



## Walking Through Medicaid and the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disability Support for Your Special Needs Child

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The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) mandates that in order for your adult disabled child to receive services through DDD they must be determined Medicaid (SSI) eligible. Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are significant sources of income for retirees and people with disabilities. Families with special needs children that are age 18 and over should contact their county Board of Social Services to apply for Medicaid.

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program pays benefits to adults with disabilities (after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday) who have limited income and resources. For SSI, the monthly income limit is \$764.25 and the resource limit is \$2,000. For adults 18 years of age and older, the Social Security Administration no longer counts parental income and resources for eligibility for SSI. Every New Jersey resident who receives Supplemental Security Income will automatically receive New Jersey Medicaid.

Once you have determined Medicaid eligibility, at age 18 your adult special needs child is eligible for Division of Developmental Disability (“DDD”) determination and at age 21 they are eligible for services. The Division of the New Jersey Department of Human Services assure the opportunity for individuals with developmental disabilities to receive quality services and support.

At age 18 you should complete the DDD Intake by contacting the DDD Community Services Office or downloading the application from the DDD website ([www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd)). The DDD application is known as

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the NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJ CAT) and it scores your child in the areas of (1) self-care, (2) behavioral, and (3) medical. The results of the NJ CAT establish the tier in which an individual is assigned. The five base tiers range from A, B, C, D and E. Every tier has a corresponding up-to budget amount that funds needed services. Tier E receives the most support. Reassessment is usually done every 5 years.

Please note that if you have completed the DDD application and your child has been determined DDD eligible it makes the guardianship application process in New Jersey a lot simpler. The New Jersey Court Rule mandating two doctor certifications within 30 days of your guardianship application will be relaxed by the Courts for good cause.

Once you have completed the DDD application, you will submit a support coordination agency selection form and at age 21 the planning process with your Support Coordinator should begin. The support coordinator works with you and your child to include a service planning team to help with home, job, health, recreation and friends and family. Although the above process seems like a lot for parents, it is crucial to ensure your child's smooth transition from school years to adult years. Having your child's Medicaid and DDD applications ready and submitted at age 18 provide a plan and support for families.

For more information you can check the DDD webinars page at [www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/resources/webinars.html](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/resources/webinars.html). You can also visit the Arc of Monmouth County at [www.arcofmonmouth.org](http://www.arcofmonmouth.org).



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