



CHRIS CHRISTIE  
GOVERNOR

KIM GUADAGNO  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

PO BOX 726  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0726

*Visit us on the web at :*

[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd)

Jennifer Velez  
COMMISSIONER

Dawn Apgar  
Deputy Commissioner

TEL. (609) 631-2200

## The Supports Program

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The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is in the development stages of a new program called the Supports Program, which will provide needed supports and services for adult individuals, 21 and older, living with their families or in their own unlicensed homes. It has been designed to help New Jersey better serve adults with developmental disabilities, significantly reduce the number of individuals waiting for supports and services, and enhance the State's ability to receive a federal "match" (\$.50 on the dollar) for services that are currently funded via state-only funding.

Once implemented, employment and day services, as well as all family support services – for both individuals currently being served and new individuals – will run through the Supports Program. With the exception of anyone enrolled on the Community Care Waiver (CCW), all adult individuals who are eligible for both DDD services and Medicaid will be able to access the Supports Program. The Supports Program is one of several important reforms included in the State's Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver (CMW), which was approved on October 1, 2012.

Here are some highlights of the Supports Program:

- It will provide all enrolled participants with employment and day services, which can be either self-directed or provider-directed.
- It will also provide all enrolled participants with an "up to" budget amount within one of three levels: \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000 based on their assessed level of need with which they can purchase additional individual and family support services (such as respite, camp, and assistive technology, etc.) on a fee-for-service basis. This budget will not include the individual's employment and day services, which will be separately budgeted, also based on need.
- Individuals and their families will have the flexibility to choose the options and opportunities for support services that will best meet their needs.
- Individuals will have access to professionals – called Support Coordinators – to assist them in developing an individualized Service Plan and link them to appropriate services. DDD staff – called Waiver Assurance Coordinators – will review and approve the Service Plans, authorize services and provide quality assurance.
- It will offer participants the following services: Assistive Technology, Behavioral Management, Career Planning, Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy, Community-Based Supports, Community Inclusion Services, Day Habilitation, Environmental Modifications, Fiscal Management Services, Goods & Services, Interpreter Services, Natural Supports Training, Occupational/Physical/Speech Therapies, Personal Emergency Response System, Prevocational Services, Respite, Support Coordination, Supported Employment – Individual, Supported Employment – Small Group, Supports Brokerage, Transportation, and Vehicle Modifications.

The Supports Program will help New Jersey maximize federal revenue and enhance community supports for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities resulting in meaningful system improvements for all.

To learn more about the Supports Program visit the Division of Developmental Disabilities website regularly for updates: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/index.html>.