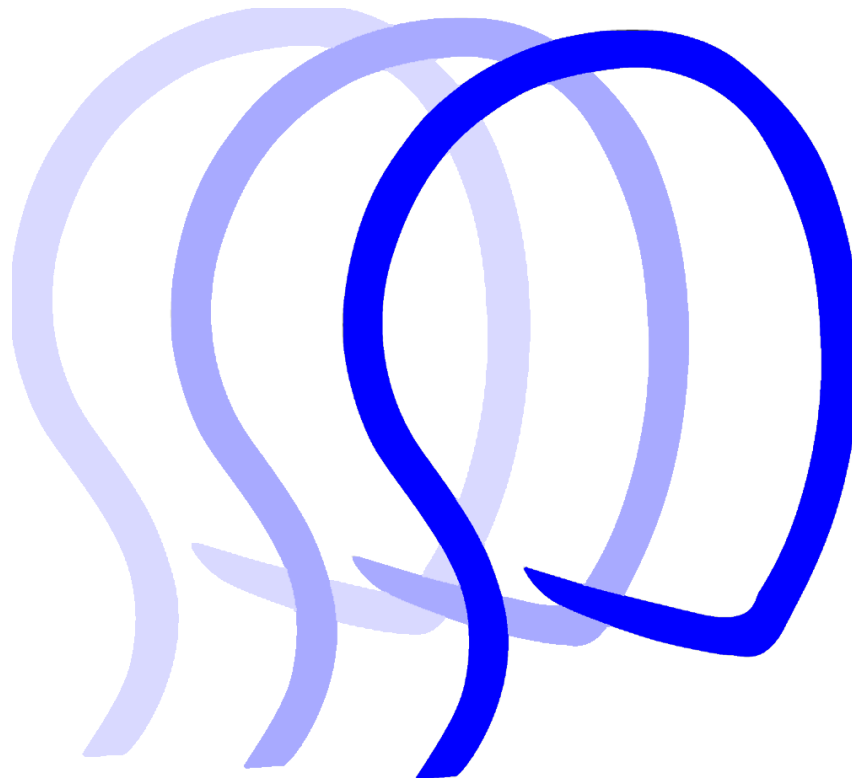


New Jersey Brain Injury Resource Guide



Brain Injury Association of New Jersey, Inc.
825 Georges Road - 2nd Floor, North Brunswick, NJ 08902
(732) 745-0200 1-800-669-4323
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November 2009



BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION

Since 1981

OF NEW JERSEY

EDUCATION ■ OUTREACH ■ PREVENTION ■ ADVOCACY ■ SUPPORT

Dear Reader,

On behalf of the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey, I am pleased to present this guide to resources that may be of assistance to people with brain injury and their families. Brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability among children and adolescents, and an estimated 3.17 million Americans live with disabilities resulting from brain injury. Many state agencies serve individuals affected by brain injury, and this guide was developed to assist you in having a better understanding of the resources available.

The guide contains a listing of comprehensive brain injury rehabilitation programs, support groups, national and state brain injury associations, and state and county agencies that assist people with brain injuries. While we attempted to include a wide variety of services throughout New Jersey, there may be programs that will also meet the needs of your clients not listed. Professionals who are in private practice are not included in the guide. For further assistance in identifying appropriate supports for your clients, please contact one of our Information and Resources Coordinators at (732) 745-0200.

Sincerely,

Barbara Geiger-Parker
President & CEO

The Brain Injury Association of New Jersey does not support, endorse or recommend particular methods, treatments, or programs for people with brain injury. Our goal is to inform the public. We believe every individual affected by brain injury has the right to know what resources are available. Inclusion of a brain injury program in this directory does not imply endorsement by the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey. The Brain Injury Association of New Jersey is not responsible for the nature, scope and quality of the programs listed in this directory.



825 Georges Road • 2nd Floor • North Brunswick, NJ 08902

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BOARD CHAIR

A Chartered State Affiliate of the Brain Injury Association of America
<http://www.bianj.org>

BARBARA GEIGER-PARKER
PRESIDENT & CEO

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I. Brain Injury Association of New Jersey

Mission

Our mission is to support and advocate for individuals affected by brain injury and raise public awareness through education and prevention.

Services for People with Brain Injury & Their Families

- **Family Helpline** (1-800-669-4323) and **Resource Library** offering people with brain injury, family members, professionals and the general public free information and resources about brain injury. The library contains free publications and articles, as well as books and videos which may all be borrowed at no cost.
- **Language Line Service** for those people speaking in a language other than English.
- **Support Groups** for people with brain injury, their family and friends.
- **Family Support Program** that provides families with care coordination, resource exploration, and assistance navigating the system of available supports and services.
- **TREK (Together in Recreation, Exploration, and Knowledge) Program** for people with brain injury 16 and older that provides a weeklong residential summer respite and recreational camp program.
- **TBI Family Care Mentoring Program** for people with brain injury and family members that provides emotional support from someone who has been down the path of brain injury and is a trained mentor.

Outreach

- **Return to Work Project** working to create programs that will support people with brain injuries as they return to work.
- **Outreach to Hospitals, Trauma Centers, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Programs and Other Organizations** to raise awareness of brain injury and the programs and services of the Association.
- **Exhibiting & Community Events** to further raise awareness of brain injury and the Association through exhibiting at large professional conferences but also smaller grassroots level events.

Education & Training

- **Brain Injury Basics for Families Sessions** offered throughout the state for families, people with brain injury and their families to learn more about brain injury and the resources available to individuals and families.
- **Annual Seminar** aimed at educating family members, persons with a brain injury, professionals, and the general public on issues surrounding brain injury.
- **Regional Seminars** for health and human service workers to learn more about brain injury.
- **Sessions for Parents & School Professionals** to learn more about the unique issues faced by school-aged children and adolescents who have sustained brain injuries.
- **Online Course for School Professionals** offered through a partnership with Rutgers University.
- **Brain Injury Association of New Jersey website** at www.bianj.org.
- **E-News** free monthly electronic newsletter.
- **Quarterly Newsletter** distributed to Association members.

Prevention

- **Brainy Bunch** helmet safety campaign (www.brainybunch.info).
- **Concussion in Youth Sports** campaign (www.sportsconcussion.com).
- **Heads Up Seniors** fall prevention and safety awareness.
- **Kids on the Block** puppet program on transportation safety and brain injury awareness
- **Think Positive: A Helmet Safety Reward Program** for law enforcement professionals.
- **UGotBrains** campaign aimed at adolescents and transportation safety (www.ugotbrains.com).
- **NJTeenDriving** safe driving campaign aimed at parents and adolescents (www.njteendriving.com).

Advocacy

- **Advocacy and Legislative Affairs** maintaining a voice in government and promoting safety legislation.
- **CHIC (Council for the Head Injured Community)** supporting self-advocacy efforts for people with brain injury.

For more information regarding our programs, please contact us:

Brain Injury Association of New Jersey
825 Georges Road, 2nd Floor, North Brunswick, NJ 08902
(800) 669-4323 (NJ only) or (732) 745-0200
Fax: **(732) 745-0211**
Web Site: www.bianj.org ~ Email: info@bianj.org
Office Hours are Monday – Friday
9:00am – 5:00pm

II. Additional Brain Injury Associations

Brain Injury Association of America, Inc.

1608 Spring Hill Road, Suite 110

Vienna, VA 22182

Telephone: 703-761-0750

Family Helpline: 800-444-6443

Fax: 703-761-0755

Website: www.biausa.org

E-Mail: FamilyHelpLine@biausa.org

The national Association provides information about brain injury and resources throughout the United States. The website provides dozens of links to brain injury information sites.

Brain Injury Associations in Neighboring States

Brain Injury Association of New York

10 Colvin Avenue

Albany, NY 12206

Telephone: 518-459-7911

Family Helpline: 800-228-8201

Fax: 518-482-5285

Website: www.bianys.org

Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania

2400 Park Drive

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Telephone: 717-657-3601

Family Helpline: 866-635-7097

Website: www.biapa.org

Brain Injury Association of Delaware

840 Walker Road, Suite A

Dover, DE 19904

Telephone: 302-346-2083

Family Helpline: 800-411-0505

Website: www.biausa.org/Delaware/bia.htm

III. What is brain injury?

The brain controls everything we say, do, think, and feel. It controls the very functions that keep us alive: breathing, circulation, digestion, hormones, and the immune system. It is through the brain that we experience emotion and express ourselves.

“Weighing less than sixteen hundred grams (three pounds) the human brain in its natural state resembles nothing so much as a soft, wrinkled walnut. Yet despite this inauspicious appearance, the human brain can store more information than all the libraries in the world. It is also responsible for our most primitive urges, our loftiest ideals, the way we think, even the reason why, on some occasions, we sometimes don’t think, but act instead.” - From *The Brain* by Richard Restak, M.D.

Definitions and Causes

Brain injury refers to an injury in which an insult to the brain causes damage to the brain. Just as every individual is unique, every brain injury is unique, and no two injuries are ever the same.

Brain injuries are often described as either traumatic or acquired based on the cause of the injury. The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) has developed the following definitions:

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is an insult to the brain, not of a degenerative or congenital nature, which is caused by an external physical force that may produce a diminished or altered state of consciousness, and which results in an impairment of cognitive abilities or physical functioning. It can also result in the disturbance of behavioral or emotional functioning.

Traumatic brain injuries occur during everyday activities, including: falls, motor vehicle crashes, assaults, and sports injuries, including concussions.

Acquired brain injury (ABI) is an injury to the brain that is not hereditary, congenital or degenerative. Acquired brain injuries are caused by some medical conditions, including strokes, encephalitis, aneurysms, anoxia (lack of oxygen during surgery, drug overdose, or near drowning), metabolic disorders, meningitis, or brain tumors.

Although the causes of brain injury differ, the effects of these injuries on a person’s life are quite similar.

Results of a brain injury

Whatever the cause, a brain injury can, according to the Brain Injury Association of America, result in “an impairment of cognitive abilities or physical functioning. It can also result in the disturbance of behavioral or emotional functioning.” Cognitive consequences can include memory loss, slowed ability to process information, trouble concentrating, organizational problems, poor judgment and difficulty initiating activities. Physical consequences can include seizures, muscle spasticity, fatigue, headaches and balance problems. Emotional and behavioral consequences can include depression, mood swings, anxiety, impulsivity and agitation.

Brain injury affects not only the individual, but also the family, close friends, co-workers and other social networks of the individual. Roles and relationships change. The financial ramifications may be extensive.

The silent epidemic

Brain injury has been called the “silent epidemic” because public recognition of brain injury is extremely low despite the staggering number of people who are injured each year.

The effects of brain injury are often invisible to an unknowing observer. Likewise, the visible effects of brain injury—such as physical impairment, behavioral issues, and even cognitive deficits—are often not properly attributed to brain injury.

Over 1.4 million people in the United States sustain traumatic brain injuries each year, but only one sixth of them are admitted to hospitals. This number does not include people with acquired brain injuries. The annual incidence of TBI alone is higher than that of breast cancer, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury and HIV/AIDS combined.

TBI in the United States

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2004):

- 1.4 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury every year.
- Each year, approximately 80,000 - 90,000 Americans experience the onset of long-term disability following TBI.
- More than 50,000 people die every year as a result of TBI.

For additional national statistics, visit the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/TBI.htm>

TBI in New Jersey

According to the New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services’ Center for Health Statistics:

- Each year in New Jersey there are nearly 9,000 traumatic brain injuries (TBI), resulting in hospitalization or death. This does not include the brain injuries that are treated in emergency departments and outpatient settings or those that go untreated.
- Approximately 10% of these TBIs are fatal.
- Leading causes of TBI in New Jersey are falls, motor vehicle crashes, assaults and self-inflicted injury. Historically, the leading cause has been vehicle crashes (including automobiles, bicycles, and recreational vehicles). However, in 2003, falls became the leading cause of TBI in New Jersey, responsible for more than 20% more TBIs than vehicle crashes.
- TBI rates are higher among men for all major causes. The rate of TBI for males is nearly twice that of females for motor vehicle injures and 54% higher for falls.

For additional state statistics, visit the Center for Health Statistics website:

- http://www.state.nj.us/health/chs/monthlyfactsheets/tbi_0407.pdf
- <http://www.state.nj.us/health/chs/oisp/cns.shtml>

IV. Brain Injury Association of New Jersey Affiliated Support Groups

What is a brain injury support group?

Brain injury support groups exist to allow persons with brain injury and their family members to meet others who are in similar situations, gain valuable emotional support from one another, form friendships, obtain information and resources, and hear speakers discuss a variety of brain injury topics. They are an opportunity for both persons with brain injury and their family members to discuss the difficulties and hardships they are facing, as well as the accomplishments and joys in their life. Meetings typically take place once a month, and are led by professionals who volunteer their time to run a brain injury support group. The groups are free of charge and are open to both family members and people with brain injury.

Many individuals avoid support groups because they feel that they are only complaint sessions that focus on the negative aspects of life after brain injury, but this is not the case. Support groups can be an opportunity for individuals to support and encourage one another, not only through the rough times but also through the good times.

***Please note that the support group information is subject to change. Please call before you attend a meeting for the first time, or if you have not attended recently.**

- **Atlantic/Cape May Group at Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation**
61 W. Jimmie Leeds Road, Pomona, NJ 08240-0723
Contact: Nutan Ravani, 856-589-5797
Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.
- **Burlington/Camden Group at Bancroft NeuroHealth**
201 South Kings Highway East, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
Contact: Katie Kelly, 856-616-6437, ext. 240 or Kristin Lukianovich, 856-616-6433
Meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m.
- **Burlington/Camden Group at Marlton Rehabilitation Hospital**
92 Brick Road, Marlton, NJ 08053
Contact: Nutan Ravani, 856 988-8778
Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m.
Mild/Moderate TBI Support Group
- **Cumberland Group at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Vineland**
1237 West Sherman Avenue, Vineland, NJ 08360
Contact: Eugenio Rocksmith, 856-696-7100
Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
- **Essex Group at Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation**
1199 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052
Contact: Betty Collins, 973-731-3600
Meets the second and last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- **Gloucester Group at Moss Rehab/Drucker Brain Injury Center at Woodbury**
135 South Broad Street, Woodbury, NJ 08096
Contact: Dayna Scott, 856-853-9900, ext. 102
Meets the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- **Hunterdon/Somerset Group at the Meadows at Oldwick**
159 Oldwick Road, Oldwick, NJ 08858
Contact: Kathy Loder-Murphy, 732-932-6725
Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

- **Mercer Group at St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Hospital**
 Conference Room 117, 2381 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
 Contact: David Searles, 609-896-9500, ext. 2244
Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- **Middlesex Group at JFK Johnson Rehab Center for Head Injuries**
 JFK Hartwyck at Oak Tree, 2048 Oak Tree Rd., Edison, NJ 08820-2012
 Contact: KSabrina Wishiewski, 732-906-2640, ext 42656
Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
- **Monmouth Group at Dorbrook Park Recreation Area**
 Route 537, Colts Neck, NJ, 07722
 Contact: BIANJ Office, 732-745-0200
Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
- **Morris Group at Kessler Institute for Rehab/Chester Campus**
 Pleasant Hill Road, Chester, NJ 07930
 Contact: Denise Holdereid, 973-252-6375
Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
- **Ocean Group at Community Medical Center**
 99 Highway 37 West, Toms River, NJ 08755
 Contacts: Phone: 732-557-8000, Pam Lightfoot, ext. 11547, and Vicky Hardy, ext. 10226
Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
- **Passaic/Bergen Group at Rehabilitation Specialists**
 18-01 Pollitt Drive, Suite 1A, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
 Family Contact: Dawn Scala, 201-478-4200 ext. 19 and Jennifer Victoria-Proano, ext 31
 Voices That Count (Survivors) Contact: Carly Schoener, 201-478-4200 ext. 26
Both groups meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- **Salem Group at Memorial Hospital of Salem County**
 310 Woodstown Rd., Salem, NJ 08079
 Contact: Diane Lynn Robbins, 609-202-9902
 Conference Room 4th Floor
Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month
- **Sussex Group at Redeemer Lutheran Church**
 37 Newton Sparta Road, Newton, NJ 07860
 Contact: Vince Diorio, 732-627-9890, ext. 220
Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m.(Business meeting held at 7 p.m.)
- **Warren / Hunterdon Group at ABIS**
 1 Shimer Blvd., Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
 Contact: Randy Fusaro, 800-962-4429 or 908-454-0006
 Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7pm
Support group information is subject to change. Please call the support group contact before you attend a meeting for the first time, or if you have not attended recently.

V. Choosing a Brain Injury Rehabilitation Programs

A. Guidelines for Selecting a Facility

1. Always try to obtain the names of at least three programs to consider for your family member.
2. Location should be just one of many factors families consider in regard to selecting a brain injury rehabilitation program. If a nearby program is not familiar with brain injury, it may be better to travel a distance to ensure an appropriate program.
3. Tour the facilities. You shouldn't rely on brochures and phone calls alone. Nothing can replace the experience of viewing a facility in person and meeting with program staff.
4. Look for a clean environment with a caring staff and adequate space for all disciplines of the treatment team to provide treatment.
5. Ask questions. Learn about the program, its staff and rehabilitation philosophy and methodology. If you do not understand something, insist that someone take the time to explain it in the detail you need.
6. Write down answers to your questions during tours to enable you to compare information about the different programs.
7. It is most important that members of the prospective treatment team all have expertise in brain injury rehabilitation, and have a team approach to planning and treatment.
8. Ask for the names of family members of individuals who have been through the program within the past year. Ask the family member what they were told prior to admission. Were they satisfied with the program content? Was discharge based on goals reached or exhaustion of funding?
9. Ask if a nationally recognized accrediting body, such as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), accredits the brain injury program.
10. Finally, the decision you arrive at must be based on your own individual opinions. This will continue to be the most important criteria in the long term care of your family member. Remember that people with brain injury and their family members know themselves and their needs best.

B. Rancho Los Amigos Scale

Levels of Cognitive Functioning
(Can be used as part of admission criteria to a program/facility)

To help families and those who treat people with brain injury understand the behavior of individuals as they go through rehabilitation after brain injury, a "Levels of Cognitive Functioning Scale" was developed by the brain injury treatment team at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey, California.

The Rancho Levels, as they are called, are an assessment tool that does not require cooperation from the patient. Rather, they are based on observations of the patient as he responds to environmental stimuli. They provide a clear description of the various behavioral stages a person with brain injury will experience as they begin to progress through rehabilitation.

The Rancho Levels are most useful in the first weeks or months following the injury. The speed at which progression from level to level will occur cannot be predicted.

An understanding of the characteristics of each of the eight Rancho Levels is helpful when families and professionals must deal with the behaviors demonstrated by patients following a brain injury. The descriptions listed below provide insight into the expected progression toward rehabilitation.

- **Level I. No Response**
Patient appears to be in a deep sleep and is unresponsive to stimuli.
- **Level II. Generalized Response**
Patient reacts inconsistently and nonpurposefully to stimuli in a non-specific manner. Responses are limited and often the same, regardless of stimuli presented.
- **Level III. Localized Response**
Patient responses are specific but inconsistent, and are directly related to the type of stimulus presented, such as turning head toward a sound or focusing on a presented object. He may follow simple commands in an inconsistent and delayed manner.
- **Level IV. Confused-Agitated**
Patient is in a heightened state of activity and severely confused, disoriented, and unaware of present events. Patient's behavior is frequently bizarre and inappropriate to his immediate environment. He is unable to perform self-care. If not physically disabled, he or she may perform automatic motor activities such as sitting, reaching and walking as part of an agitated state, but necessarily as a purposeful act.
- **Level V. Confused-Inappropriate, Non-Agitated**
Patient appears alert and responds to simple commands. More complex commands, however, produce responses that are nonpurposeful and random. The patient may show some agitated behavior; it is in response to external stimuli rather than internal confusion. The patient is highly distractible and generally has difficulty in learning new information. He can manage self-care activities with assistance. His memory is impaired and verbalization is often inappropriate.
- **Level VI. Confused-Appropriate**
Patient shows goal directed behavior, but relies on cueing for direction. He can relearn old skills such as activities of daily living, but memory problems interfere with new learning. He has a beginning awareness of self and others.
- **Level VII. Automatic Appropriate**
Patient goes through daily routine automatically, but is robot-like with appropriate behavior and minimal confusion. He has shallow recall of activities, and superficial awareness of, but lack of insight into, his condition. He requires at least minimal supervision because judgment, problem solving, and planning skills are impaired.
- **Level VIII. Purposeful Appropriate**
Patient is alert and oriented, and is able to recall and integrate past and recent events. He can learn new activities and continue without supervision once the activities are learned. He is independent in home and living skills, though deficits in stress tolerance, judgment, abstract reasoning, social, emotional, and intellectual capacities may persist.

C. Program Types

Rehabilitation programs provide a variety of services to assist individuals with brain injury to progress to their optimum level of recovery. Beyond the program types listed below, additional services provided by rehabilitation facilities may also include physical, occupational, speech and recreational therapies; cognitive rehabilitation; vocational and employment services.

- 1. Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation:** This may be provided at either a hospital or a freestanding rehabilitation facility that offers 24-hour nursing care. Patients participate in a minimum of 3 hours of intensive rehabilitation services per day at least 5 times per week. After acute rehabilitation, patients may be transferred to a sub-acute rehabilitation or discharged home.
- 2. Subacute Rehabilitation:** Subacute care is provided in an inpatient setting such as a nursing home, with 24-hour nursing care. Patients participate in rehabilitation a minimum of 1 hour per day at least 3 times per week. Some patients may transfer to this setting from acute inpatient rehabilitation, if appropriate.
- 3. Extended Intensive Rehabilitation:** More seriously injured persons may require extended therapies in a structured program, which has all the elements found in the acute/subacute rehabilitation center. Emphasis will usually be on cognitive retraining, speech therapy, memory retraining, activities of daily living (ADL), restructuring lost social behaviors, and continued physical therapies. Pre-vocational and vocational training, recreational therapy and community re-entry are usually part of each program. Patients will remain in these programs as long as progress is being made. These services can also be provided in an outpatient setting.
- 4. Transitional Living Programs:** The goal of this program is to prepare individuals for maximum independence, to teach the skills necessary for community interaction, and to work on pre-vocational and vocational training. Specialized programs stressing memory, speech and behavioral therapies are usually structured to the needs of the individual.
- 5. Life-Long Residential:** For those individuals unable to live at home or independently, a structured residential program may be the only alternative. These long-term care arrangements may include supervised apartments or group home living options.
- 6. Skilled Nursing Facilities:** These facilities are more focused on medical needs and have 24-hour nursing care. Therapies are provided as appropriate to meet medical needs.
- 7. Day Treatment Programs:** These are non-residential facilities. They emphasize a variety of services to upgrade functional skills, including traditional therapies, psychosocial adjustment, cognitive therapy, pre-vocational training, independent living, skills training, etc. They can accommodate a variety of disabilities and the number of hours may vary. Some offer day care (supervision) for those unable to benefit from an active program.
- 8. Independent Living Programs/Community Outreach Services:** A community-based program that provides services, and/or lists of referrals to assist people with disabilities to increase personal self-determination and to minimize unnecessary dependency on others.
- 9. Coma Treatment Centers:** Some persons with brain injury will remain in a coma for months or longer after injury. Selected centers will accept such individuals once they are medically stable and attempt to achieve improvement by the use of various stimulation techniques.
- 10. Behavior Management Programs:** Severe maladaptive or aggressive behavior will limit an individual's participation in most rehabilitation settings. While most programs treat common behavioral problems following brain injury, they may not be able to handle destructive behavior to self or others, sexual aggression, etc. In some instances, you may need to seek out a program that specifically provides behavior management services for such behaviors.

D. Listing of Brain Injury Rehabilitation Programs by County

Programs are listed in the county in which they are located, although they typically work with individuals from a wider geographic area. Contact the programs listed below for more specific information on the programs and services they offer. For more help in selecting a facility, see the Brain Injury Association of America's **Guide to Selecting & Monitoring Brain Injury Rehabilitation Services**. You can download the guide at www.bianj.org/Guide.to.Selecting.Monitoring.Brain.Injury.Rehabilit.pdf or request a copy by calling the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey.

Atlantic County

- **Betty Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation**
61 West Jim Leeds Road
Pomona, NJ 08240
Telephone: 609-652-7000
Website: www.bacharach.org
Provides 24 hour inpatient rehab nursing services in a specialized setting, as well as outpatient services including neuro-optometrist, spasticity clinic, vocational training, driver re-education, home accessibility evaluation, community re-entry, and day rehabilitation.
- **PLUS-NeuroRehabilitation**
235 White Horse Pike
Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215
Telephone: 609-404-7877
Admissions: 856-824-0011 x213
Website: www.plusnj.com
Provides residential services, day programming, outpatient services, vocational and educational assistance, home and community based services, and long-term services.

Bergen County

- **Cambridge Rehabilitation Services**
31 Sheridan Avenue, Suite 1
Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423
Telephone: 201-251-8555
Website: www.njbraininjurycenter.com
Provides behavior management, cognitive remediation, family/individual counseling, life skills training, and outpatient and day services.
- **Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation- Saddle Brook**
300 Market Street
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663
Telephone: 201-368-6000
Admissions: 201-368-6003
Website: www.kessler-rehab.com
Provides inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation.
- **Rehabilitation Specialists**
18-01 Pollitt Drive, Suite 1A
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
Telephone: 201-478-4200
Toll-Free: 800-441-7488
Website: www.rehab-specialists.com
Provides day programming, residential services, addictive behavior services, respite, home-based services, vocational services, neuropsychological evaluations, and family support.

Burlington County

- **Aspen Physical Therapy**
300 A Campus Drive
Mount Holly, NJ 08060
Telephone: 609-261-3434
Provides home health services and outpatient therapies.
- **The Center for Neurological and Neurodevelopmental Health and Clinical Research Center of New Jersey**
1001 Laurel Oak Road, Suite E2
Voorhees, NJ 08043
Telephone: (856) 346-0005
Website: www.thecnnh.org
Provides pediatric services for children and adolescents, including neurological, neuropsychological, neurodevelopmental, psychoeducational, home and school evaluations and management, brain injury rehabilitation consultation, individual and family therapy, cognitive therapy, medication treatment, speech therapy, occupational therapy, neuropsychological testing and academic remediation, and yoga and movement therapy.
- **Marlton Rehabilitation Hospital**
92 Brick Road
Marlton, NJ 08053
Telephone: 856-988-8778
Admissions: 856-988-4106
Website: www.marltonrehab.com
Provides a comprehensive day hospital with acute and post-acute services for people with neurological impairments, providing inpatient, day programming, and outpatient services.
- **New Jersey MENTOR Brain Injury Services**
110 Gardenia Drive
Maple Shade, NJ 08052
Telephone: 856-533-4100
Website: www.nj-mentor.com
Provides residential services (supervised apartments and group home living, structured day programs, behavior therapy and counseling, in-home and community-based cognitive therapy, school re-entry and vocational services, and case management for brain injury.
- **New Jersey MENTOR Brain Injury Services**
617 Devon Avenue
Moorestown, NJ 08047
Telephone: 856-533-4100
Website: www.nj-mentor.com
Provides residential services (supervised apartments and group home living, structured day programs, behavior therapy and counseling, in-home and community-based cognitive therapy, school re-entry and vocational services, and case management for brain injury.
- **Weisman Children's Rehabilitation Hospital**
92 Brick Road
Marlton, NJ 08053
Telephone: 856-489-4520
Toll-Free: 877-543-8774
Admissions: 856-489-4250 x291
Website: www.weismanchildrens.com
Provides pediatric services, including home care, private school, subacute day programming, residential services and specialized rehabilitation services.

- **Plus NeuroRehabilitation**
 8008 Route 130 North Bldg. C
 Delran, NJ 08075
 Telephone: 856-824-0011
 Admissions: 856-824-0011 x213
 Website: www.plusnj.com
Provides residential services, day programming, outpatient services, vocational and educational assistance, home and community based services, and long-term services.
- **Plus NeuroRehabilitation**
 131 Cropwell Drive
 Maple Shade, NJ 08052
 Telephone: 856-608-0180
 Admissions: 856-824-0011 x213
 Website: www.plusnj.com
Provides residential services, day programming, outpatient services, vocational and educational assistance, home and community based services, and long-term services.

Camden County

- **Bancroft NeuroHealth - Lebensfeld Center**
 201 Kings Highway South
 Cherry Hill, NJ 07034
 Telephone: 856-216-8090 Toll-Free: 1-800-774-5516
 Website: www.bancroft.org
Provides residential rehabilitation, day programming, long-term supported living, community-based group homes and apartments, behavioral programming and crisis intervention, specialized vocational, recreational and employment services, pediatric and school –based services, and outpatient services.
- **Bancroft NeuroHealth**
 9 Pen Road
 Voorhees, NJ 08043
 Telephone: 856-767-3531
 Admissions: 856-429-5637 x239
 Website: www.bancroft.org
Provides residential services, group activities, rehabilitation therapy, and career focused day programs.
- **Independence Rehab**
 1030 N. Kings Hwy, Suite 210
 Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
 Telephone: 856-321-1900
 Toll-Free: 800-356-7360
 Website: www.independencerehab.com
Provides community re-entry services, day programming, outpatient therapies, driver training evaluation, and individual and group psychotherapy.
- **Magee-Moss Rehab at Voorhees**
 443 Laurel Oak Road, Suite 200
 Voorhees, NJ 08043
 Telephone: 856-741-7400
 Toll-Free: 800-966-2433
 Website: www.mageerehab.org
Provides outpatient therapies, balance rehabilitation, stroke rehabilitation, and comprehensive care.

- **Voorhees Pediatric Facility**
1304 Laurel Oak Road
Voorhees, NJ 08043
Telephone: 1-888-VPF-KIDS (873-5437)
Website: www.forkidcare.com
Provides pediatric skilled nursing and rehabilitative care.

Cape May County

No listings

Cumberland County

- **HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Vineland**
1237 West Sherman Ave
Vineland, NJ 08360
Telephone: 856-896-2016
Toll-Free: 800-691-7475
Website: www.rhsj.com
Provides specialized subacute services and outpatient rehabilitation services.

Essex County

- **Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation- West Orange**
1199 Pleasant Valley Way
West Orange, NJ 07052
Telephone: 973-731-3600
Admissions: 201-368-6003
Website: www.kessler-rehab.com
Provides inpatient rehabilitation, day programming, cognitive remediation program, neuropsychiatry, neuropsychology, neurophthalmology, spasticity management, driver evaluation and training, and balance disorder assessment and treatment.
- **Opportunity Project**
60 East Willow Street
Millburn, NJ 07041
Telephone: 973-921-1000
Website: www.opportunityproject.org
Provides a clubhouse model with vocational support, long-term support, informational support, and social/ recreational programs.
- **Universal Institute**
15-17 Microlab Road
Livingston, NJ 07039
Telephone: 973-992-8181
Website: www.uirehab.com
Provides residential services, day programming, outpatient rehabilitation, individual and family counseling, educational counseling, and community based services.

Gloucester County

- **Bancroft Neurohealth**
Commissioners Road
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062
Telephone: 856-429-5637, ext. 257 or 371 Toll-Free: 1-800-774-5516
Website: www.bancroft.org
Provides physical occupational and speech therapies, day programming, residential rehabilitation, long-term supported living, campus and community-based group homes, behavioral programming and crisis intervention, specialized vocational, recreational and employment services.
- **Moss Rehab - Drucker Brain Injury Center**
135 South Broad Street
Woodbury, NJ 08096
Telephone: 856-853-6600 x102
Toll-Free: 800-225-5667
Website: www.einstein.edu
Provides residential services, community re-entry services, day programming, diagnostic evaluation, vocational services, school re-entry, and independent living skills.

Hudson County

No listings

Hunterdon County

No listings

Mercer County

- **Community Options**
16 Farber Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
Telephone: 609-951-9900
Website: www.communityoptionsonline.org
Provides community-based residential services, skilled nursing, assistive technology, and supported employment.
- **St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Hospital**
2381 Lawrenceville Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Telephone: 609-896-9500
Website: www.slrc.org
Provides acute and inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient services, day programming, driver evaluation and training, vision therapy, seating clinic, aquatic rehabilitation, pain management, and individual therapies.
- **Children's Specialized Hospital Outpatient Center at Hamilton**
3575 Quakerbridge Road
Hamilton, NJ 08619
Telephone: 609-631-2800
Website: www.childrens-specialized.org
Provides outpatient therapies, psychological services, family counseling, neuropsychology, and physician services.

- New Jersey MENTOR Brain Injury Services**
 9412 Town Center South
 Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
 Telephone: 856-533-4100
 Website: www.nj-mentor.com
Provides residential services (supervised apartments and group home living, structured day programs, behavior therapy and counseling, in-home and community-based cognitive therapy, school re-entry and vocational services, and case management for brain injury).
- New Jersey MENTOR Brain Injury Services**
 115 Laura Avenue
 Hamilton, NJ 08618
 Telephone: 856-533-4100
 Website: www.nj-mentor.com
Provides residential services (supervised apartments and group home living, structured day programs, behavior therapy and counseling, in-home and community-based cognitive therapy, school re-entry and vocational services, and case management for brain injury).

Middlesex County

- Bancroft Neurohealth**
 666 Plainsboro Road
 Suite 2000C
 Plainsboro, NJ 08536
 Telephone: 609-799-8400
 Website: www.bancroft.org
Provides physical occupational and speech therapies, day programming, residential rehabilitation, long-term supported living, campus and community-based group homes, behavioral programming and crisis intervention, specialized vocational, recreational and employment services.
- Children's Specialized Hospital**
 200 Somerset Street
 New Brunswick, NJ 08901
 Telephone: 732-258-7000
 Website: www.childrens-specialized.org
Provides pediatric inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation.
- JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute**
 Brain Trauma Unit
 65 James Street
 Edison, NJ 08818
 Telephone: 732-321-7733
 Website: www.njrehab.org/braintrauma.htm
Provides acute inpatient rehabilitation, coma intervention, and extended recovery unit.
- JFK Johnson Rehabilitation's Center for Head Injuries**
 2048 Oak Tree Road
 Edison, NJ 08820
 Telephone: 732-906-2640
 Website: www.njrehab.org/ctrforheadinj.htm
Provides outpatient cognitive rehabilitation, day programming, community re-entry, day activity program, and outpatient mild brain injury program.

Monmouth County

- **Comprehensive Neuropsychological Specialties**
27 Beach Road
Monmouth Beach, NJ 07750
Telephone: 732-571-4799
Website: www.cns-neuropsychology.com
Provides outpatient neuropsychological services, psychotherapy/family therapy, and sports concussion management.
- **HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Tinton Falls**
2 Centre Plaza
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724
Telephone: 732-460-5320
Website: www.healthsouth.com
Provides inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation therapies, neuropsychological services, day treatment, home assessments and case management.
- **Lifespan/Neuropsychology Rehab Services**
Jersey Shore Medical Arts Building
1944 Route 33, Suite 202
Neptune, NJ 07754
Telephone: 732-988-3441
Website: www.neuropsychrehabservices.com
Provides individual counseling, neuropsychological services, day programming, biofeedback, and outpatient cognitive rehabilitation.
- **Monmouth County Care Centers**
John L. Montgomery Division
115 Dutch Lane Road
Freehold, NJ 07728
Telephone: 732-431-7420
Website: <http://co.monmouth.nj.us/carecenters>
Provides subacute residential services for young adults with neurological impairments.
- **Universal Institute**
73 Dudley Street
Long Branch, NJ 07740
Telephone: 973-992-8181
Website: www.uirehab.com
Provides residential services, day programming, outpatient rehabilitation, individual and family counseling, educational counseling, and community based services.

Morris County

- **Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation**
201 Pleasant Hill Road
Chester, NJ 07930
Telephone: 973-584-7500 x 230
Admissions: 973-252-6500
Website: www.kessler-rehab.com
Provides inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, neuropsychiatry, neuropsychology, neurophthalmology, spasticity management, driver evaluation and training, and balance disorder assessment and treatment.

- **NeuroRehab Institute**
200 Valley Road, Exodon Suite 301
Mount Arlington, NJ 07856
Telephone: 973-601-0100
Website: www.neurorehabinstitute.com
Provides cognitive remediation, physical therapy, vocational rehabilitation, psychotherapy, and behavior management.
- **Morristown Memorial Hospital**
Atlantic Rehabilitation Institute
100 Madison Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07962
Telephone: 973-971-5000
Website: www.atlantichealth.org
Provides acute inpatient rehabilitation.
- **Rehabilitation Institute of Morristown Memorial (RIMM)- Mild TBI Program**
95 Mount Kemble Ave
Morristown, NJ 07962
Telephone: 973-971-7979
Website: www.atlantichealth.org
Provides outpatient, day treatment, community based programming, and case management for mild brain injury.

Ocean County

- **A & W Psychology Services**
525 Route 70, Suite A-3
Lakewood, NJ 08701
Telephone: 732-364-0040
Provides cognitive remediation, family/individual counseling, outpatient substance abuse counseling, child behavioral services, and neuropsychological services.
- **Bancroft NeuroHealth**
Brick Facility
1200 Route 70
Brick, NJ 08723
Telephone: 856-429-5637, ext. 257 or 371 Toll-Free: 1-800-774-5516
Website: www.bancroft.org
Provides residential services, long-term supported living, structured day programs, community re-entry, specialized vocational services along with medical case management.
- **Children's Specialized Hospital**
94 Stephens Road
Toms River, NJ 08755
Telephone: 732-914-1100
Website: www.childrens-specialized.org
Provides pediatric inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation.
- **HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of NJ**
14 Hospital Drive
Toms River, NJ 08755
Telephone: 732-244-3100
Website: www.healthsouth.com
Provides acute rehabilitation care for people with neurological impairments.

Passaic County

No listings

Salem County

No listings

Somerset County

- **Willow Creek NeuroMed Brain Injury Program**
1165 Easton Avenue
Somerset, NJ 08853
Telephone: 732-246-4100
Website: www.reverawillowcreek.com
Provides subacute residential services.

Sussex County

- **New Jersey MENTOR Brain Injury Services**
33 Lincoln Place
Newton, NJ 07860
Telephone: 856-533-4100
Website: www.nj-mentor.com
Provides residential services (supervised apartments and group home living, structured day programs, behavior therapy and counseling, in-home and community-based cognitive therapy, school re-entry and vocational services, and case management for brain injury.

Union County

- **Atlantic Neuroscience Institute's Concussion Center**
99 Beauvoir Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901
Telephone: 908-522-6146
Website: www.atlantichealth.org
Provides treatment for sports-related and other mild traumatic brain injuries, including treatment and assessment of concussion and neuropsychological testing.
- **Children's Specialized Hospital**
150 New Providence Road
Mountainside, NJ 07092
Telephone: 908-233-3720
Website: www.childrens-specialized.com
Provides pediatric inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation.

Warren County

- **Acquired Brain Injury Services**
1 Shimer Blvd.
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
Telephone: 908-454-0006
Toll-Free: 800-962-4429
Website: www.njabis.com
Provides outpatient intensive rehabilitation, vocational testing, cognitive therapy, neuropsychological services, home and community-based services and behavior treatment.

Statewide Programs

- **Community Skills Program**
5000 Sagamore Drive, Suite 203, PO Box 687
Marlton, NJ 08053
Telephone: 856-596-5122
Website: www.communityskillsprogram.com
Provides cognitive rehabilitation, therapeutic recreation, vocational testing, training, and job placement, individual and family counseling, instruction on independent living, case management, and follow-up services for individuals residing in their own home.
- **New Jersey MENTOR Brain Injury services**
80 Cottontail Lane, Suite 330
Somerset, NJ 08873
Telephone: 732-627-9890
Website: www.nj-mentor.com
Provides residential services (supervised apartments and group home living, structured day programs, behavior therapy and counseling, in-home and community-based cognitive therapy, school re-entry and vocational services, and case management for brain injury.
- **Acquired Brain Injury Services**
1 Shimer Blvd.
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
Telephone: 908-454-0006
Toll-Free: 800-962-4429
Website: www.njabis.com
Provides outpatient intensive rehabilitation, vocational testing, cognitive therapy, neuropsychological services, home and community-based services and behavior treatment.

Out of State Programs

Please contact the Brain Injury Associations of New York, Pennsylvania or Delaware for additional information about programs in these neighboring states. For other states, contact the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA). Contact information for BIAA can be found in the Brain Injury Associations in Neighboring States section of this guide.

Specialized Brain Injury Professionals

In addition to the professionals working in the programs that have been listed, there are professionals (in rehabilitation, law, education, etc.) who work with people with brain injury on a private basis. Contact the Brain Injury Association for New Jersey for additional information.

E. Accreditation

National Accreditation Commissions such as those mentioned below are paid by facilities to visit their location and conduct an outside evaluation of services. The evaluation is conducted by experts in the appropriate specialty areas who apply very strict standards of care to the evaluation process. If a facility meets the standards, the agency will accredit the facility for a period of one to three years and facilities may then let the public know that they have met very strict standards that have been evaluated by a National Accreditation Commission. National Accreditation Commissions could include:

- **JCAHO:** Joint Commission Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
Website: www.jointcommission.org
Phone: 630-792-5000

- **CARF:** Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
CARF has different categories that a facility may have:
 - o CARF in Brain Injury
 - o CARF in General Rehabilitation
 - o CARF in Comprehensive Inpatient RehabilitationWebsite: www.carf.org
Phone: 888-281-6531

- **CORF:** Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility
Website: www.cms.hhs.gov/CertificationCompliance/17_CORFs.asp

VI. Government Services & Other Resources

A. New Jersey Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Medicaid Waiver

Background

The New Jersey TBI Medicaid Waiver was established in 1993 in order to provide community-based services for people with brain injury as an alternative to long term institutional care.

Since July 2001, the Department of Human Services' Division of Disability Services (DDS) has been responsible for administration of this waiver. This is a federally approved waiver which must be renewed every 5 years.

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to provide community alternatives for people with brain injury who are currently in nursing facilities or who are in the community and at risk for placement in nursing homes. The population served is adults with cognitive, behavioral and physical deficits which require supervised and supportive care. Most individuals involved have either completed, or would no longer benefit from, a course of intensive rehabilitation.

The objective of this program is to reintegrate and maintain people with brain injury in the community.

Slots

Currently, there are 350 funded slots for this waiver.

Population Served

Individuals must be financially eligible under the New Jersey Medicaid institutional eligibility standards for both income and resources and have been determined permanently disabled by the Social Security Administration or the Disability Review Unit of the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS).

Medically, they must meet nursing facility level of care standards established by the State's preadmission screening process and also meet the following criteria: (1) diagnosis of acquired brain injury after their 21st birthday but prior to turning 65 years of age; (2) exhibit medical, emotional, behavioral and cognitive deficits; (3) have a rating of at least 4 on the Rancho Los Amigos Level of Cognitive Functioning Scale.

Services

All State Medicaid Plan Services are offered, plus the following special waiver services: Case Management, Counseling (behavioral, individual/family and drug/alcohol), Community Residential Services, Therapies (provided by community residential providers), Behavioral Program, Environmental Modification, Structured Day Program, Supported Day Program, Transportation, Respite Care, Night Supervision and Chore Services.

Case Management services are provided by community agencies independent of TBI waiver service providers.

Providers

All service providers must be licensed, certified, or accredited as appropriate. Seven regional case management agencies have been selected to serve the waiver beneficiaries. These agencies are either licensed home health agencies or member agencies of the Jersey Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (JARPS).

Other waiver services such as Structured Day Program, Supported Day, and Behavioral Programs are provided by agencies certified by the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

Providers of Community Residential Services (CRS) must be licensed by the DHS Office of Licensing

Eligibility Process

Initial referral is to the Division of Disability Services. The Division of Disability Services coordinates the preadmission screening for nursing facility (NF) level of care by staff from the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). DHSS staff determines level of care.

A review of the beneficiary's need for nursing facility level care and the continued need for waiver services will be conducted at six-month intervals, by the TBI Waiver case manager. The Division reviews and approves plans of care initially and at six-month intervals. Program oversight is provided by the DDS and through DMAHS.

Further Information

Inquiries should be directed to the Division of Disability Services at 1-888-285-3036 or 609-292-4800. Staff is available to provide technical assistance in the application process and additional information on the program.

B. Additional Sources of Funding

Currently, in the State of New Jersey, there are several funding sources available in the event of a brain injury. Severity of injury, pre-injury insurance, employment status and history, financial situation, current age, age at the time of injury, and the circumstances that brought about the injury are all factors that help determine which sources may be available to an individual. The following information is provided to assist families and professionals in understanding the existing programs so that they can better determine where to apply for assistance.

Government Sources of Assistance

1. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

The Social Security Disability program pays benefits at any age to people who have enough Social Security credits and who have a severe physical or mental impairment that is expected to prevent them from doing "substantial" work for a year or more, or who have a condition that is expected to result in death. The disability program includes incentives to smooth the transition back into the workforce, including continuation of benefits and health care coverage while a person attempts to work.

2. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income is a federal program established for the aged and people with disabilities. The program provides monthly payments to people who have a low income and few assets. The federal government administers SSI through the Social Security Administration office. People over 65 and people with disabilities, including children, may be eligible for SSI payments, and would receive New Jersey Medicaid automatically. Check with your local Social Security office for the SSI rates (as they vary state to state, and vary depending on a person's living arrangement). Generally, people who qualify for SSI also qualify for Medicaid, food stamps, and other assistance.

For further information on both Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or visit their website at www.ssa.gov.

3. Medicare

Medicare is a health insurance program, administered by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), for people 65 years of age or older and certain young people with disabilities. Anyone who has received Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) for at least two years is eligible for Medicare.

Medicare services are divided into three types: Part A, Part B, and, most recently, Part D (prescription coverage). Part A helps to pay for care in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and hospice care. Part B helps pay for doctors, outpatient hospital care, and some other services not covered under Part A. Part D is the most recent addition to Medicare, and helps to pay for prescription drug coverage.

For further information on Medicare, call 1-800-633-4227 or visit the website at www.medicare.gov.

4. Medicaid

The New Jersey Medicaid program, administered by the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, covers certain medical and health care services for individuals who meet established eligibility requirements. Medicaid is a medical assistance program designed for persons on limited fixed incomes and for some "medically needy" persons. SSI recipients are automatically eligible and need not make a separate application.

Medicaid also authorized some long-term care facilities to operate programs, units, and equipment that provide specialized care to certain nursing home residents with exceptional needs, including traumatic brain injury long-term care facilities. Pre-admission screening is required for all prospective long-term care residents whose primary nursing home expenses will be paid by Medicaid, as long as pre-admission screening for those requiring specialized care in a traumatic brain injury long-term care facilities.

For further information on Medicaid, call 1-800-356-1561.

a. Medicaid Home & Community Based Waivers

Medicaid provides unique services to persons with a variety of disabilities through home and community-based waiver programs.

i. The **Community Resources for People with Disabilities (CRPD) Medicaid Waiver** is for blind and disabled children and adults, and provides all Medicaid State Plan services, as well as case management services. Individuals who meet specific clinical criteria, can receive private duty nursing services of up to 16 hours per day. The most frequently used services are personal care assistant, home health, medications, durable medical equipment and physician services. New Jersey has recently added new services to this waiver, including environmental modifications and personal emergency response systems. **For further information on the CRPD Waiver, contact the Division of Disability Services at 1-888-285-3036 or 609-292-4800.**

ii. The **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Medicaid Waiver** for persons 22-65 with an acquired brain injury, and provides case management, counseling community residential services, therapies, behavioral programs, environmental modifications, day programming, personal care assistant, transportation, respite care, night supervision, chore services and companion services for individuals who qualify. **For further information on the TBI Medicaid Waiver, contact the Division of Disability Services at 1-888-285-3036 or 609-292-4800.**

iii. The **Global Options (GO) for Long-Term Care Medicaid Waiver** is for individuals 65 years or older, or between the ages of 21 and 64 who are deemed disabled by the Social Security Administration (SSA) or the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, Disability Review Section (individuals who are chronically mentally ill, mentally retarded or developmentally disabled are considered ineligible). Services provided through the GO Medicaid Waiver include assisted living/adult family care, respite care, home based supportive care, environmental accessibility adaptations, personal emergency response systems, home delivered meal service, caregiver/participant training, social adult day care, special medical equipment and supplies, chore services, care management, transition services and transitional care management, transportation, and attendant care.

The **Global Options (GO) Nursing Facility Transition (NFT)** is part of the above GO initiative, and is for individuals residing in a nursing facility who could potentially transition back to the community.

For more information on the GO for Long-Term Care and GO Nursing Facility Transition Medicaid Waivers, contact your local Area Agency on Aging at 1-877-222-3737.

v. The **Community Care Medicaid Waiver (CCW)** is for individuals registered with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (the disability had to have manifested before the age of 22), and provides case management, habilitation, individuals supports, environmental/vehicle accessibility adaptation, personal emergency response system, and respite care. **For further information on the CCW Waiver, contact the Division of Developmental Disabilities at 609-984-4500.**

b. NJ Personal Preference: Cash & Counseling Program

Allows Medicaid recipients who are eligible for Medicaid Personal Care Assistance services to direct their own care. Through a monthly cash allowance, participants work with a consultant to develop a cash management plan by which they decide the services they need and the individuals and/or agencies they wish to hire to provide the identified services. The program requires greater consumer responsibility but offers participants greater control, flexibility and choice.

For further information on the Cash & Counseling Program, contact the Division of Disability Services at 1-888-285-3036 or 609-292-4800.

5. Veterans

A disabled individual who is a veteran or whose parent or spouse is or was a veteran, may be eligible for monthly cash payments, assistance with educational costs, medical care, vocational assistance, rehabilitation or other benefits. In addition, a disabled person who is a veteran may be eligible for grants for specifically adapted housing.

For more information, contact the Veteran's Affairs Hotline at 1-800-624-0508.

6. Vocational Rehabilitation

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS), within the Department of Labor, provides services to individuals of employable age with disabilities through 18 district offices. Eligibility generally is based on the presence of a mental or physical disability that is a handicap to employment, and a reasonable expectation that the division's services will help the individual become employable. Vocational rehabilitation counselors work with the individuals and their families to develop and carry out a plan for training and placement. If financial need is established, the division will purchase other rehabilitative services from private providers, such as further evaluation or counseling, training at a vocational center or technical school and on-the-job training.

For further information, contact the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services at 609-292-5987, or visit their website at www.wnjp.in.state.nj.us.

7. Ticket to Work

The goal of the Ticket to Work program is to give disability beneficiaries the opportunity to achieve steady, long-term employment by providing them greater choices and opportunities to go to work if they choose to do so. The Social Security Administration issues Tickets to eligible adult (ages 18-64) beneficiaries. Tickets can be used to obtain rehabilitation and employment services or a job from any Employment Network a beneficiary chooses. Employment Networks are service providers that work with beneficiaries to provide support and employment-related assistance. The Ticket Program is voluntary, and individuals will receive their Ticket in the mail directly from the Social Security Administration. The Program is under the authority of the Social Security Administration, and is administered nationally by Maximus, Inc., the contracted Program Manager (PM).

For further information on the Ticket to Work program, visit the website at www.yourtickettowork.com, or contact Maximus, Inc. at 1-866-968-7942 or 1-866-968-7842.

8. Victims of Crime Compensation Agency

Victims of crime who have suffered personal injuries (including brain injuries) may file a claim for compensation with the New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Agency. To be eligible, you must file within two years from the date of the personal injury, the crime must be reported to the police within three months after it occurs, the crime must have occurred in New Jersey, and you must cooperate fully with the police, the prosecutor's office, and the Agency.

For further information, contact the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency at 877-658-2221.

9. Traumatic Brain Injury Fund

The purpose of the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Fund is to allow New Jersey residents who have survived a brain injury to obtain the services and supports they need to live in the community. The Fund purchases services and supports that foster independence and maximize quality of life. This Fund is used when insurance, personal resources and/or public programs are unavailable to meet the needs of the applicant. Services that may be funded include the following: addiction treatment services, assistive technology, case management, cognitive therapy, counseling services, employment services, equipment, home health services, home modifications, neuropsychology services, personal care assistance, pharmaceuticals, service coordination, transportation, therapy services, and other services related to brain injury.

For further information, contact the Division of Disability Services at 1-888-285-3036, option 2.

10. New Jersey Temporary Disability Insurance

Workers who are temporarily unable to perform their normal work responsibilities due to illness or disability NOT caused by work are entitled to receive benefits from the State of New Jersey for up to 26 weeks. In order to be eligible for these benefits, you must have had at least 20 calendar weeks in covered New Jersey employment in which you earned \$103 or more (called "base weeks"), or have earned \$5,200 or more in such employment during the "base year" period. The "base year" period is the 52 weeks immediately before the week in which your disability began. Only covered wages earned during the base year period can be used in determining your claim. Workers who become disabled within 14 days of their last day of work in covered New Jersey employment may be covered for disability insurance under the State Plan or an approved Private Plan. Inquiries concerning your own coverage may be directed to your employer, and benefits are usually applied for on the worker's behalf by the employer. You have 30 days from the first day of disability in which to file your claim.

For further information, speak with your employer or contact the Division of Temporary Disability Insurance at 609-292-7060.

11. New Jersey Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund

The Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund was created to provide financial assistance for families whose children have experienced an illness or condition which is not fully covered by a state or federal program, or by insurance, or have unpaid medical bills. Families annually may reapply for assistance. Families that have lived in New Jersey for at least three months immediately preceding the date of application may be eligible if they have incurred health care expenses that exceed 10 percent of the family's income (plus 15 percent of any income over \$100,000). The child must have been 21 years old or younger when the medical bills were incurred.

For further information, contact the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund at 609-292-0600 or the Family Information Line at 1-800-335-FUND (3863).

12. Division of Developmental Disabilities

The New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities arranges and coordinates services to eligible state residents who have developmental disabilities. Developmental disabilities begin before age 22 and are lifelong conditions that affect a person's ability to live without some assistance. These conditions include neurological impairments that are most often due to traumatic brain injuries occurring during the developmental stages. Developmental disabilities substantially limit the individual in at least three of the following areas: self-care, learning, mobility, communication, self-direction, economic self-sufficiency and the ability to live independently. Availability of services depends upon the Division's current resources and types of services offered vary in each county. Some services offered include residential services, self-determination (allows individuals to create their own service plans and decide where and with whom they want to live), family support (including in home and out of home respite, cash stipends, assistive devices, and recreation), day programming, and supported employment.

For further information on the Division of Developmental Disabilities, call 800-832-9173.

Private Sources of Assistance

No Fault Insurance

Individuals who have sustained their injuries during an automobile crash are protected under the New Jersey Automobile Reparation and Reform Act, commonly known as no fault insurance. Benefits include all reasonable and necessary medical expenses incurred as a result of the accident as well as continuation of income. Since 1990, there has been a \$250,000 cap on allowable medical expenses.

Worker's Compensation

Benefits similar to those provided under no fault insurance may be available to individuals injured while on the job. Payments for lost wages as well as medical expenses are usually available. Information can be obtained through the employer's personnel department.

C. Additional State Agencies

New Jersey Division of Disability Services (DDS)

222 South Warren Street, PO Box 700

Trenton, NJ 08625

Telephone: 1-888-285-3036 (Toll-free) or 609-292-7800

Fax: 609-292-1233

Website: www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds

DDS serves as a single point of entry for people with disabilities, whether through illness or injury. Through its toll-free helpline (888-285-3036), DDS responds to questions about information, programs and services required by people with disabilities. DDS also administers programs that allow people with disabilities to live more independently in the community including:

- The **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Fund** allows New Jersey residents who have survived an traumatic brain injury to obtain the services and supports they need to live in the community.
- The **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Medicaid Waiver** provides services in the home and community for those who sustained brain injuries after their 21st birthday but prior to turning 65 years of age who qualify financially and medically.
- **NJ WorkAbility: Medicaid Buy In** offers people with disabilities who are employed the ability to receive New Jersey Medicaid health coverage.
- **Personal Care Assistant Services (PCA)**, a state plan service for Medicaid recipients, provides assistance with daily tasks for those who have a disability.
- **Personal Assistance Services Program** is a state funded program that provides routine non-medical assistance to people with disabilities who work, attend school or are involved in community and volunteer activities.
- **Personal Preference** is a program that allows New Jersey Medicaid recipients with disabilities to direct their own Medicaid personal care assistance services as an alternative to accepting services from an agency.
- **Home and community based services** provide services that let people with disabilities avoid institutionalization and remain in the community.

Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired (CBVI)

Main Office

153 Halsey Street

Newark, NJ 07102

Telephone: 973-648-3333

Website: www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cbvi

The CBVI offers educational services, mobility training, daily living skills training and vocational rehabilitation services for the blind and visually impaired.

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Central Office

5 Commerce Way

Hamilton Township, NJ 08691

Telephone: 800-832-9173

Website: www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd

Mailing Address: PO Box 726, Trenton, NJ 08625

DDD arranges and coordinates needed services to eligible state residents who have severe developmental disabilities, including brain injury. The services include: case management, guardianship, family support, residential services, day programs, transitioning services through the Pathways to Adult Life program, services to individuals in their homes through the Real Life Choices program, and supported employment. DDD serves clients through the following eight regional offices located throughout the state.

NORTHERN REGION

1-B Laurel Drive 100

Flanders, NJ 07836

Telephone: 973-927-2600

Counties Served: Morris, Sussex & Warren

Hamilton Plaza, 7th Floor

Paterson, NJ 07505

Telephone: 973-977-4004

Counties Served: Bergen, Hudson & Passaic

UPPER CENTRAL REGION

59 Main Street

West Orange, NJ 07052

Telephone: 973-324-2000

Counties Served: Somerset & Union

153 Halsey Street, 2nd Floor

P.O. Box 47013, Newark, NJ 07101

Telephone: 973-693-5080

Counties Served: Essex

LOWER CENTRAL REGION

P.O. Box 706, 32 Hanover Street

Trenton, NJ 08625-0706

Telephone: 609-292-4500

Counties Served: Hunterdon, Mercer & Middlesex

Juniper Plaza, Suite 1-J

3499 Route 9 N, Freehold, NJ 07728

Telephone: 732-863-4500

Counties Served: Ocean & Monmouth

SOUTHERN REGION

2 Echelon Plaza, Suite 210

221 Laurel Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043

Telephone: 856-770-5900

Counties Served: Burlington, Camden & Gloucester

5218 Atlantic Ave

Suite 205

Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Telephone: 609-476-5200

Counties Served: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, & Salem

Division of Mental Health Services (DMHS)

Main Office

50 East State Street, PO Box 727

Trenton, NJ 08625

Telephone: 800-382-6717

Website: www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs

DMHS provides psychiatric care and outpatient mental health services to adults with serious and persistent mental illness and children with emotional and behavioral disorders.

Division of Child Behavioral Health Services

50 E. State Street, P.O. Box 717, 4th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625

Telephone: 609-292-4741

Website: www.nj.gov/dcf

For questions about or to access services for children and youth, call the 24-hour, toll-free Access Line at: 1-877-652-7624

The Division of Child Behavioral Health Services (DCBHS) serves children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral health care challenges and their families across all child-serving systems. Formal and informal services include: assessment (screening, evaluation & diagnostic services); mobile response and stabilization services; out-of-home crisis stabilization services; acute inpatient hospital services; residential treatment center care; group home care; treatment homes/therapeutic foster care; intensive face-to-face care management; outpatient treatment; partial care; intensive in-home services; behavioral assistance; wraparound services; and family support.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)

Main Office

P.O. Box 398

Trenton, NJ 08625

Telephone: 609-292-5987

Website: www.state.nj.us/labor/dvrs/vrsindex.html

The mission of DVRS is to assist people with disabilities to work toward gainful employment consistent with their strengths, interests, needs and abilities.

<u>County</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Atlantic County	609-813-3933	Middlesex County	732-937-6300
Bergen County	201-996-8970	Monmouth County	732-775-1799
Burlington County	609-518-3948	Morris County	973-631-6304
Camden County	856-614-2500	Ocean County	732-505-2310
Cape May County	609-523-0330	Passaic County	973-977-4285
Cumberland Cty	856-453-3888	Salem County	856-453-3888
Essex County	973-648-3494	Somerset County	908-704-3030
Gloucester County	856-384-3730	Sussex County	973-852-4110
Hudson County	201-217-7180	Union County	908-820-3112
Hunterdon County	908-704-3030	Warren County	908-852-4110
Mercer County	609-292-2940		

Special Child, Adult and Early Intervention Services

P.O. Box 364

Trenton, NJ 08625

Telephone: 609-777-7778

Website: www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/scdesc.htm

Special Child Health Services provides case management to ensure that children with special health care needs receive quality services that will prevent or reduce the effects of developmental delay, chronic illness or behavioral disorder.

D. Social Security

After a brain injury, many people face significant financial struggles. Early contact with the Social Security Administration can help identify possible sources of income replacement and medical benefits.

Social Security Administration (SSA)

Telephone: 1-800-772-1213

Website: www.ssa.gov

SSA provides general information and will set up an appointment with your local Social Security Disability office. Have available the Social Security number of the individual interested in services when you place the call.

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

Telephone: 800-792-8820

Website: www.state.nj.us/health/senior/ship.shtml

SHIP provides information and assistance with Medicare related problems and questions.

Legal Services of New Jersey's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Project

Telephone: 1-877-576-5774

Website: www.lsnj.org

Initiated in 1999, the SSI Project represents a unique joint venture of various state and federal agencies and LSNJ, and has the sole purpose of helping disabled indigent people get a more livable income. The SSI Project represents General Assistance (GA) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients in all levels of the SSI and Social Security Disability application process. With an emphasis on winning cases at the initial application stage, the SSI Project helps individuals with physical and mental disabilities by developing their medical history, writing legal arguments, and completing the complex Social Security application and related documents in a way designed to win federal SSI benefits for disabled individuals.

E. Legal Services**Brain Injury Association of New Jersey's Family Helpline:**

Telephone: 1-800-669-4323

Website: www.bianj.org

The Association maintains a list of attorneys with experience representing individuals with brain injuries.

Community Health Law Project (CHLP) – Main Office

185 Valley Street

South Orange, NJ 07079

Telephone: 973-275-1175

Website: www.chlp.org

The essential mission of CHLP is to provide legal and advocacy services to people with disabilities. CHLP attorneys and advocates represent clients in matters involving Social Security benefits, welfare, food stamps, and other entitlements; housing habitability and landlord-tenant disputes; consumer protection and debt collection; child support, visitation, and domestic violence; Medicaid, Medicare, and other health insurance issues.

Legal Services of New Jersey

P.O. Box 1357

Edison, NJ 08818

Telephone: 1-888-576-5529

Website: www.lsnj.org

Provides free information, advice and referral for low-income people with civil legal problems.

Disability Rights New Jersey

210 South Broad Street, 3rd Floor

Trenton, NJ 08608

Telephone: 1-800-922-7233

Website: www.drnj.org

Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) is the consumer-directed, non-profit organization that serves as New Jersey's designated protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities in the state. In partnership with individuals with disabilities and their families, DRNJ works to protect and advance the rights of people with disabilities. DRNJ provides information and referral and a broad range of advocacy services, including legal representation in numerous cases in state and federal courts.

F. Employment

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)

(See Listing Under State Agencies)

Job Accommodations Network (JAN)

Telephone: 1-800-526-7234

Website: <http://janweb.icdi.wvu.edu/>

JAN is a free consulting service designed to increase the employability of people with disabilities by providing individualized worksite accommodations solutions, providing technical assistance regarding the ADA and other disability related legislation, and educating callers about self-employment options.

Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act

Telephone: 1-866-968-7842

Website: www.yourtickettowork.com

This voluntary program allows Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability beneficiaries to receive a "ticket" to obtain vocational rehabilitation, employment, or other support services from an approved provider of their choice.

One-Stop Career Centers

Telephone: 1-877-872-5627

Website: www.nj.gov/labor/oscc/OSCC.html

Designed to fundamentally change the way workforce services are delivered, the One-Stop Career Centers fully integrate all workforce programs and services (unemployment, job training, job search assistance, etc.) available at the state and local levels as if they were a single entity.

NJ WORKABILITY, Division of Disability Services

Telephone: 1-888-285-3036

Website: www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds

The WorkAbility program offers people with disabilities who are working, and whose income would otherwise make them ineligible for Medicaid, the opportunity to receive full NJ Medicaid coverage. People with permanent disabilities who are employed between the ages of 16 to 64 can qualify for the program with annual gross earned income up to approximately \$50,000.

NJ WINS (Work Incentive Network Support)

Website: www.cpofnj.org/services/bene.htm

NJ WINS assists individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) to make decisions about returning to work by providing benefits analysis, benefits support planning, problem solving, and information and referrals.

Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey and the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey are working together on this project in order to provide this service.

Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey: 1-877-659-4672

Counties Served: Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic, Salem, Sussex, and Warren Counties

Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey: 1-866-946-7465

Counties Served: Burlington, Camden, Essex, Hunterdon, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, and Union Counties

G. Transportation

New Jersey Transit

Telephone: 973-275-5555

Website: www.njtransit.com

New Jersey Transit provides accessible services available to people with disabilities and senior citizens.

NJ Transit's Access Link

Telephone: 1-800-955-2321

Access Link is ADA Paratransit service provided curb to curb for eligible people with disabilities. Access Link was developed to comply with the paratransit regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Access Link service is comparable to the NJ TRANSIT local bus network. Transportation is provided during the same hours and days and at the same fares as the local bus network. In order to use Access Link, you must be determined to be eligible for ADA Paratransit.

NJ Transit's Reduced Fare Program (RFP)

Telephone: 973-378-6401 or 6327

The New Jersey Transit reduced fare program is available to senior citizens and people with disabilities who travel the 150 regular bus routes, and 11 rail lines.

Accessible Bus/Rail Information

Telephone: 973-275-5555

For those with mobility devices, you can reserve a lift-equipped bus by calling the New Jersey Transit Information Center one day in advance of your trip, by 4pm.

County Paratransit Contacts

Each of the 21 counties in New Jersey has a curb- to-curb transportation service for senior citizens and people with disabilities. The counties have the authority to manage their programs independently. The names and guidelines of the programs also vary from county to county. Please contact the paratransit program in your county for assistance or more detailed information.

County	Telephone	County	Telephone
Atlantic County	609-645-7700 x4467	Middlesex County	732-296-1644
Bergen County	201-368-5955	Monmouth County	732-431-6480
Burlington County	609-265-5109	Morris County	973-829-8101
Camden County	856-456-1121	Ocean County	732-736-8989
Cape May County	609-889-3700	Passaic County	973-305-5758
Cumberland County	609-691-9331	Salem County	856-339-8622
Essex County	973-678-1300	Somerset County	908-231-7116
Gloucester County	856-401-7645	Sussex County	973-579-0480
Hudson County	201-271-4306	Union County	908-659-5000
Hunterdon County	908-788-1368	Warren County	908-475-6332
Mercer County	609-530-1971		

New Jersey Find a Ride

Website: www.njfindaride.org

This free website allows individuals with disabilities to locate public and private transportation in their area.

H. Housing

Section 8

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

Division of Housing & Community Resources

101 South Broad Street

PO Box 051, Trenton, NJ 08625-0051

Telephone: 609-292-4080

Website: www.nj.gov/dca/dh/section8/index.shtml

The objective of Section 8 is to provide housing that is affordable to very low-income households in the private rental market. Households must meet eligibility requirements. Through Section 8, renters pay no more than 30 percent of their adjusted monthly income towards their monthly rent and utilities. The balance of the rent is paid directly to the owner of the rental property. A helpful publication, Guide to the Section 8 Housing Program, is available through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. For more information on Section 8, you can contact both the state and county offices.

County	Telephone	County	Telephone
Atlantic County	609-441-3334	Middlesex County	732-777-6999
Bergen County	201-996-8990	Monmouth County	732-780-6772
Burlington County	856-614-3300	Morris County	973-631-6285
Camden County	856-614-3300	Ocean County	732-255-0818
Cape May County	609-463-0036	Passaic County	973-225-7146
Cumberland County	856-453-3820	Salem County	856-935-4700
Essex County	973-266-2822	Somerset County	908-707-9010
Gloucester County	856-935-4700	Sussex County	973-383-5602
Hudson County	201-217-7256	Union County	908-820-3256
Hunterdon County	908-707-9010	Warren County	908-475-5703
Mercer County	609-292-8537		

Section 8 Homeownership

Telephone: 609-292-9025

Through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, participants in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program can also purchase a home using their Section 8. The voucher is applied to the mortgage payment, instead of the rent. The Section 8 Homeownership program also provides housing counseling and information about financial and community resources.

Public Housing

Telephone: 609-292-3000 (For a listing of local housing authorities in New Jersey)

Website: <http://www.nj.gov/dca/codes/affdhsgguide/index.shtml> (Guide to Affordable Housing in New Jersey)

As with Section 8, the objective of the public housing program is to provide housing that is affordable to very low-income households. This federal program is administered by local housing authorities, of which there are about 100 in New Jersey. Most housing authorities have rental units, but some have houses for sale. Rents and sale prices depend on household income, and public housing authorities may give priority to people who live or work in the communities they serve.

Homeless Prevention Program

Telephone: 609-633-6204

The homeless prevention program may be able to provide limited financial assistance to those who, because of temporary financial problems beyond one's control, face eviction or foreclosure. For individuals and families who have become homeless, financial assistance may be provided to help secure permanent housing.

Subsidized Housing for Seniors & Disabled

Telephone: 609-292-3000 ((For a listing of subsidized housing for seniors & disabled)

Website: <http://www.nj.gov/dca/codes/affdhsgguide/index.shtml> (Guide to Affordable Housing in New Jersey)

Subsidized Housing specifically designated for seniors and people with disabilities is available throughout the state. To locate subsidized housing for seniors and people with disabilities in your area, contact your local county office for the disabled and/or you local county office on aging. County contact sheets, which list the contacts for these offices, are available through Brain Injury Association of New Jersey.

www.njhousing.gov

The New Jersey Housing Resource Center, a FREE online, searchable registry of affordable and special needs housing located in New Jersey, is administered by HMFA. People without internet access can call 2-1-1 to get help in searching the database.

Additional housing resources may be available at your county level, including non-profit agencies that assist residents in finding and obtaining affordable housing. For more information on your county resources, dial 211 and be connected to the Information & Resources Helpline for health and human services, community resources and governmental assistance for your county.

I. Assistive Technology

ABLEDATA

Telephone: 1-800-227-0216

Website: www.abledata.com

This organization provides information about assistive technology products and rehabilitation equipment available throughout the world. Although ABLEDATA does not sell products, they can locate companies that do.

The Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC) of Disability Rights New Jersey

210 South Broad Street, 3rd Floor

Trenton, NJ 08608

Telephone: 1-800-922-7233

Website: www.drnj.org

ATAC provides information and referral, outreach and education, technical assistance and legal and non-legal advocacy in the area of assistive technology. They also publish the CARTWheel, a NJ-wide directory of assistive technology service providers, vendors, and funding sources. Back in Action is a used equipment recycling program whose mission is to provide an alternative source for assistive technology devices, including hospital beds, wheelchairs, TTYs, etc. The Back in Action catalog acts as a clearinghouse for assistive devices that are for sale (usually at a minimal cost) or offered for donation or loan. The Back in Action program can be accessed online at: www.drnj.org/pdf/BIA%200708.pdf or call 1-800-922-7233 for a catalog.

NJ Coalition for the Advancement of Rehabilitation Technology (CART)

1005 Whitehead Road Extension Ste. 1

Ewing, NJ 08638

Telephone: 1-888-322-1918

Website: www.njcart.org

NJ CART is a non-profit organization which networks professionals and others interested in assistive technology and provides continuing education for its members and the community. The group meets approximately five times per year to discuss various assistive technologies. The organization does not provide evaluations.

J. Children's Health Care & Education

Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund

NJ Department of Human Services

P.O. Box 728

Trenton, NJ 08625

Telephone: 1-800-335-3863

Website: www.njcatastrophicfund.org

Financial help is available from the this fund if your child is 21 years old or younger when the medical expenses were incurred; your family has lived in New Jersey at least three months prior to application; and In any prior, consecutive, 12 month period, dating back to 1988, eligible expenses must exceed 10% of the family's income, plus 15% of any excess income over \$100,000. Covered expenses include, but are not limited to, special ambulatory care, acute or specialized in- or out-patient hospital care, medical equipment, medically-related home modifications, home health care and medical transportation.

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)

35 Halsey Street, 4th Floor

Newark, NJ 07102

Telephone: 1-800-654-7726

Website: www.spannj.org

SPAN provides support, training and advocacy for families and professionals who seek assistance with the educational and healthcare needs that impact children with special needs.

Education Law Center

60 Park Place, Suite 300, Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: 973-624-1815

Website: www.edlawcenter.org

The Education Law Center focuses on improving public education for disadvantaged children, and children with disabilities and other special needs. The Center uses a wide variety of strategies, including public education and engagement, policy initiatives, research, communications and, as a last resort, legal action. The Law Center also publishes *The Right to Special Education in New Jersey: A Guide for Advocates*.

ASAH

2125 Route 33, Lexington Square, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

Phone: 609-890-1400

Website: www.asah.org

ASAH is a not-for-profit organization of private schools and agencies in New Jersey which provide highly specialized services to more than 10,000 infants, children and young adults with disabilities. Founded in 1974 by thirteen private schools, ASAH now serves more than 125 school locations. ASAH provides a toll free Parent Assistance Line to help parents understand their rights and identify appropriate services, and a free Speakers Bureau for parent groups to access experts on topics in special education.

Division of Developmental Disabilities

(See Listing Under State Agencies)

Special Child, Adult and Early Intervention Services

(See Listing Under State Agencies)

Disability Rights New Jersey

(See Listing Under Legal Services)

Office of Special Education Programs

P.O. Box 500

Trenton, NJ 08625

Telephone: 609-292-4469

Website: www.nj.gov/njded/specialed

The office implements state and federal laws and regulations governing special education to ensure that pupils with disabilities in New Jersey receive full educational opportunities. It provides statewide leadership through the development of policy and implementation documents and provides guidance to school districts and parents regarding the implementation of special education programs and services. Their website contains an online search directory of approved private schools for the disabled in and out of state that can be searched by county and disability. In addition, the office funds four learning resource centers (LRCs) that provide schools and parents with information services, materials circulation, technical assistance, consultation services and production services.

Learning Resource Centers

Central Region

2351 Route 130 South, P.O. Box 1012

Dayton, New Jersey 08810-1012

Telephone: 732-274-5570

Region Served: Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, and Union Counties

Northern Region

7 Glenwood Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 201

East Orange, New Jersey 07017

Region Served: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties

Telephone: 973-414-4491

Northern Satellite Office

322 American Road

Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950

Region Served: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties

Telephone: 973-631-6345

Southern Region

606 Delsea Drive

Sewell, New Jersey 08080

Region Served: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties

Telephone: 856-582-7000

K. Information & Support

2-1-1

From Your Phone: Simply dial 2-1-1

Website: www.nj211.org

From Your Cell Phone: 1-800-435-7555

2-1-1 is a new statewide easy to remember telephone number that connects people with important community services and volunteer opportunities. While services that are offered through 2-1-1 vary from community to community, 2-1-1 provides callers with information about and referrals to human services for every day needs and in times of crisis.

Family Support Center of New Jersey

2516 Route 35 North

Manasquan, New Jersey 08736

Telephone: 1-800-372-6510

Website: www.fscnj.org

The Family Support Center is a “One-Stop Shop” clearinghouse, offering you the most up-to-date information on all types of disabilities as well as national, state and local support programs and services for individuals and families seeking such information. Services of the Family Support Center include an online database of programs, services and resources on a wide range of disabilities, diseases and disorders; a statewide parent to parent support program; lending library; private respite provider database; guardianship stipends; and an annual conference. They also publish an OPTIONS manual, free for families, which includes information on support programs, advocacy, education, recreation, financial assistance and practical parent-to-parent tips.

County Office for the Disabled

County Offices for the Disabled function as a clearinghouse for information about programs and services, advocate for people with disabilities and provide technical assistance at a local level.

County	Telephone	County	Telephone
Atlantic County	888-426-9243	Middlesex County	732-745-4013
Bergen County	201-336-6500	Monmouth County	732-431-7399
Burlington County	609-265-5144	Morris County	973-285-6855
Camden County	856-858-3220	Ocean County	732-506-5062 or 5374
Cape May County	609-465-4117	Passaic County	973-569-4060
Cumberland County	856-825-8707	Salem County	856-935-7510 x8311
Essex County	973-395-8494	Somerset County	908-704-6334
Gloucester County	856-384-6840	Sussex County	973-948-6000 x223
Hudson County	201-271-4344	Union County	908-527-4840
Hunterdon County	908-788-1253	Warren County	973-625-1940
Mercer County	609-989-6468		

NJ Statewide Independent Living Centers (SILCS)

C/o MOCEANS CIL

279 Broadway, 2nd Floor

Long Branch, NJ 07740

Telephone: 732-571-3703 or 732-571-4878

Website: www.njsilc.org

Centers for Independent Living are community based, consumer-driven organizations that provide information and referral, peer counseling, skills training, advocacy and a variety of services based on individual needs.

Statewide Independent Living Council County Offices

County	Council Name	Telephone
Atlantic County	Total Living Center	609-645-9547
Bergen County	Heightened Independence & Progress	201-996-9100
Burlington County	Resources for Independent Living	609-747-7745
Camden County	Center for Independent Living of South Jersey	856-853-6490
City of Camden	Camden Independent Living Center	856-966-0800
Cape May County	Tri-County Independent Living Center	856-327-5177
Cumberland County	Tri-County Independent Living Center	856-327-5177
Essex County	Dial, Inc.	973-470-8090
Gloucester County	Center for Independent Living of South Jersey	856-853-6490
Hudson County	Heightened Independence & Progress-Hudson	201-533-4407
Hunterdon County	Progressive Center for Independent Living	908-782-1055
Mercer County	Progressive Center for Independent Living	609-581-4500
Middlesex County	Alliance for the Disabled in Action	732-738-4388
Monmouth County	Moceans Center for Independent Living	732-571-4884
Morris County	Dawn, Inc.	973-625-1940
Ocean County	Moceans Center for Independent Living	732-571-4884
Passaic County	Dial, Inc.	973-470-8090
Salem County	Tri-County Independent Living Center	856-327-5177
Somerset County	Alliance for the Disabled in Action	732-738-4388
Sussex County	Dawn, Inc.	973-625-1940
Union County	Alliance for the Disabled in Action	732-738-4388
Warren County	Dawn, Inc.	973-625-1940

NJ MentalHealthCares

Telephone: 1-866-202-4357

Website: www.njmentalhealthcares.org

A free, confidential mental health information and referral helpline and website, helping professionals and the general public. Providing information about, and referrals to, many mental health services for adults and children, including: legal, housing, employment rehabilitation, inpatient and outpatient, self-help and more.

VII. Making Phone Calls & Advocating for Services

The first step to becoming a good advocate is to learn how to get the information you need. This means making a lot of phone calls! Making a phone call to get information is different from calling a friend or family member. The following steps will help you get the most out of every phone call that you make.

Be Prepared

- Have a pad of paper and pencil or pen ready.
- Think about the information you want to get:
 - o Why are you calling?
 - o What do you want to find out?
 - o Who do you need to talk to?
- It helps to write down questions that you want to ask before making the phone call.
- Try to make the phone call from a quiet place.
- Try to pick a time to make the phone call when you won't be interrupted.

During the phone call

- Keep accurate notes.
- Write down:
 - o The agency name and phone number.
 - o The date of the phone call.
 - o Who did you talk to?
 - o What did you learn?
 - o What do you have to do?
- Be patient. You may be put on hold or transferred to different people. You may need to ask the same questions several times. You may be directed to call someone else. This can get very frustrating, but it's important to remain calm.
- There is a fine line between being assertive and being aggressive. Try to stay assertive. This is not always easy!
- Here are some examples of good ways to get the information you need:
 - o "I'm hoping you can help me. My name is _____. I am trying to get information about _____."
 - o "My name is _____. I am calling about my daughter who is _____ years old and disabled. I would like to get information about _____."
 - o "I'm sorry. I didn't hear what you said. Can you repeat that?"
 - o "You said _____. I don't understand what that means. Can you explain it to me?"
 - o "Please repeat that phone number."
 - o "How long do you think it will take for me to get the information that you are sending me?"
 - o "When should I call back to check on that?"
 - o "I called a few days ago and left a message for _____. He did not get back to me. Is he available now?"
 - o "I have left several messages for _____ and he hasn't called me back. He must be very busy. Is there someone else I can talk to?"
 - o "I sent in an application and want to make sure that you got it. Can you check for me?"
 - o "How long does it usually take to hear something after an application is sent in?"
 - o "I sent in an application 2 months ago and haven't heard anything. Could you please check on that for me?"

- o “I got a letter saying that my daughter did not qualify for your services. Do you have an appeal process?”
- o “I do not understand the appeal process. What am I supposed to do?”
- o “Thank you. You have been very helpful. May I call you again if I have questions?”

After the phone call

- Review your notes.
- Write down any additional information that you remember.
- Write down anything that you need to do or additional phone calls that you need to make.
- If you need to call back, get out a calendar and write that down on the day you need to call.
- It’s very easy to forget things. The more you write down, the better.
- Keep your notes in a safe place.

Making phone calls to get information is one of the most valuable tools to becoming a successful advocate. But it takes practice. The more you do it, the better you will get.