



Camp Services

The Division of Developmental Disabilities' (DDD) Family Support program can offer some assistance with payment for camp. As with all DDD services, funding for camp is based on available resources. Funding is limited, and the amount available may vary by year and by the number of families applying. Families are encouraged to seek assistance for paying with camp by contacting local town recreation departments and civic groups, such as the Elks, Shriners, etc.

The deadline for submitting requests for DDD camp funding is the first Monday in May. Late requests will be reviewed if they are emergencies.

Eligibility for Family Support Funding for Camp Services

- Individuals eligible to receive services funded by DDD and living in their own homes with uncompensated caregivers may request funding for camp.
- Adults (21 years of age and older) who attend day programs and children (under 21 years of age) who attend extended school years can submit requests; however, priority will be given to individuals without either of these.
- Individuals who receive services via "individual budgets" from Real Life Choices, Self Determination, the Waiting List, Olmstead or Emergency Services are not eligible for Family Support funding for camp, as they may purchase camp through their budgets. [Note: Individuals who receive "individual budgets" for Self Directed Day Services can request Family Support funding for camp, as their budgets only cover day services/habilitation.]
- DDD should be the funding source of last resort, thus every effort should be made to obtain an extended school year or funding through the school system for children.
- Children are only eligible for Family Support funding for camp for the period of time during which they are not eligible to attend an extended school year program. Families will be asked to provide verification of extended school year dates, or the lack of, per their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Information about Funding

- Caregivers must be informed that financial assistance cannot be guaranteed at the time of application. Caregivers should always consider their ability to afford any amount of camp time that DDD cannot cover.
- DDD does not cover the costs of registration fees, transportation, or the cost of trips taken during camp.
- Some camps require that the caregiver pay all costs in advance. These camps inform caregivers that they will reimburse families the costs covered by DDD once they are paid through the DDD payment system. DDD is not specifically responsible for any promised reimbursements from camps that require advance payments. Caregivers may attempt to negotiate with camps and ask them to rely on the DDD payment system, but this negotiation must be undertaken privately by caregivers.
- DDD will attempt to pay the camp costs for up to one week of residential camp or up to two weeks of day camps at one of the camps under contract with DDD. Contracted camps are not uniformly available in all DDD regions.
- As an alternative to contracted camps, DDD will attempt to pay part of the costs for up to one week of residential camp or up to two weeks of day camp for “fee for service” camps from the DDD qualified provider list. The specific amount DDD can pay toward these types of camp will be announced before the beginning of each camp season. Caregivers are responsible for covering the balance of the camp fees. A list of qualified providers can be found on the On-line Resource Database page at the Family Support Center of New Jersey’s website, <http://www.fscnj.org> or by calling 1-800-372-6570.
- DDD will only provide financial assistance for contracted camps or camps on the Division’s qualified provider list. Caregivers can ask their preferred camp to contact DDD to become a qualified provider.
- One-to-one aides can only be provided at camps that are contracted to provide that service. The need for a one-to-one aide should be explained at the time the request for funding is made. Requests for one-to-one aides should be made by the first Monday in May to allow camps time to hire the one-to-one aide and to allow DDD time to explore any other options for specialized funding.
- Payments are made directly to camps at the end of the camp season, when camp is finished and after camps have submitted vouchers to DDD.

How to Request Family Support Funding for Camp

- Individuals must register with the camp of their choice before requesting DDD funding.
- A copy of the registration form and/or an acceptance letter on camp stationery is required for DDD funding.
- When applicable, families must also provide written verification of extended school year, or lack of, per their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).
- Families should submit their Family Support requests to their assigned DDD contact, which is either:
 - A DDD Case Manager, or
 - An Information and Referral (I&R) Specialist at the Office of Information and Assistance Services at the Division of Disability Services. (The phone number for that office is 1-888-285-3036.)

Notification to Caregivers

- When a request is approved, caregivers will be notified by the camp. The camp will work directly with the caregiver to finalize details.
- When a request is denied or pending resources, DDD will advise caregivers in writing by the first Monday in June.