DD, who is graduating in June, is determined to be ineligible for SSI because he/she already receives Social Security Disability (SSD) on the parent's work history?**

**A:** Occasionally, the parent of an individual with I/DD has retired, become disabled, or died *before* the son/daughter's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. In these situations, it is likely that the son/daughter with I/DD has been receiving a substantial Social Security Disability (SSD) benefit on the parent's work history before they could have applied for SSI. DDD recognizes that individuals in this situation are probably not able to obtain SSI or Medicaid. There is a process to document this type of situation. Please contact [broberts@arcnj.org](mailto:broberts@arcnj.org) for further information.

**Q: Where can families go online for more information from the Social Security Administration?**

**A:** Go to [www.SocialSecurity.Gov](http://www.SocialSecurity.Gov). It will be helpful to set up a personal online [my Social Security](#) account for everyone who receives SSI or Social Security benefits. Use this online account to: get the [benefit verification letter](#); check the benefit and payment information and earnings record; [change your address](#) and phone number; and [start or change direct deposit](#) of the benefit payment. For more information about SSI go to: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/>

**Q: What if the I/DD individual is not eligible for SSI for other income or asset issues not explained above?**

**A:** The monthly income and resource limits vary between SSI and NJ Medicaid. If the I/DD individual has a monthly income and/or financial resources above the SSI limits they could apply for NJ Medicaid, either "New Jersey Care" or "Workability", by visiting the local County Welfare Agency: <http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dfd/programs/njsnap/cwa/>