

The New Jersey Department of Human Services **Division of Developmental Disabilities**



An Update for The Arc of New Jersey's 31st Annual Conference on Medical Care for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

June 11, 2021

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Overview

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- COVID-19
- Overview of the Proposed FY22 Budget
- Behavioral Health Stabilization Home RFP
- National Core Indicators Surveys

COVID-19

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- **Communication**

- Division Update email communications issued regularly to keep the IDD community and stakeholders informed.
- DDD COVID-19 Update Webinars – held weekly April-May 2020, and bi-weekly thereafter.
- COVID-related guidance and policy updates posted on [DHS COVID-19 Information Hub](#).

COVID-19

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- COVID-related financial assistance for day services providers.
 - To support day service providers during program closures, eligible agencies received a federally-matched payment equal to 75% of their highest billing month between July and December 2019. Retainer payments were provided from March 17, 2020 through July 17, 2020 when they were federally required to end.
 - Beginning July 20, 2020 and continuing today, day providers who provide some level of service/modified service received a monthly State supplemental payment equal to 50% of their highest billing month between July and December 2019. This is the maximum amount available to DDD.



COVID-19

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- COVID-related financial assistance for residential providers.
 - A 20% increase to Individual Supports – Daily Rate (rate used in congregate residential settings like group homes) provided to residential providers to support additional daytime staffing needs due to day program closures.
 - Temporary \$3-per-hour wage increase for direct support professionals working in group homes and providing Individual Supports-Daily Rate:
 - ✦ May 1 – July 31, 2020
 - ✦ October 1 – December 31, 2020
 - ✦ January 1 – March 31, 2021

COVID-19

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- **COVID-related flexibilities:**

- ✦ Temporary emergency clearance to onboard new direct support professionals and self-directed employees who had previously been cleared to work by DHS. New hires were granted a 120-day grace period after employment for completion of fingerprinting, drug testing, and CARI (Child Abuse Record Information) check.
- ✦ Temporary waiving of the rule prohibiting a parent, spouse or guardian of an individual to be hired as a self-directed employee.
- ✦ Self-directed employees temporarily permitted to work overtime (more than 40 hours per week).
- ✦ Service modifications allowing provision of remote service delivery.

COVID-19

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- **Vaccinations**

- Developmental Center residents – vaccination offered to all residents between January and March 2021. More than 90% of residents across the five centers are now vaccinated.
- Group home residents – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention partnered with Walmart Pharmacy to provide a targeted vaccine allocation through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership. The Walmart closed-POD (point-of-dispensing) program launched January 18 in New Jersey, with 12 Walmart Pharmacy sites setting aside specific times to offer and provide vaccines to residents of group homes.



COVID-19

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- Direct support professionals, self-directed employees, as well as paid and un-paid caregivers became eligible for the vaccine in January, as part of Phase 1A, under the “healthcare personnel” category.
- Individuals and staff in congregate residential settings became eligible on January 14, as part of Phase 1A.
- Support Coordinators became eligible on March 29, as part of frontline essential workers/social services support staff.
- All individuals with IDD, age 16 and older, became eligible on April 5.

COVID-19

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- Released updated group home visitation guidance on March 15, further expanding off-site visitation of residents with family and friends.
- Released updated day program re-opening guidance on April 22, allowing all programs to re-open at limited capacity.

Proposed FY22 Budget Overview

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- \$98.456M in new funding for the Division
 - \$56.756M to maintain the 20% increase for the Individual Supports Daily Rate service to continue to support needed staffing during day program closures. (Please note this does not mean they will be closed until the end of the year).
 - \$41.7M for DSP/Supervisor Wage Increase
 - ✦ 20.85M to support the January 1, 2021 increase.
 - ✦ 20.85M to provide another wage increase on January 1, 2022



New Funding for Behavioral Health Stabilization (BHS) Homes for Individuals with IDD

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- The Division is pleased to announce funding availability through a new Request for Proposals: RFP: Behavioral Health Stabilization Homes for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
 - ✦ Funding will be awarded to one provider to develop three, four-bedroom behavioral health stabilization homes for individuals with IDD.
 - ✦ Smaller variations may be proposed so long as the total number of beds provided is twelve.



New Funding for Behavioral Health Stabilization (BHS) Homes for Individuals with IDD

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- **Goals of BHS Homes:**

- Provide out-of-home stabilization and assessment services on a statewide basis to individuals with IDD under DDD services who present with intense behavioral and/or emotional challenges that cannot be effectively managed in their current living arrangement (e.g. aggression toward others, self-injurious behavior, property destruction, elopement).
- Create a short-term, highly structured, and nurturing environment with professional competencies to stabilize individuals and work to transition them back to their previous living arrangement, or to an alternate setting, as appropriate.



New Funding for Behavioral Health Stabilization (BHS) Homes for Individuals with IDD

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- **Goals of BHS Homes:**

- Providers interested in bidding can propose to locate the homes in the same area of the state, but additional points will be awarded to locate one home in the Northern, one in the Central, and one in the Southern region of the State.
- Homes will serve men, women, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.
- Staff employed by the program will be trained, at a minimum, in Crisis Intervention, Positive Behavioral Supports, Trauma Informed Care, and in the Development and Implementation of a Behavioral Support Plan.

New Funding for Behavioral Health Stabilization (BHS) Homes for Individuals with IDD

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Timeline

Posting of RFP and NOFA	April 13, 2021
Close of Question and Answer Period	April 27, 2021
RFP Submission Deadline	July 2, 2021
Preliminary Award Notification	August 6, 2021
Appeal Deadline	August 27, 2021
Final Award Notification	September 10, 2021
Deadline for Program Opening	September 16, 2022

National Core Indicators (NCI) Surveys

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- National Core Indicators (NCI) is a collaborative effort between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI).

NCI Surveys

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- In 2021, New Jersey is conducting the following NCI surveys:
 - In-Person Survey.
 - Adult Family Survey.
 - Family/Guardian Survey.
- NCI surveys cover key areas such as employment, respect/rights, service planning, community inclusion, choice, and health and safety.
- In 2021, all NCI surveys include a COVID-19 supplement.

NCI Surveys

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- **In-Person Survey (IPS)** – voluntary, face-to-face conversation completed with individuals who are 21 years of age or older and receiving at least one other service from DDD in addition to support coordination.
 - Administered by DDD staff who have received specialized training – conducted virtually, due to COVID-19.
 - To participate, the person will need access to a personal computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone that has video conferencing capabilities.
 - Calls to individuals to request participation in the virtual IPS began January 2021.

NCI Surveys

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- **Adult Family Survey** – voluntary online survey completed by family members who have an adult (21 years or older) with an intellectual/developmental disability who lives in the family home and receives at least one additional DDD service other than support coordination.
- **Family/Guardian Survey** – voluntary online survey completed by family members/guardian who have an adult (21 years or older) with an intellectual/developmental disability who lives outside of the family home and receives at least one additional DDD service other than support coordination.

NCI Surveys

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- Calls to individuals to request participation in the virtual In-Person Survey began January 2021.
- Invitations to participate in the Adult Family Survey and Family/Guardian Survey will be sent in Spring 2021.
 - Will include a unique web-link to complete the survey.
- Surveys must be completed by June 30, 2021.
- Questions about the surveys or requests to obtain a hard copy of the survey can be sent to DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov.

**THANK YOU
AND ENJOY THE CONFERENCE!**