



## Family Support Services

Families caring for relatives with developmental disabilities on an ongoing basis often struggle to meet their caregiving responsibilities. The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) can, in many cases, offer assistance by providing Family Support Services, which range from respite care to home modifications.

DDD will consider all requests for support that meet the criteria outlined below. Families should be aware, however, that DDD's ability to provide assistance depends on available funding. Moreover, Family Support Services may not always be available.

Also, please note, **DDD cannot provide Family Support Services to families caring for an individual enrolled on a Medicaid waiver where those services are covered under the waiver. All other available options must be utilized prior to authorization of Family Support Services.**

### Who Can Request Family Support Services

To be considered for DDD's Family Support Services, family caregivers must be:

- Caring for an individual who has been determined eligible to receive services funded by DDD;
- Caring for the individual on an ongoing basis in an "own home" setting; and
- Uncompensated.

### How to Request Family Support Services

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.)

DDD evaluates requests for Family Support based on the needs of the individual receiving care, caregiver status, the services and supports already available and/or being used by the family, and the availability of DDD resources. DDD Case Managers or I&R Specialists can provide additional information about specific service guidelines.

### About Family Support Service Options

Families' options for Family Support Services may vary from county to county. A list of Family Support Services that are widely available throughout the state can be found on the second page of this Fact Sheet. For more information about DDD-funded Family Support Services, see: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/fss/index.html> as well as the Family Support Act of 1993, [Division Circular 39](#) and/or N.J.A.C. 10:46A.

## Family Support Services Available in all NJ Counties

### Respite

Respite provides family caregivers with a short period of rest or relief by arranging alternate care-giving for the family member with a developmental disability. Respite also can be provided when the family caregiver is temporarily absent or disabled for any reason, such as for a short period of hospitalization.

- ***In-home respite*** usually is provided by an agency that contracts with DDD to provide this service, such as a home health agency.
- ***Out-of-home respite*** includes:
  - After-school activities for children and after-program activities for adults;
  - Weekend recreational activities; and
  - A short-term placement in a licensed setting.

### Camp

Family Support can assist families with the cost of day or overnight summer camp, although it will not cover registration fees, transportation or the costs of day trips taken during camp. When families apply, they are required to submit documentation showing that the registration fee has been paid. Families should be aware that camps may require full payment before DDD determines whether Family Support will be able to assist with any portion of the cost.

The application deadline for requesting assistance with camp fees is always the first Monday in May, and the actual date will be posted on DDD's website each spring. Families are encouraged to apply early. Families of children still in school must provide verification of extended school year services, or lack of same, as per the child's IEP.

Detailed information about DDD funding for camp can be found on the Camp Services fact sheet.

### Assistive Technology Devices

Assistive Technology Devices help individuals maintain or improve their functional capabilities. They include materials, tools, and services that can assist with:

- Learning and/or communication;
- Making the environment more accessible; and
- Allowing the individual to compete in the workplace.

### Home & Vehicle Modifications

These are removable structural modifications, such as ramps and grab bars that enhance accessibility and promote greater independence.