



## **Accessing DDD Services When an Individual Turns 21 and is Still in School**

### **Background information**

Once an individual with an intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) reaches his or her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, services (such as respite, summer camp, behavioral supports) previously provided by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families' Children's System of Care (CSOC) and coordinated through PerformCare are no longer available through this avenue.

### **How do I access services that had been provided through PerformCare, when my child turns 21?**

A 21-year-old individual with an intellectual and/or developmental disability who meets the following criteria can request to continue certain services (e.g., respite, summer camp, behavioral supports) from DDD prior to leaving school:

- ✓ Individual has turned 21 years old
- ✓ Individual is still receiving special education and related services through his/her local school district
- ✓ Individual has been determined eligible for services by DDD (which includes completion of the mandatory NJ CAT assessment and Medicaid eligibility\*)

**Below are the steps to follow when requesting access to certain services from DDD at age 21 and before leaving school. Be prepared to access all available services from DDD at age 21 and after leaving school.**

1. At age 18 (or older), apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). An individual who is enrolled on SSI is automatically Medicaid eligible, which is a requirement for DDD eligibility.\*
2. Also at age 18 (or older), contact your DDD Community Services Office to complete the DDD Intake Application process, including completion of the mandatory NJ CAT assessment.

3. Stay in contact with your **DDD Intake Worker** to be sure the intake process is proceeding smoothly.
4. Two months before the individual's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, contact your DDD Intake Worker to discuss any **specific services needed when the individual turns 21**. The DDD Intake Worker will complete a request for certain available services.
  - **Please Note:** Employment/Day services cannot be provided by DDD while the individual is receiving special education and related services through the local school district

**5. Read page 52, Section 8.3.3 "Accessing/Continuing Needed Services upon 21st Birthday" in DDD's Supports Program Policies & Procedures Manual:**  
[bit.ly/dddsupportsprogrammanual](http://bit.ly/dddsupportsprogrammanual) \*\*

6. Request confirmation from the DDD Intake Worker that the service(s) requested is available and will begin on a specific date.

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\*A small number of school-age individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities may not be eligible to receive SSI or Medicaid because a parent retired from employment, became disabled, or died before the individual's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. There is a special process for these situations. For more information, contact The Arc of New Jersey at 732-246-2567.

\*\* Please type all links exactly as seen including any capital or lowercase letters, and numbers.