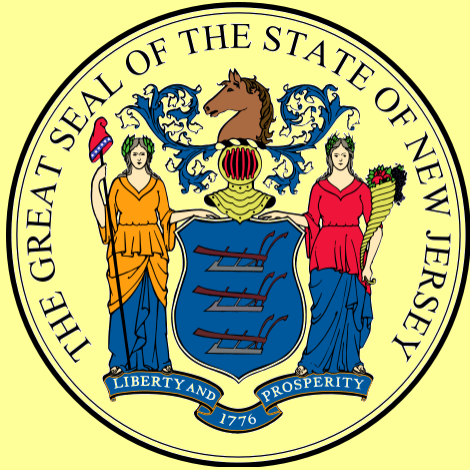


Self-Advocacy New Jersey



Self-Advocacy Groups in New Jersey

- Self Advocacy Project
- Seeking Ways Out Together (SWOT)
- Monday Morning Network
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- New Jersey Youth Leadership Network
- Values into Action's Go Team
- Partners and Policy
- New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network
- Self-advocacy group through providers and at the Developmental Centers

Resources for Self-Advocacy Organizations in New Jersey

Name of self- advocacy organization	Who provides the resource(s)?	What resource(s) is provided?
New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project	DDD/ ARC of New Jersey	Funding, Staff
Monday Morning/ Youth Leadership Project	NJCDD	Funding and Staff Support
Autistic Self Advocacy Network	Grants to national association	Public Policy and Advocacy

What Works for New Jersey Self-Advocates



- Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference
- **Support** – Self-advocates are supported by other organizations throughout the state.
- **Meetings** – Self-advocates are involved in policy meetings.
- **Trainings** – Partners in Policy Making, Person-Centered Thinking and Essential Lifestyle Planning trainings are available to everyone.

New Jersey's Challenges & Struggles

- **Money, money, money \$\$\$**
 - Not enough money in budgets to support everyone or every effort
 - Not enough flexibility for individual budgets
 - Limits independence
- **Transportation**
 - Only one statewide public provider
 - County paratransit system will not cross county lines
 - Only accepts cash
 - Not accessible in rural areas
 - Unreliable



New Jersey's Challenges & Struggles

- **Housing**

- Long wait list
- expensive
- Not near transportation, shopping areas, families or jobs
- Focused more on group homes instead individualized housing options



- **Youth Involvement**

- Not involved in Self-advocacy until after graduation

- **Employment**

- Not enough policies to support employment choices
- Unequal Wages
- Few real jobs in the community



New Jersey's Advocates are Most Proud of...

- End the R-word campaign: New Jersey Governor Chris Christie signed into law a bill that removes the words “mental retardation” and other offensive from our state statutes.
- News Letters: The Self Advocate & Advocacy Matters
- There are 125 self-advocacy groups and 2,500 self-advocates in New Jersey.
- Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference
- More self-advocates are directing their own services
- Employment First – NJ Alliance for Full Participation
- Some college options
- Institution Is Not a Home campaign
- Some groups working on getting more young people involved as self-advocates
 - Youth Leadership Network
 - Self Directed Supports – DDD



Goals and Dreams



- Affordable and accessible housing for everyone
- Close all institutions
- More options for reliable and affordable transportation throughout the state
- No restrictions on personal budgets
- More community involvement
- No restrictions on budget to support people in the community
- More youth involvement
- Everyone using people first language
- Use of technology to get more people involved
- Self-advocacy included in IEP and part of transition process

New Jersey Team!

- Barbara Coppens – NJSSAN
- Alexandre Delauany – Youth advocate
- Chelsea Fabbro – Youth advocate
- Rebecca McGirr – Peer Mentor
- Ray Rajkowski – Youth advocate
- Monica Kopstein – Youth Leadership Project
- Chris Miller – Youth Leadership Project & NJCDD
- Hope Finley – Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered
- Frank Latham – National Youth Leadership Network & NJCDD
- Dennis Donatelli – New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project
- Edris Mc Allister – Disability Rights New Jersey
- Patricia Brennan – New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Shellyann Dacres – The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center, UCEDD



Thanks to ADD & NJCDD for providing travel support to the New Jersey Self-Advocates