**NJ State (and Union County) Resources for People with Disabilities**

Compiled by Sarah McCulloh

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Please contact your Child Study Team (CST) Case Manager or Transition Coordinator (TC)

for more information, if needed:

**Sarah McCulloh, TC smcculloh@twpunionschools.org (908) 851-4431**

**Vanessa Tuohy, TC vtuohy@twpunionschools.org (908) 851-6538**

**Union High School (UHS), 2350 North Third Street, Union, NJ 07083**

**Please note: This information is only to be used as a reference tool**

**and is not to be taken as a formal recommendation of the Township of Union School District.**

**These resources are not intended to service all populations.**

**Please contact the listed providers for additional information.**

**NJ STATE AGENCIES:**

**To Assist People with Disabilities**

**(DCF/DDD/DVRS)**

\*\*For All Students Under 21 Years of Age:

**Division of Children and Families (DCF)/Perform Care**: (877) 652-7624, [www.nj.gov/dcf](http://www.nj.gov/dcf)

To complete application online, please visit: [www.performcarenj.org/families/forms.aspx](http://www.performcarenj.org/families/forms.aspx) or call the number above to request paper application via mail; you can then mail it to: Perform Care New Jersey, Attention: DD Eligibility Unit, 300 Horizon Drive, Suite 306, Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691-1919. \*\*Please Note: If applying for the first time after age 18, you must first apply to the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), and if found eligible, they will forward the application to DCF.

DCF Services Offered to Eligible Children:

\*Summer Camp Opportunities: Applications for camp assistance can be found at the PerformCare website and are accepted between March 15th and April 30th each year.

\*Respite Services: Provides family caregivers with a short period of rest/relief by arranging alternate care-giving; it is usually provided by an agency that contracts with the Children’s System of Care (CSOC) and may include after-school activities, weekend recreational activities, a short-term placement in a licensed setting, or in-home/self-directed respite.

\*Assistive Technology Devices (ATD): These are used to increase, maintain, or improve an individual’s functional capabilities and may include materials that make the environment more accessible, allowing the individual to compete in the workplace and enhance independence. Families must seek three competitive bids, and the device must be prescribed by a physician or therapist; individual must have received a denial from their insurance carrier, including Medicaid, and may receive no more than $11,000 for ATD over a 3-year period.

\*Home and Vehicle Modifications: These are removable, structural modifications (such as ramps, grab-bars, etc…) and individuals may receive no more than $11,000 for home/vehicle modifications over a 3-year period.

\*\*For Students 18 Years of Age or Older (but will NOT receive services until age 21, has exhausted their educational entitlement, and has Medicaid):

**Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD),** 110 East 5th Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908) 226-7800, [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/)

To complete application online, please contact Ron Wasserman, DDD Intake Counselor at (908) 226-7802 and request paper application or you may visit [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/apply/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/apply/index.html); you may give the DDD application, along with the Adaptive Behavior/Health/Safety/Risk Summary, and signed/notarized Authorization to Release Information to one of the Transition Coordinators at UHS, Ms. Sarah McCulloh at (908) 851-4431 or Mrs. Vanessa Tuohy at (908) 851-3538. They will hand deliver the application for you, or you can mail all of the materials directly to: DDD, ATTN: Ron Wasserman at 110 East 5th Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060.

Once found eligible for DDD as part of the intake process (and again within the student’s last year of educational entitlement), parent/guardian must complete online the NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJ CAT); please contact Ron Wasserman for the actual link (for a listing of the questions, please visit: <http://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/njcat_survey.pdf> and/or watch an archived webinar at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nluCSo5kFWk>. This survey is used to determine needed postsecondary supports as well as the amount of money that will be allotted for your individualized budget. DDD has developed a NJ CAT Web Resource page: <http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/resources/njcat.html>.

At age 21, while you are Medicaid-eligible and once you’ve completed the NJ CAT, you must complete the Supports Coordinator Selection Form, <http://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/support_coordination.html> which will allow you to choose (or you will be auto assigned) a Support Coordinator (SC) to help you develop an Individualized Service Plan (ISP). To watch an Archived Webinar (4/23/15) on “DDD’s System Reform: Understanding what it Means for Someone Entering DDD Services,” please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5SL7-puP58>. For additional information about adult services offered by DDD (updated 4/2017)., you may go to the DDD Supports Program Policy Manual at <http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/supports_program_policy_manual.pdf>. To subscribe to the Division's E-news Bulletin, please send an email to DDD.Communications@dhs.state.nj.us, with Division Update Subscribe in the subject line.

You may also reference The DDD Provider Search website which allows users to search for providers by name or services. You may filter your search results further by services, provider location, location type, etc., or use a combination of searches and filters to browse provider options. In the future, additional features will be available, including the ability to search by radius around a zip code, catchment area and by keywords. Please visit this web site for more information: <https://irecord.dhs.state.nj.us/providersearch>.

DDD services offered to eligible adults may include: Assistive technology, behavior supports, career planning, cognitive rehabilitation, community-based supports, community inclusion services, day habilitation, environmental modifications, fiscal management services (Fiscal Intermediary), goods and services, interpreter services, natural supports training, occupational therapy, Personal Emergency Response System (PERS), physical therapy, prevocational training, respite, speech language & hearing therapy, support coordination, supported employment – individual and/or small group, supports brokerage, transportation, and vehicle modifications.

 \*\*For Students within Two Years of Graduation:

**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS),** New Jersey Department of Labor, 921 Elizabeth Avenue, 3rd Floor, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908) 965-3940

<http://careerconnections.nj.gov/careerconnections/plan/foryou/disable/vocational_rehabilitation_services.shtml>

To complete application, please contact one of the Transition Coordinators at UHS, Ms. Sarah McCulloh at (908) 851-4431 or Mrs. Vanessa Tuohy at (908) 851-6538; they may refer current students, with completed DVRS application and signed/notarized Authorization to Release Information. If you wish to contact the Vocational Counselor at DVRS that has been assigned to our district, please contact Ms. Ester Phillip at the above telephone number or email her at Esther.Phillip@dol.nj.gov.

DVRS works to assist students with disabilities who may require services in order to prepare for, get, and keep a job. The ultimate goal is to create a smooth transition from school to work, so that upon graduation, a student is prepared to begin work and/or postsecondary training that lead to competitive employment. Updated testing (Psychological and Educational evaluations) is required within two years of graduation to determine the student’s current interests and abilities. Once found eligible, DVRS may provide counseling/guidance to current high school students, as well as help the student/family develop goals and objectives for an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

DVRS Services Offered to Eligible Adults: Vocational counseling & guidance, placement services, job seeking skills, supported employment, time limited placement and coaching, job accommodations, skills training, college training, physical/emotional restoration, mobility equipment, driver training, and vehicle/home modifications.

**\*\*Please Note**: Expenses for medical services, training, supplies, tools, and/or equipment are based on the individual’s income/ability to pay. In some cases, DVRS may be able to assist the student in funding their college/vocational school education, paying for books, and/or providing a monthly reduced-fare bus pass.

**Additional Transition-Related Resources in NJ/Union County**

**to Assist People with Disabilities**

**New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Disability Services (NJDHS/DDS): 11A Quakerbridge Plaza, Mercerville NJ, PO Box 705 Trenton NJ 08625, 888-285-3036** <http://nj.gov/humanservices/dds/home/>

Within the Department of Human Services, the DDS provides a single point of entry for those seeking disability-related information in NJ. DDS works to streamline access to services/information that promote/enhance independent living for individuals with disabilities by facilitating coordination and cooperation among local, county, and state government agencies. DDS promotes maximum independence and the full participation of people with disabilities within all aspects of community life.

DDS publishes New Jersey Resources Booklet each year, and it is the most comprehensive guide of services available throughout New Jersey for people with disabilities.

Personal Preference Program (PPP): **Renee Davidson, PPP Program Manager, (888) 285-3036**

<http://nj.gov/humanservices/dds/services/ppp/index.html>

The PPP offers an alternate way for individuals to receive their Medicaid Personal Care Assistant (PCA) services. Using the “Cash & Counseling” model, with the philosophy of “consumer direction,” this program allows elderly and disabled Medicaid recipients to direct, and manage, their Medicaid PCA services. PPP provides an alternative to traditional PCA agency services and allows the individual greater control of the services they receive. Using a monthly allowance, PPP participants work with a consultant to develop a Cash Management Plan (CMP) that is used to identify the services needed and the individuals/agencies they want to hire to provide the services. If a participant is cognitively impaired or is unable to make decisions on their own, a representative can assist them.

**College/Vocational School Disability Services**: Generally speaking, updated psychological/educational testing is needed within 2 years of graduation from your high school in order to receive these services, but please contact the Office of Disability Services at each postsecondary institution you are interested in attending for more information. Please be aware that, once you have identified yourself and provided the college with your IEP, Psychological and Educational Evaluations, no change to the curriculum will take place at the postsecondary level, but they may be able to provide you with supportive services such as extended time, testing in a different location, help with the writing lab, a tutor, priority registration/parking, etc…

**Social Security Administration** **(SSA):** **(800) 772-1213, 855 Lehigh Avenue, Union, NJ 07083,** [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

You may apply for Social Security benefits and Medicaid at the same time.

To learn more about the application process for both children and adults with disabilities, please visit: https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/ssi.html. You can also schedule an appointment with a local Social Security office to file an application or call the number above for more information (TTY (800) 325-0778); they are available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Union County Division of Social Services**, **Division of Social Services, Charles Gillon, Director, 343 Westminster Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07207, (908) 965-3706**

The Division provides assistance to the needy in Union County by administering a variety of programs including free vaccinations and immunizations for children, Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance, Food Stamps, Emergency Assistance, Family Care, Nursing Home Care, Medical Assistance, Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) and Child Support Services.

**Union County Office of the Disabled: Leslie Gutierrez, Director, Office for the Disabled, (908) 527-4807 (between 8:30am to 4:30pm M-F), Email:** lgutierrez@ucnj.org, <http://ucnj.org/departments/human-services/office-for-the-disabled/>

The Office administers the Personal Assistance Services Program (PASP) in Union County. The PASP helps program participants pursue vocational goals and live independently. The PASP can assist people with disabilities who are working, going to college, attending a vocational training program or involved in volunteer activities (minimum of 20 volunteer hours per month). To be eligible, PASP applicants must have a permanent physical disability, be age 18 through 70, be capable of self-direction, able to supervise a personal assistant and live in a community-based residence in New Jersey. Personal assistants can assist with essential daily living activities such as bathing, dressing, wheelchair-bed transfers, meal preparation, light housekeeping, laundry, shopping, as well as other chores and errands. Contact: Helen Alvarado, PASP Coordinator, 908-527-4845

**Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI): Richard Dunning, 100 Daniels Way, Freehold, NJ 07728, (609) 331-5342, Richard.dunning@dhs.state.nj.us**

Vocational Rehabilitation services are designed to assist persons who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind in the development, acquisition, and/or updating of skills that will enable them to secure/maintain employment. Services may include: Vocational evaluation, counseling/guidance, job placement, supported employment, post-employment services, high school transitional services, college counseling/support, assistive technology services, and computer training.

CBVI offers a College Prep Experience Program: This six week program is made possible through a partnership with Raritan Valley Community College, (RVCC). The program participants attend classes at RVCC while residing at the Joseph Kohn Training Center (JKTC) and upon completion earn five credits for transfer to the college or university of their choice. The College Experience Course provides impaired students with a comprehensive overview of strategies for negotiating college life. Each student is also enrolled in a course of their choice selected from the RVCC Summer Course Catalogue and has an opportunity to participate in a SAT Prep Course. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cbvi/services/vocation/highschool/collegeprep.html>.

In addition, they also offer a Work Skills Prep Program (WSP) at The College of NJ (TCNJ) which is a 2-week residential summer program for high school students (ages 16 – 21), registered with CBVI, who may have additional disabilities such as cognitive, developmental, hearing, or mobility impairments. The goal of the program is to give students the opportunity to learn and/or enhance their skills to transition from school to a successful adult life which includes achieving competitive employment. Upon completion of the program, a written assessment is provided to support both the parents’ and schools’ inclusion of appropriate Transition goals in the student’s IEP.

For more information, please contact Amanda Gerson, Coordinator of Vocational Rehabilitation and Transition Services, (973) 648-3660 or you may email her at Amanda.Gerson@dhs.state.nj.us. You may also visit the WSP website at: [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cbvi/services/vocation/highschool/wsprep](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cbvi/services/vocation/highschool/wsprep).

**The Alliance Center for Independence (ACI), 629 Amboy Ave, Edison, NJ 08837, 732-738-4388,** [**www.adacil.org/programs**](http://www.adacil.org/programs)

ACI provides information and referral services and develops and implements educational programs and innovative activities that promote activism, peer support, health and wellness, employment and independent living skills for people with disabilities and their allies.

**The Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund: New Jersey Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 728, Trenton, NJ 08625- 0728, (609) 292-0600,** [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cicrf/home/](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cicrf/home/)

To apply, please call (800) 335-FUND (3863) or visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cicrf/home/apply/index.html>

The Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund is a financial assistance program for New Jersey Families whose children have an illness or condition otherwise uncovered by insurance, State or Federal programs, or other source, such as fundraising. The Fund is intended to assist in preserving a family's ability to cope with the responsibilities which accompany a child's significant health problems.

To be eligible, the child must be 21 years or younger when the medical expenses were incurred. In any prior consecutive 12-month period, dating back to 1988, eligible expenses must exceed 10% of the family's first $100,000 of income, plus 15% of any income in excess of $100,000. The family must have lived in NJ for three months immediately prior to the date of application. Migrant workers may be eligible; temporary residents are not.

The following incurred expenses will be considered and may be eligible for payment/reimbursement if found reasonable. The categories include, but are not limited to: Specialized pediatric ambulatory care, addictions/mental health services, acute or specialized hospital care, both in and outpatient, physician care in all settings, medical equipment or disposable medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, medically related home modifications and medical transportation, home health care, and experimental medical treatment or pharmaceuticals following special review

**The Mental Health Association in New Jersey (MHANJ): 2333 Morris Avenue, Building C. Suite 206/208, Union, New Jersey, 07083, (908) 810-1001,** <http://www.mhanj.org/>

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey strives for mental health for children and adults through advocacy, education, training, and services. They provide direct services to support and educate individuals with mental health challenges and their family members. Services Available in Union County include: Advocacy, Individual and Family Support, the Peer Recovery Warm Line (a toll-free peer-run service providing ongoing telephone support to mental health consumers working toward recovery), Intensive Family Support Services (IFFS) (provides support, education, respite care and advocacy for families of people with mental health problems), the Acute Family Care program (provides mentoring for family members of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis), the Peer Outreach Support Teams (POST), and the Community Education including the Mental Health Players.

With regards to Employment and Workforce Development, the MHANJ offers a comprehensive continuum of job readiness, job placement and post-employment support. They also have a Career Connection Employment Resource Institute (CCERI) that assists the mental health community in creating positive career paths for mental health consumers. Vocational preparation for mental health consumers includes a “Tools for Success” program that covers job readiness and employment skills.

For the 2016-17 Quick Reference Guide: Mental Health and Addiction Services in Union County, please visit:

<http://ucnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/2016-2017-Guide-Mental-Health-Addiction-Services-in-Union-County.pdf>.

The **Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services**, has created a Directory of Mental Health Services which is searchable by County or Program Element (updated 9/2017). For more information, please visit <http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/home/hotlines/MH_Dir_COMPLETE.pdf>.

**Supportive Transportation Options**

**Access Link/Paratransit: (AL/PT), 800 955-ADA1 (2321)** <http://www.njtransit.com/tm/tm_servlet.srv?hdnPageAction=AccessLinkTo>

Access Link is a shared public transportation service, comparable to the NJ TRANSIT and designed for people with disabilities who are unable to use the local fixed route bus. It is available during the same days and hours as the regularly scheduled local fixed route bus service, including weekends and holidays. Eligible customers and companions will be charged a comparable fare based on the bus fare and number of zones they will be traveling. Access Link requires you to live within ¾ of a mile from an existing bus route, and your destination must also be within ¾ of a mile.

All persons interested in applying for Access Link service are required to attend an in-person transportation assessment interview; please contact them at the telephone number above, between the hours of 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday, to begin the eligibility process (Choose the "not a certified Access Link rider" option to speak with a Certification Assistant). For more specific information about Access Link, please visit:

<https://accesslink.njtransit.com/FILE/Apps/System/images/web_brochure.pdf>.

**Paratransit: (908) 241-8300,** Operates Monday to Friday 7:30am to 5:30pm, limited hours available on Saturday, no service on Sunday.

<http://ucnj.org/departments/human-services/paratransit-system/>

The Union County Paratransit System is a shared curb-to-curb transport service specializing in transportation of senior citizens (age 60 or older), persons with disabilities and/or economically disadvantaged residents of Union County. To learn more and to make a reservation, please visit: http://ucnj.org/departments/human-services/paratransit-system/how-to-make-reservations/. There is a fare of $2 per one-way trip, and Paratransit reservations can be made M-F, 8am to 4pm by calling the number above (first-time callers should call between the hours of 1pm and 4pm). Out of county trips are provided on Monday & Wednesday only. The county provides services within a five (5) mile radius of Union County borders. These requests are considered an in-county trip and will be scheduled as such. Paratransit will provide non-emergency transportation for: Medical, Nutrition, Mental Health, Shopping, Employment, Recreation, Education, Bus Service, and Rail Service.