

# Caregiver Connection and Support Program



As a caregiver, we rely on the support of other caregivers to:

- ◇ help us learn how to navigate a complex system,
- ◇ share our stories, and
- ◇ discuss our challenges

Caregiving is a lifelong journey that no one understands unless they have experienced it. This program offers education, support and socialization for caregivers who are caring for a loved one with a disability. There is a focus on those caring for a loved one with a developmental disability, but all are welcome.

We hope you will consider joining us.

## \*\*\* Special Event- DAWN's Annual Picnic \*\*\*

**When: Saturday, September 14, 2023 from 12pm-4pm**

**Where: Vasa Park, 93 Wolfe Road, Budd Lake NJ**

It's time for DAWN's Annual Picnic: music, delicious food and fun games for the whole family! We will be setting up a "Caregivers' Corner" next to the pavilion and hope you'll stop by to say hello and spend a few minutes connecting with other caregivers! Please contact Marc Molde for additional information and registration at [info@dawncil.org](mailto:info@dawncil.org).

## September Caregiver Education Sessions

### **How Parents' Social Security Benefits Impact Their Adult Child with I/DD**

**Presenter: Connor Griffin, Director, Healthcare Advocacy, Arc of New Jersey**

Connor Griffin will meet with caregivers to discuss the impacts that beginning to collect Social Security benefits will have on their adult child with intellectual or developmental disabilities. His presentation will cover the following topics: the Medicaid renewal process, when a parent is planning to collect social security retirement benefits, why SSI for your son/daughter changes to SSDI, Disabled Adult Child status, NJ Workability (Medicaid), ABLE accounts, and why Medicare starts for persons with I/DD after 24 months of SSDI. At the end of the presentation, caregivers will be able to ask questions.

Thursday, September 19, 2024

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtduurgTkiEtPyRMxYPM7AQ42E6TBqABGp>

# **September Caregiver Education Sessions, con't.**

## **DDD Application & the NJCAT Walk-Through**

**Presenter: Tina McDuffie**

**Statewide Director, Intake-Intensive Case Management  
Division of Developmental Disabilities**

Applying for services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities and completing the New Jersey Comprehensive Assessment Tool can be an overwhelming process. If you have questions or concerns about the DDD application or the NJCAT assessment, this education session was designed to give you the answers and guidance you need!

The first part of Tina McDuffie's presentation will cover when an individual can apply for DDD services, who is eligible to apply, the documentation to be gathered, a walk-through of the application itself, an overview of the different tiers, and a general timetable on when a family can expect to receive a determination.

The second part of Ms. McDuffie's presentation will focus on the instrument that the state of New Jersey uses to determine eligibility for services: the New Jersey Comprehensive Assessment Tool, or NJCAT. She will give caregivers suggestions on how to prepare, an overview of what to expect during the assessment, and she will provide helpful context to each section and the things a caregiver should keep in mind when answering questions. In addition, her presentation will provide guidance on what to do if you do not agree with your child's NJCAT results, as well as what to do if your child's needs change over time and you would like to have her/him reassessed.

At the end of her presentation, Ms. McDuffie will answer caregiver questions.

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://dawn-cil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwuce6rqzspHdP6D5HzlyUwunFxfn-wNTsV>

*If you are new to our caregiver programming, Julie Ferguson, DAWN's Caregiver Support Coordinator, will reach out to you to welcome you to the program, share information, and answer any questions you may have.*

**Please contact Julie Ferguson at (862)-753-7424 for further information.**

**This program is supported by Morris County Office on Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming. Contributions are gladly accepted. Contributions are voluntary and are not required to participate in this programming.**