



# Division Update for Individuals, Families, and Providers

March 28, 2024

# Agenda

- Upcoming Webinars
- START
- Division Circular 54 on Medicaid Fraud, Waste, and Abuse
- NCI State of the Workforce 2023
- Resources

# Next DDD Update Webinar

- April Update Webinar:
  - Thursday, April 25, 2024 – 10:30 am.
  - [Register for the April Webinar.](#)
- The 2024 schedule of update webinars, including registration links, is available on the Division's [Public Update Meetings](#) webpage.

# START

- On February 28, 2024 the Division released a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop one START Model program to serve the southern region of New Jersey.
- The program will provide community-based, mobile crisis prevention and intervention services for people with IDD and co-occurring mental health needs who live in covered counties, are enrolled with, and referred by DDD.
- The National Center for START Services™, an initiative of the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability/University Center for Excellence in Disability, will serve as a collaborative partner in the development of the program.

# START

- START (Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Respite and Treatment) is a person-centered, solution-focused service model that employs positive psychology approaches and other evidence-informed practices to provide community based, mobile crisis prevention and response for people with IDD-MH.
- A START program consists of a clinical team and therapeutic coaching team, and uses a comprehensive biopsychosocial and ecological assessment to determine individual needs, at the same time evaluating presenting problems within the context of the environment in which the person lives, works, and interacts with others.
- The START program team provide prevention and intervention services through crisis planning and response, education, consultation, and coaching.

# START

- Per 2023 Division statistics, at least 3,500 enrolled individuals have a co-occurring psychiatric diagnosis that, due to historically limited community-based crisis response services for this unique population, can result in the use of emergency services.
- While roughly an equal number of people with a psychiatric diagnosis reside in northern (1,820 people) versus southern (1,810 people) counties, southern counties contain more Division enrolled persons (13,970 in the south compared to 12,680 in the north).
- Southern counties are defined as Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Salem.

# START

- The successful bidder will contract directly and work in partnership with the National Center for START Services™ to develop the program and achieve START Certification.
- The program clinical team will be available to travel to private, family, or provider-managed residences, as well as other community settings of persons residing in covered counties, to provide short-term crisis assessment and stabilization services and longer-term cross-systems linkages for individuals with IDD-MH enrolled with and referred by DDD.
- START services are not intended to replace medically indicated inpatient treatment or hospitalization.
- Please review the [Notice of Funding Availability](#) and [Request for Proposals](#) for full detail.
- The deadline to submit proposals is April 17, 2024.

# Division Circular 54: Medicaid Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

- DDD is required by federal law to establish written policy about the prevention, detection, and reporting of Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse, which must include detailed information about the federal and state laws that govern it.
- An updated [Division Circular 54 \(DC54\)](#), *Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, Section 6032, Policy on Fraud, Waste and Abuse*, replaces the previous DC54 issued in November 2008 and is available on the [Division Circulars](#) page of the DDD website.



# Division Circular 54: Medicaid Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

- The updates to DC54 reflect legal and other changes since November 2008, and are summarized below:
  - Addition of the New Jersey Insurance Fraud Prevention Act.
  - Updates to reflect transition of Medicaid Fraud Division to the Office of the State Comptroller.
  - Updates to criminal and administrative penalties within the various laws summarized in the circular.
  - Updates to websites for reporting suspected fraud, waste, and abuse.
  - Updates to reflect transition from Community Care Waiver to Community Care Program, and addition of the Supports Program.
  - Various edits for grammar and simplicity.

# National Core Indicators (NCI) State of the Workforce Survey

- Annual NCI State of the Workforce Survey
  - Collects comprehensive data on the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce providing direct supports to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).
  - Resulting data helps state developmental disabilities systems examine workforce challenges, identify areas for further investigation, benchmark their workforce data, measure improvements made through policy or programmatic changes, and compare their state data to those of other states and the NCI-IDD average.
  - NOTE – NCI does **not** offer an equivalent survey for Fiscal Intermediaries/Self-Directed Employee wages. The Division has expressed interest to NCI in piloting/participating in such a survey when available.

# National Core Indicators (NCI) Surveys

- NCI State of the Workforce Survey
  - The Division sent email invitations earlier this month to eligible provider agencies with instructions and a link to complete the online survey.
  - Invitations sent to provider agency email address on file in iRecord.
  - Survey will be open through June 30, 2024.
  - The Division strongly encourages all eligible provider agencies to complete the survey, as their participation is critical to ensuring valid results.

# 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](mailto:DDD.FeeForService@dhs.nj.gov)
- To report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation: call 800-832-9173, then press 1.