

MAY 20, 2021

THE TRANSITION PROCESS

Resources & Agencies to Know

An Overview

Michael Kilcullen

Transition Coordinator

Mkilcullen@ridgewood.k12.nj.us

201-670-2800 Ext 20570



RIDGEWOOD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THIS IS A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF SOME GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.
THE LINKS PROVIDED ARE TO HELP YOU EXPLORE THE INFORMATION FURTHER.



RIDGEWOOD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Ages 14-15

Begin attending workshops, for both students and parents
 Provide opportunities to make decisions, practice independence/ self-advocacy
 Begin exploring career options (Job shadow/ Volunteer)
 Conduct transition assessments and use them to develop IEP goals
 Work with the student to create a vision for their future



Ages 16-17

- Continue developing a transition plan
- Be sure IEP focuses on all skill areas to prepare student for postsecondary plans
- Consider first job experience or volunteering to build job skills
- Continue practicing self-advocacy
- Learn more about support options and future planning on guardianship, social security insurance (SSI), employment, housing needs, and recreation
- Discuss graduation timeline **NOTE:** DDD services do not begin until age 21



Age 18

- Ensure IEP goals focus on post-school outcomes
- Complete legal guardianship process if determined appropriate for you
- Apply for SSI/Medicaid
- Apply for Division of Motor Services photo ID if you don't already have one
- Register to vote
- Males, register for Selective Service within 30 days of your 18th birthday
- Apply for Access Link & Reduced NJ Transit Fare Card
- Continue building employment skills and expanding social network



Ages 18-21

- Attend transition fairs
- 2 years prior to Graduation, the Child Study Team should refer the student to NJ DVRS (Division of Vocational Rehabilitative Services)
- Conduct a Vocational Assessment
- Use the Person-Centered Planning Tool to determine post-secondary goals/ future plans
- Visit service providers and programs
- Research Support Coordination Agencies



Year of Graduation

- Ensure DDD Eligibility
- Ensure Medicaid Eligibility, if you have not already
- Complete the NJCAT
- Complete and submit the Support Coordination Agency Form to DDD
- Along with your support coordinator, develop an Individualized Service Plan
- *ISP needs to be done before graduation to ensure supports are in place

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PROVIDE SERVICES AND SUPPORTS THAT HELP PEOPLE DEVELOP NEW SKILLS, ACCOMPLISH PERSONAL GOALS, & BUILD A WELL ROUNDED ADULT LIFE



- **PERFORMCARE**: Provides services up to age 21
- **ACCESS LINK**: NJ TRANSIT'S ADA PARATRANSIT PROGRAM
- **DVRS**: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services – AGE 14+
- **SSI**: Supplemental Security Income - APPLY AT age 18
- **MEDICAID**: Obtained automatically with SSI eligibility - Age 18
- **ABLE ACCOUNT & SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST** (help protect benefits)
- **DDD**: Division of Developmental Disabilities SERVICES for 21+



PerformCARE

PERFORMCARE

- PerformCare in partnership with CSOC (Children's System of Care) is the single point of access to a wide array of behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disability services as well as substance use treatment for youth and families throughout New Jersey.
- If deemed DD eligible, services may include: family support, respite, assistive technology, ABA therapy, summer camp stipends, etc.

(877) 652-7624



PERFORMCARE: I/DD SERVICES (IF ELIGIBLE)

Intensive In-Home (IIH) services: ABA for acquiring and retaining self-help, communication, adaptive skills, and training the youth's parent or caregiver to implement a behavioral plan.

Family Support Services (FSS): Respite, Assistive Technology, Vehicle and Home Modifications, and Educational Advocacy. It must be an item not covered by medical insurance, and cannot be used to restrain the youth.

Summer Camp Services: Limited financial support for eligible youth to attend summer camp.

Youth can attend either a specialized camp or a mainstream camp, as long as the camp becomes qualified as a camp provider through CSOC.

APPLYING FOR I/DD ELIGIBILITY

- **For children younger than 18: Applications for eligibility for developmental disability services must be submitted to PerformCare online through their portal with the required documentation – see [website](#) for instructions and guidelines**
- **Individuals 18 years old or older must submit applications to the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).**
- **Youth between the ages of 18 and 21 may be found eligible by Division of Developmental Disability, but will receive services through Children's System of Care until their 21st birthday.**

PERFORMCARE: I/DD ELIGIBILITY

- **Services are for individuals up to age 21 (special consideration for services is given to children under the age five)**
- **A Diagnosis of a developmental disability** (Downs Syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, for example) & **Substantial functional limitation in three of seven areas:**
 - Receptive and expressive language function
 - Self-care
 - Learning
 - Self-direction
 - Capacity for independent living
 - Economic self-sufficiency
 - Mobility
- **The child and/or parent/legal guardian must be a United States & NJ citizen/permanent resident**



APPLYING FOR I/DD ELIGIBILITY

You can find these forms on their website:

<https://www.performcarenj.org/families/idd-application.aspx>

Complete application online through PerformCare portal and provide required documentation

These forms serve as a guide for submitting your application.

[Getting ready checklist \(PDF\)](#)

[Citizenship and residency requirementsOpens a new window \(PDF\)](#)

[Timeframes for Clinical Assessments Submitted for Developmental Disability](#)

[Eligibility DeterminationOpens a new window \(PDF\)](#)

Application forms: required

[Form A: Applicant information and declarationOpens a new window \(PDF\)](#)

[Form B: Child adaptive behavior summary \(CABS\)Opens a new window \(PDF\)](#)

[Form C: Documentation checklistOpens a new window \(PDF\)](#)

[Form D: privacy practices acknowledgementOpens a new window \(PDF\)](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FAQ: <https://www.performcarenj.org/pdf/families/faq-developmental-intellectual-disabilities.pdf>

I/DD Services explained:

<https://www.performcarenj.org/pdf/families/idd-services-flyer.pdf>

Application for I/DD Services:

<https://www.performcarenj.org//families/idd-application.aspx>

Video: I/DD Eligibility:

<https://www.performcarenj.org/families/disability/index.aspx>

To Prepare - Application checklist:

<https://www.performcarenj.org/pdf/families/readiness-checklist.pdf>

Summer Camp Services

<https://www.performcarenj.org/families/disability/summer-camp.aspx>

ACCESS LINK



ACCESS LINK – THE BASICS

NJ Transit's Paratransit service for individuals with disabilities. Call 973-275-5555 for an interview to discuss transportation needs

- **It is a shared ride from *origin to destination* – both must be within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile radius of NJ Transit route**
- **The routes, hours of operation, and fares are similar to those of NJ Transit bus network**
- **Paying a fare: You are encouraged to set-up a payment profile and use EZ-Wallet instead of handling cash**

New App: provides an easy-to-use interface for making reservations and monitoring the status of EZ-Wallet payment accounts.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Access Link website: <https://www.njtransit.com/accessibility/access-link-ada-paratransit>

Access Link Toolkit: <https://www.njtransit.com/news-events/access-link-tool-kit>

Fact Sheet:

<https://d2g63oyneaimm8.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/Access%20Link/THE%20ACCESS%20LINK%20MOBILE%20APP%20FACT%20SHEET.pdf>

The **[New Jersey Find A Ride](http://www.njfindaride.org)** website (www.njfindaride.org)

Travel Training: <https://vtc.rutgers.edu/njtip/>

EZ Wallet: <https://www.ezlink.com.sg/ezl-digital-wallet/>

Transportation programs for NJ Residents with disabilities

<https://www.lsnjlaw.org/Pages/Non-Legal%20Resources/Transportation-Programs-Disabilities.aspx>

DVRS

**DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION SERVICES**



DVRS (DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES)

To enable eligible individuals with disabilities to achieve an employment outcome consistent with their strengths, priorities, needs, and capabilities



Eligibility

(A) an individual must have a physical or mental disability that results in a substantial impediment to employment and require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment.

(B) Referrals are accepted from a variety of sources. School and/or medical records are often reviewed to determine eligibility.

DVRS SERVICES

- **Career Counseling**
- **Job Placement and Supported Employment**
- **Evaluations and Restorations**
- **Pre-Employment Transition Services**
- **Out of School Youth Employment Services**
- **Financial Assessment and Planning**
- **Benefits Counseling Services**
- **Work Related Accommodations & Assistive Technology**
- **Training Opportunities**
- **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services**
- **Bilingual Services**
- **Project SEARCH**

PRE-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Pre-Employment Transition Services cannot be duplicated if provided by the student's local school district.

Pre-Employment Transition Services are provided or coordinated by the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services to introduce and expose students to employment, help them make informed choices, learn acceptable work habits, and acquire real work experience.

The five Pre-Employment Transition Service are:

- **Job Exploration Counseling**
- **Work-based learning experiences**
- **Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary education programs at Institutions of Higher Education (IHE)**
- **Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living skills**
- **Instruction in self advocacy, including peer-mentoring**

THE DVRS PROCESS

- **Referral** (by parent/caregiver or Transition Coordinator)

Do not submit referrals online. Email referral forms to

Jessica.cole@dol.nj.gov or mkilcullen@ridgewood.k12.nj.us

- **Application and Intake Appointment**
- **Eligibility Determination**
- **Individualized Plan for Employment**
- **Case Closure**
- *It is recommended students connect with DVRS while in school, before graduating*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DVRS Website: <https://www.nj.gov/labor/career-services/special-services/individuals-with-disabilities/>

Online referral form:

https://lwd.state.nj.us/formsapp/form/136?_ga=2.258737928.306566268.1621109096-1651088873.1584968743

Pre-ETS Referral: <https://www.nj.gov/labor/career-services/assets/PDFs/PRE-ETS%20STUDENT%20REFERRAL%20FORM%20%20NEW10.2020.pdf>

Project Search: <https://www.projectsearch.us/>

Project Search Info Session:

<https://projectsearch.bergenworkforce.org/>

SSI: SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME & MEDICAID



SSI - SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

At age 18, only the individual's income is considered. Families should apply for SSI as soon possible after age 18.

- **New Jersey residents who receive SSI**
will automatically receive New Jersey Medicaid.
- **Having SSI protects Medicaid eligibility for the future**

To Qualify and maintain SSI:

Individual cannot have more than \$2,000 in his/her name – including gifts or assets.

ABLE Accounts and Special Needs Trusts are used to save money & maintain SSI eligibility

APPLYING FOR SSI

Information on applying for SSI: www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-apply-ussi.htm

Before starting the SSI application, it's helpful to set up a folder with:

- IEPs and assessments/evaluations
- Information on child's doctors, including medications and doses
- Parents should include all of their child's diagnoses, if applicable. For example: autism, seizure disorder, depression, and OCD, etc., with medical documentation of all of the diagnoses
- **When Social Security Administration reviews SSI application – they want to know how the disability will affect the individual's ability to be self-supporting.**

Parents can call the local Social Security office to make an appointment to apply for SSI benefits:

Hackensack office [\(800\) 772-1213](tel:8007721213)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Application guide: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/adults.html>

Understanding Benefits: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/>

Guide for SSI at age 18: <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11005.pdf>

If Denied SSI, appeal ASAP: www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/appeal

(Before an appeal, be sure of the reason for denial)

Article on SSI:

https://nj.db101.org/nj/programs/income_support/ssi2/program.htm

General Information: <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11148.pdf>

NJ.Gov information on SSI:

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/ssi/>

MEDICAID

➤ **Apply at 18**

Medicaid is also obtained with SSI eligibility

➤ **Acts as a secondary insurance if the student is covered by their parent's health insurance.**

➤ **Medicaid eligibility is required for DDD services.**

➤ **Medicaid can also fund long-term services and supports (LTSS). These are the services that people with developmental disabilities (DD) often rely on to live, learn, and work in their communities.**

➤ **Offers State Plan Benefits and Waiver Services**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NJ Gov Website:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/medicaideligibility.html>

Autism NJ – Medicaid Eligibility:

<https://www.autismnj.org/article/are-you-eligible-for-medicaid/>

Understanding Benefits:

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/news/ebhb.html>

If denied Medicaid: complete DDD's [Medicaid Eligibility Troubleshooting Form](#) and submit it along with a copy of the Medicaid denial letter, to DDD's Medicaid Eligibility Help Desk: DDD.MediEligHelpdesk@dhs.state.nj.us

Medicaid checklist:

https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/medicaid_document_verification_checklist.pdf

NJ Workability:

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds/services/workability/>

ABLE ACCOUNTS

(ACHIEVE A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACCOUNT)



WHAT IS AN ABLE ACCOUNT?

- **Allows individuals with disabilities to save for long-term needs without jeopardizing eligibility for programs like SSI or Medicaid.**
- **Current maximum is \$15,000 per year and can hold up to \$100,000 in a Tax Exempt ABLE Account**
- **Eligibility: Must be receiving SSI or SSDI. Age of onset of disability must be before age 26.**

Eligible expenses including, but are not limited to:

Education

Health

Housing

Transportation

Employment training

Personal support services

Assistive technology

Financial management

Personal support services

Basic living expenses

& Legal Fees

(All Referred to as “Qualified Disability Expenses”)



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Visit the ABLER website to open an account or to learn more about eligibility, qualified expenses, webinars and decision guides:

<https://www.ablenrc.org/>

SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST



SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST

- A Special needs trust allows a person with a disability to receive gifts or other funds without losing eligibility for SSI and Medicaid.
- These trusts typically pay for things beyond what is covered by benefits

Some requirements include, but are not limited to:

- *SNT beneficiary has been determined disabled*
- *SNT is irrevocable.*
- *SNT is for the sole benefit of the SNT beneficiary.*
- *Only specific individuals can establish the SNT*
- *Cash distributions from the trust to the SNT beneficiary must be counted as unearned income.*

It is important to consult a professional that has experience in special needs law and financial planning ([here is a professional directory](#))

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What is a SNT: <https://plannj.org/what-is-a-special-needs-trust-snt/>

NJ Arc:

<https://www.thearcfamilyinstitute.org/resources/special-needs-trusts-go-bag.html>

Funding a SNT:

<https://www.specialneedsalliance.org/blog/strategies-for-funding-a-special-needs-trust/>

Professional Directories:

<https://plannj.org/professional-directory/>

<https://www.specialneedsalliance.org/find-an-attorney/new-jersey/>

**DDD: (THE DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES)**



DDD ELIGIBILITY

Must meet the functional criteria of having a developmental disability & document that they have a chronic physical and/or intellectual disability that manifests before 22, is lifelong in nature and substantially limits the individual in at least three areas of life activity:

- Self-care learning
- Mobility
- Receptive and Expressive Language
- Self- Direction
- Economic Self-Sufficiency
- The ability to live independently
- Learning

PROCESS FOR OBTAINING DDD SERVICES AT 21

- 1. At 18: Medicaid Eligibility (automatically provided with SSI)**
- 2. Complete DDD Application for eligibility (if when 18 or older the individual was already determined eligible by CSOC you will complete the *short application*)**
- 3. Complete the NJ CAT Assessment: *Online or by phone-***
Mandatory assessment tool that evaluates support needs in three main areas: (1) self-care, (2) behavioral, (3) medical. **The results establish an individual's tier and individualized budget**
- 4. Select a Support Coordination Agency (A support coordinator helps individuals navigate their DDD budget to receive all the services needed)**

DDD: SUPPORTS PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM

THE SUPPORTS PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM WERE DEVELOPED BY DDD TO ASSIST ADULTS AGE 21 AND OLDER TO LIVE AS INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE. SOME SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
- BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS
- CAREER PLANNING
- COGNITIVE REHABILITATION (SP ONLY)
- COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORTS (SP ONLY)
- COMMUNITY INCLUSION SERVICES:
- COMMUNITY TRANSITION SERVICES (CCP ONLY)
- ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATIONS
- FISCAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
- GOODS AND SERVICES
- INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTS (CCP ONLY)
- INTERPRETER SERVICES
- NATURAL SUPPORTS TRAINING
- COMMUNITY TRANSITION SERVICES (CCP ONLY)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DDD Timeline:

<https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/graduates-timeline.pdf>

Website: <https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/>

NJ Arc DDD Go bag with short and long applications:

<https://www.thearcfamilyinstitute.org/resources/ddd-eligibility-go-bag.html>

DDD Supports and Community Care:

<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/quick-guide-for-families-english.pdf>

NJ CAT information:

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/resources/njcat.html>

Sample of the NJ CAT:

https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/documents/njcat_sample_assessment.pdf

SUPPORT, RECORDED WEBINARS, HELPFUL WEBSITES

The BCSS Cape Center - Paramus

Upcoming Events and Workshops: <https://www.bergen.org/Page/2736>

Webinars and Virtual Activities: <https://www.bergen.org/Page/4297>

Archived Webinars: <https://www.bergen.org/Page/4298>

Linda Wiesenek, Director 201-343-6000 X4067

NJ ARC

News and Events: https://www.arcnj.org/news_events/calendar.html

Archived Webinars: https://planningforadulthood.org/we_offer/archived-webinars-20.html

Summary of Resources: <https://www.thearcfamilyinstitute.org/resources/go-bags.html>

Autism NJ:

Chat Feature: <https://www.autismnj.org/>

NJ Overview of Agencies

<https://www.state.nj.us/education/specialed/transition/agency.shtml>

MAY 20, 2021

THE TRANSITION PROCESS

Agencies to Know

An Overview

Michael Kilcullen

Transition Coordinator

Mkilcullen@ridgewood.k12.nj.us

201-670-2800 Ext 20570



RIDGEWOOD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS