


Planning for Life After Graduation: Guidance for Families



RYAN BRADLEY, TRANSITION COORDINATOR

2024/2025

Who will decide what is needed for my child Postsecondary?



- Students
- Parents
- Educators
- Outside support agencies (focus for tonight)

What outside agencies will help provide:



1. Living independently
2. Employment
3. Recreation and leisure time
4. Continuing education

Guardianship



- When your child turns 18 they reach the legal age of Majority in NJ.
 - This includes all people regardless of disabled or not.
 - It does not matter if the person lives with the family or not
 - This means the parents no longer make decisions legally on behalf of their child.

Guardianship



- A guardian is defined as "a person or agency appointed by a court to act on behalf of an individual".
 - Can be general
 - or limited
 - Residential
 - Educational
 - Medical
 - Legal
 - Vocational
 - Financial

Guardianship



- Establishing guardianship is a legal process
 - Can be done with help from Guardianship Services at the Department of Human Services
 - With an Attorney
 - Possible to do without but very difficult
 - It is recommended that you make every effort to obtain the assistance of an attorney

If you cannot afford a lawyer



Document Ex... Supplies - SCHOOL... Imported From IE Getting Started

Legal Services Offices

New Jersey has six Legal Services programs: 5 regional programs, which provide direct services to clients in all 21 counties through 23 local offices, and Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), the statewide coordinating office.

Legal Services of New Jersey

P.O. Box 1357
Edison, NJ 08818-1357
(732) 572-9100

[Map](#) | [Directions](#)

Monmouth County ▾

Monmouth County Offices

South Jersey Legal Services

303 West Main Street
3rd Floor
Freehold, NJ 07728 ([Map](#))

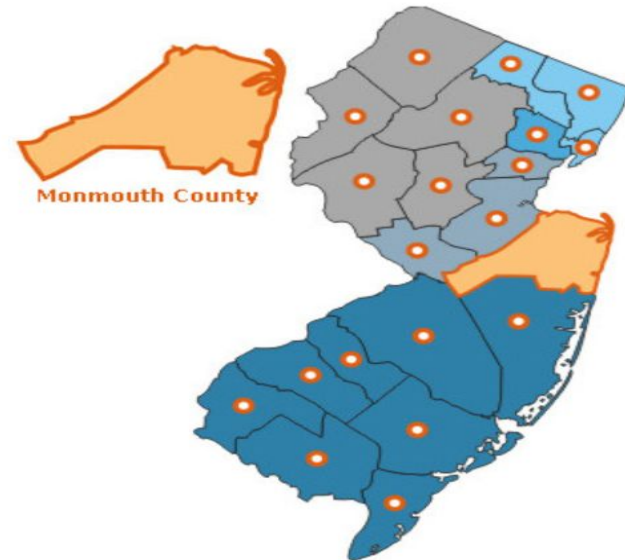
County: Monmouth County

(p): (732) 414-6750

(e): SJLSMonmouth@lsnj.org

Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Website: [/www.lsnj.org/sjls](http://www.lsnj.org/sjls)



 Northeast New Jersey Legal Services

 Legal Services of Northwest Jersey

 Essex-Newark Legal Services

 Central Jersey Legal Services

Social Security (Supplemental Security Income) SSI



- Provides monthly payments to eligible individuals
 - 65
 - Blind
 - Disabled

Social Security (Supplemental Security Income) SSI



- Eligible individuals
 - Gross monthly income is equal to or less than \$872.25
 - The resource maximum for an individual is \$2,000 or less
- Must meet SSI eligibility
 - Extensive application
 - Requires levels of documentation

ABLE Accounts



Allows individuals with disabilities to open tax-advantaged savings accounts for disability-related expenses without affecting eligibility for federal benefits like SSI, SNAP, and Medicaid.

Account Limits

- You may **only have one ABLE account** at a time.
- ABLE accounts can be opened in your **own state** or any state that allows non-resident enrollment (e.g., Ohio, Tennessee, Nebraska, New Jersey).
- **Annual contribution limit:** \$14,000.
- **Lifetime contribution limit:** Varies by state (e.g., New Jersey's is \$305,000).

Medicaid



- Provides medical coverage to individuals who are age 65 years or older as well as individuals determined blind or disabled by the Social Security Administration
- Application process required
 - Should do SSI application first
 - You automatically qualify for Medicaid if you receive SSI
- Source of funding for some related services

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)



- Provides services to enable eligible individuals with disabilities employment opportunities
 - Consistent with their strengths
 - Priorities
 - Needs
 - Abilities
 - Capabilities

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)



- In Wall, the DVRS caseworker attends exit IEP meetings when appropriate.
- Must fill out an application
- Provides
 - Pre-ETS Services
 - Prevocational counseling
 - Employment Placements
 - Supportive employment services (Short term)

Division Of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)



- Individuals receiving services through school are able to continue doing so through age 21
- Although Division services do not begin until age 21, individuals can be evaluated for eligibility as early as age 17.
- Most people wait until 19 or 20 to start the process.
- In my experience, the process takes six months before a person receives services.

Division Of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)



- Eligibility
 - Meet the functional criteria for a developmental disability;
 - Are a legal U.S. citizen and resident of New Jersey; and
 - Are eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid.

Division Of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)



- Application Process
 - Full form
 - Short form
 - You applied before for developmental disability services through the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and were notified by DDD that you were eligible.
 - You applied before for developmental disability services through the NJ Children's System of Care (PerformCare) and were notified by PerformCare that you were eligible.

Division Of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)



- NJCAT
 - The NJCAT is completed during the initial eligibility application process.
 - Usually emailed once eligibility is established
 - Can be completed the winter before graduation
 - Ask for help when answering.
 - Establishes the individual's tier.

Division Of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)



- Service providers
 - Individual agencies that will help you access services
 - Based on needs
 - Available funds
 - Ability

- Residential Providers

Community Care Program (Group Home)



- About a 10 year wait once a person get on the list
 - 18 years of age or older
 - Medicaid eligible
 - Determined by the Division to be eligible for services

Adult Day Programs



Provide adults ages 21 and older with developmental disabilities a daily program of activities

Should contain elements to develop skills in adaptive living, self-help, personal awareness, and recreation.

Adult Day Program



Day habilitation activities should:

- Be Age-Appropriate
- Offer Variety & Choice
- Emphasize Community Experiences
- Focus on Small Groups and Individual Interactions and Experiences

Adult Day Program



Activities I would want to see:

- Shopping – Budgeting, Money management
- Cultural events, Holiday celebrations
- Restaurants – Ordering from menus, Personal choices, Paying bills
- Travel and community safety, Use of public transportation
- Recreation, Bowling, Theater, Golf, Community concerts Library, Book clubs, Community festivals, Museums, Picnics
- Health and Fitness, Parks, Walking, Sports events

Resource links



<https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/graduates-timeline.pdf>

<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/>

<https://www.nj.gov/labor/career-services/special-services/individuals-with-disabilities/>

<https://www.nj.gov/labor/career-services/special-services/individuals-with-disabilities/process.shtml>

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/ssi/>

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

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/individuals/guardianship/>

How you can contact me:



Ryan Bradley
1630 18th Ave
Wall, NJ
07719

rbradley@wallpublicschools.org

732-556-2010

SEPAG

12.2.2024

Kelly Bond

Assistant Superintendent of Special Services



IDEA Grant

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
Preschool and Basic**

- **Instructional & Non-instructional Supplies**
- **Technology needed for specific students**
 - **Contracted Service Providers**
 - **OOD Tuition**