

Transition Made Easy

What To Consider and When

Additional Information Listed Below for How to Access These Resources

- Consider applying for PerformCare services between the ages of 5-21.
- Look into applying for SSI/Medicaid. You can apply for SSI before 18 but household income is obtained for eligibility. Some families are eligible prior to 18 so please inquire if you are eligible. At 18, household income is no longer counted. SSI will automatically provide Medicaid services. Medicaid approval is required for DDD services. Medicaid can cover things which are often not covered by primary insurance such as diapers.
- The educational umbrella for services will end at the end of the school year in which your child turns 21. DDD (The Division of Developmental Disabilities) will provide services after graduation upon approval. There is process involved to get these services in place. Please allow yourself 9-12 months for all of the necessary steps.
- Prepare ahead for age 18 by planning at reviews to discuss having an updated psychological evaluation to get current levels and to prepare for services under Performcare/DDD.
- If you think that your student will be employed after graduation, a psychological evaluation needs to be completed within a year of applying through DVRS (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services).
- At 18, parents can no longer make decisions legally on behalf of an adult child, regardless of the nature of the individual's disability and regardless of whether or not the individual still lives with the family. Some families may want to consider guardianship as an option for their family member.
- Make a telephone or in person appointment with Alicia Gilbert, School Social Worker, AGilbert@sjogcs.org or at 856-848-4700 ext. 1138 to discuss resources and steps further.

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PERFORMCARE

PerformCare offers services from ages 5-21. Services can fall under behavioral services, services for ID/DD individuals (respite, summer camps funding, ABA/therapeutic services, home and vehicle modifications, assistive technology, etc.) and substance abuse assistance.

Video for parents/caregivers for PerformCare services:

<https://www.performcarenj.org/families/index.aspx>

Important information about ID/DD services:

<https://www.performcarenj.org/pdf/families/family-support-services-facts.pdf>

To access behavioral health services:

<https://www.performcarenj.org/families/behavioral/index.aspx>

To access Intellectual Disability/Developmental Delay services:

<https://www.performcarenj.org/families/disability/index.aspx>

To access substance abuse services:

<https://www.performcarenj.org/families/substance/index.aspx>

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SSI/MEDICAID

How to apply for SSI. If your child is eligible for SSI, they will be approved for Medicaid. Up to 18 household income is considered and not considered once the child turns 18:

<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/>

How to apply for Medicaid if not eligible for SSI:

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/families/>

NJ ABLE: A new program in NJ for ABLE accounts may assist with income eligibility for SSI/Medicaid:

<https://www.able-now.com/>

PERSONAL PREFERENCE PROGRAM (PPP)

Below is a link for the Personal Preference Program. The Program allows for funding and management services for elderly and disabled Medicaid recipients to manage their daily personal assistance services (non-emergency). Children may qualify under 18 but please keep in mind that this can count as income for SSI eligibility up until 18, when the eligibility requirements change to only include the individual's income as opposed to the entire household income.

https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/PPP_Fact_Sheet.pdf

GUARDIANSHIP

There are options for applying for guardianship in NJ which includes hiring a lawyer, seeking free legal assistance and filing for guardianship on your own utilizing the pro se option through your county Surrogate's Office. Legal Services of NJ will provide free legal guidance for completing the application and South Jersey Legal Services can provide assistance with free

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consultation and application assistance for those who qualify financially. Many families qualify for additional resources when filing Pro Se if their child has an IEP and will be receiving services from DDD. The court fee most recently has been \$200.00 if a family is not eligible for having the fees waived. Alicia Gilbert, School Social Worker, can provide additional assistance with resources but Legal Services of NJ, the Pro Se application and fee waiver form are listed here:

Legal Services of NJ:

<https://www.lsnj.org/>

South Jersey Legal Services:

<https://www.lsnj.org/sjls/offices.htm>

Pro Se Application:

https://njcourts.gov/forms/10558_guardianship_person_and_estate.pdf

Pro Se Court Fee Waiver Form

<file:///C:/Users/AGilbert/Desktop/Guardianship/Guardianship%20Filing%20fee%20waiver%20.pdf>

DDD/TRANSITION

You can apply to DDD as early as 18. If approved, services will take place under PerformCare until 21 and then start with DDD. You will need an updated psychological evaluation, within the last three years of applying for DDD, from your child's Child Study Team. Once you apply for DDD and are approved in the initial stage, you will be given permission to complete the NJCAT (NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool). This is how DDD determines the budget for your child

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for when they turn 21/graduate from Archbishop Damiano School. You will then need to pick a Support Coordinator for your child (essentially your child's case manager for when they are 21 and above), think about what type of program your child will need once they graduate and where you picture your child receiving services at that time. You also may want to look into agencies that can assist with you or another individual being approved to be a Community Based Supports provider. This may provide additional funding that you can access from their budget for additional services. All of these services can be changed at any time that you request.

Contact your School Social Worker at ADS to discuss the next transition steps for your child further at (856) 848-4700 ext. 1138 or AGilbert@sjogcs.org

You will need to have Medicaid to apply for DDD. SSI automatically provides Medicaid services so you may want to explore SSI as well. Household income is not counted for SSI eligibility from 18 and after. See above information under *SSI/Medicaid* or look into this link for further information:

<https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/medicaideligibility.html#1>

DDD Application English (Spanish application is being updated and is coming soon to DDD website):

<file:///C:/Users/AGilbert/Desktop/DDD%20Grad%20Info%20Transition/DDD%20application-for-eligibility-english.pdf>

DDD Webinar for how to complete NJCAT (NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool) needed to determine the DDD budget:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nluCSO5kFWk&feature=youtu.be>

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How to search the NJ approved database for the most up to date listings for Day Habilitation (Day Programs), Support Coordinators, Community Based Supports, etc. Use filter on lower right side of page to search for service type and by your county:

<https://irecord.dhs.state.nj.us/providersearch>

If the above link does not load for you, you can google “irecord provider search”

Information about selecting a Support Coordinator:

<http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/projects/documents/ChoosingaSupportCoordinationAgencyFamiliesfinal.pdf>

DVRS (DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES)

If you will be looking into employment options for your child, please contact DVRS at or ask Alicia for assistance:

https://careerconnections.nj.gov/careerconnections/plan/foryou/disable/vocational_rehabilitation_services.shtml

HELPFUL ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Helpful webinars from ARC Planning for Adult Life:

https://planningforadulthood.org/we_offer/archived-webinars-20.html

Making the Transition- ASAH Booklet:

[file:///C:/Users/AGilbert/AppData/Local/Packages/Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe/TempState/Downloads/HighSchoolTransitions_Disabilities%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/AGilbert/AppData/Local/Packages/Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe/TempState/Downloads/HighSchoolTransitions_Disabilities%20(1).pdf)

Guardianship webinar:

https://planningforadulthood.org/we_offer/understanding-guardianship.html

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