NJ Disability Information Hub

Connecting People to Resources and Support







Important Update:

ADRC Website Transition

The Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) website is no longer active. All relevant information is now available through the New Jersey Disability Information Hub (DIH).

If you are seeking information specific to older adults, please visit the <u>Older Adults</u> page, located under the **Resources by Life Stages** tab in the main menu.





What is the **NJ** Disability Information Hub?

An online one-stop shop for disability specific resources, services, and information.

Disability Information Hub

Resources by Disability Community *

Resources by Life Stages * Employment and Independent Living * Essential Needs Healthcare and Medical Assistance Subscribe for email updates

Resources for Individuals with Disabilities and the People That Support Them

New Jersey is committed to being a safe, accessible, and affordable place to live for all people, including those living with disabilities. Many services for individuals with disabilities are offered by the State and various other organizations. This website brings together these resources into one place for New Jersey residents with disabilities, caregivers, parents, and advocates

Here, families can find information on available food, income, or employment assistance programs; caregivers can find information on support programs and services to assist them in caring for their loved ones; and individuals with disabilities can find information on various services including in-home supports, vocational rehabilitation, personal care assistance, and education

Learn More

Request Live Assistance

For help finding disability services, call 1-888-285-3036 to talk to a trained expert who can connect you with services, help you find the right programs based on your specific needs, and check if you are eligible for different programs. Through LanguageLine, the service is available to callers in various languages.

Callers who are deaf or hard of hearing, and are sign language users, can connect to live assistance in American Sign Language by calling videophone (609) 503-4862. Individuals with hearing loss who are not sign language users can connect with the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at (609) 588-2648.

Learn More





Who Can Benefit?



Individuals with Disabilities



Families & Caregivers



Professionals





Purpose

To simplify the process of finding disability-related resources by consolidating them in a single location.

To **support inclusion and accessibility** for individuals with disabilities across New Jersey.

To **provide up-to-date information** on programs and services related to healthcare, education, employment, transportation, housing, and more.







Features of the NJ Disability Information Hub



Resource Directory

- Organized by disability needs and stage of life
- Services by category (healthcare, education, housing, and more)
- Local and state resources
- Over 200 State programs accessible via the Hub

Resource Support

- Guidance for navigating complex systems
- Information about eligibility and applications for key state programs (e.g. Medicaid, Medicare)
- Support section specifically for families and caregivers
- Quick start guides for individuals with disabilities and caregivers who need accessible technology

Accessible and Easy to Navigate

- Designed with an inclusive approach in mind: Website is accessible for screen readers, up to 400% zoom, and fully functional via keyboard.
- Tested by individuals with disabilities, caregivers, and professionals to ensure the site is easy to navigate.





Quick Start Guide

Quick Start Guide for People with Disabilities



For individuals with disabilities, it is not always easy to decide where to start looking for resources. This page offers commonly used programs and initiatives to help guide you in finding the support you need as a person with a disability.

BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED



Find out more about services that are available through the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING



Learn more about what services you are eligible for by contacting the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

FINDING AND PAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE



See if you qualify for financial support and compare health plans at GetCovered.NJ.Gov, or learn more about NJ FamilyCare, New Jersey's publicly funded health insurance program.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



Contact the Division of Mental **Health and Addiction Services** to get connected to communitybased mental health services.

DAY-TO-DAY ASSISTANCE



Personal care services may be available through NJ FamilyCare, the Personal Assistance Services Program, or the Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving program.

INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL SUPPORT



Contact the Division of Developmental Disabilities to learn more about services you may be eligible for.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FOOD OR CASH ASSISTANCE



Use the NJ HELPS tool to determine if you are eligible for programs like the Supplemental **Nutrition Assistance Program** and Work First New Jersey.

HOUSING PAYMENT ASSISTANCE



Use the Department of Community Affairs Eligibility Screener to see what housing assistance programs you are eligible for.

Examples of Resources Found on the Hub

Service Animal Support & Resources

Transportation Services

Veteran Services Employment Resources

Driver Resources





Disability Information Hub

Resources by Disability Community Resources by Life Stages **Employment and Independent Living** Healthcare and Medical Subscribe for email Home **Essential** Needs updates **Assistance** Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services Home / red, and Deafblind / Blind, Visually Impaired, and Deaf-Blind Physical Disabilities and Brain Injury Blind, Visually Impaired, and Deafblind Deaf and Hard of Hearing 3lind Blind, Veterans with Disabilities





Physical Disabilities and Brain Injury

Individuals with physical disabilities or brain injuries, including traumatic brain injury (TBI), may need additional supports in order to live their lives to the fullest. In New Jersey, the Department of Human Services, <u>Division of Disability Services</u> (<u>DDS</u>), serves as the lead state agency representing the interests of individuals by providing information and support to enhance health, education, employment, recreation, and social engagement. This page lists some of the many resources available to individuals with disabilities through DDS, including:

- Information and Referral (I&R) Services
- · The Traumatic Brain Injury Fund, and
- The Personal Assistance Services Program

Get Help Now

- For more information about services and supports for individuals with disabilities, please contact the Division of
 Disability Services to be connected with a DDS Community Resource Specialist to answer questions about
 available services at 1-888-285-3036, or visit the DDS website.
- To stay current with the latest information from DDS, you can subscribe to the DDS listserv by selecting "Subscribe for email updates" at the bottom of the DDS website.





Services for Individuals with Physical Disabilities

· Information and Referral (I&R) Services

Through a toll-free hotline, <u>1-888-285-3036</u>, nationally certified Community Resource Specialists (CRSs) are available during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, to assist New Jersey residents with disabilities in navigating and accessing community supports and State programs. For more information, visit the <u>I&R website</u>.

Personal Assistance Services Program (PASP)

The PASP is a personal care assistance program for individuals with permanent physical disabilities who are capable of directing their own services. The program provides up to 40 hours per week of routine, non-medical personal care assistance to adults aged 18 years and older who are employed, preparing for employment (attending school or other training), or engaged in volunteer work. Personal assistants help with personal care tasks including, but not limited to: bathing, dressing, eating, grooming, meal preparation, shopping, light housekeeping, driving, or using public transportation. Eligibility is open to all who meet the above criteria, regardless of earnings. There may be a cost share based on income.

For more information and to apply for services, visit the PASP web page.

NJ ABLE

With NJ ABLE, eligible individuals with disabilities can save money for disability-related expenses in taxadvantaged savings and investing accounts. Savings in ABLE accounts are disregarded when determining eligibility for many government assistance programs with asset thresholds, including but not limited to: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs.

For Supplemental Security Income (SSI), account balances of up to and including \$100,000 are excluded from the SSI resource limit. If an individual's balance exceeds \$100,000, the SSI cash benefit will be suspended, but they will continue to be eligible for Medicaid. Once the balance falls below \$100,000 again, the cash benefit will be reinstated automatically—no need to reapply.





Resources for Emergency Planning

Individuals with disabilities or access and functional needs may find themselves particularly vulnerable when disasters or other emergencies occur. New Jersey, the federal government, and other organizations have created specific programs to address the needs of individuals with access and functional needs when disasters or emergencies occur.

This page contains resources on how to prepare for a disaster or emergency as a person with a disability or access and functional needs. Below, you can also find a disaster preparedness checklist to help ensure that you are ready when a disaster or emergency occurs.

Get Help Now

- · For information on developing individualized disaster preparedness plans, contact your county Office of Emergency Management Coordinator using the contact information found on this website.
- . For more information about how to register with Register Ready, a resource that alerts emergency managers and first responders to your disability-specific needs, call 211 or visit the Register Ready website.

Register Ready

Register Ready is a confidential and secure database designed to help emergency managers and first responders plan for and support people who have disabilities and access and functional needs (DAFN) who may need assistance in the event of a disaster. Permanent and seasonal New Jersey residents with DAFN as well as individuals with a temporary disability are encouraged to register.

Individuals can register at no cost at Register Ready or by calling 211.

The Register Ready brochure is available in nine different languages and can be accessed here.

State Resources

- NJ Special Needs Registry: Through the Special Needs Registry, OEM allows residents with disabilities or access and functional needs and their families, friends, caregivers and associates the opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies so that emergency reponders can better prepare to serve them in the case of a disaster or other emergency. www.registerready.nj.gov (Call 211 for registration or help)
- New Jersey Office of Emergency Management https://www.nj.gov/njoem/
- · County Emergency Management Coordinators & Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Liaisons: ready.nj.gov/about-us/county-coordinators.shtml
- New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness www.njhomelandsecurity.gov

Federal Resources

- US Department of Homeland Security ready.gov or www.Listo.gov (Spanish) 1-800-BE-Ready
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): FEMA and the American Red Cross also offer the <u>Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities resource guide</u> to assist in developing a plan for disasters or emergencies 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362)
 www.fema.gov

Local Resources

- American Red Cross www.redcross.org
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health





Future Plans and Community Involvement

1. Expansion Goals

- ASL videos (added)
- Add new features
- Expand content

2. Call to Action

- Encourage users to provide feedback
- Spread awareness









Conclusion



An online one-stop shop for resources, services, and information designed for individuals with disabilities, their families, and caregivers.

Offers details about services, programs, legal rights, community resources, and support networks to help navigate challenges related to disability.

Aims to foster inclusion and improve access to essential services such as hearing aid assistance, education, respite care, Alzheimer's resources, utility assistance and more.

Accessible Tools (screen reader compatibility and easy navigation)





How to Access the Hub

Click the Website Link

https://www.nj. gov/disabilities OR

Scan the QR Code



Contact Information

Email: Elizabeth.Williams@dhs.nj.gov

To sign up for DDS Email List-Serv: Click Here



