

CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE NEWSLETTER

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Welcome

Welcome to the Children's System of Care newsletter.

The Children's System of Care (CSOC) serves children, youth, and young adults with a wide range of challenges associated with emotional and behavioral health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and substance use. CSOC is committed to providing services based on the individual need of each child and family within a system of care approach that is strength-based, culturally competent, family-centered, and in a community-based environment.

This newsletter will focus on supports and services to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Future newsletters will discuss CSOC's full array of supports and services.

Assistant Commissioner's Message

I am honored to share with you this first of a series of newsletters.

CSOC's team members wanted this issue to focus on the ongoing work of integrating supports and services for children, youth, and young adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

It is hard to believe that the transition of youth with IDD began over four years ago. This transition was not without challenges, but thanks to the support of many, and the ongoing persistence of all, the CSOC team believes we have made significant progress toward building a continuum of care for our youth with IDD.

We are pleased to share the evidence of this work in this first issue of our newsletter.



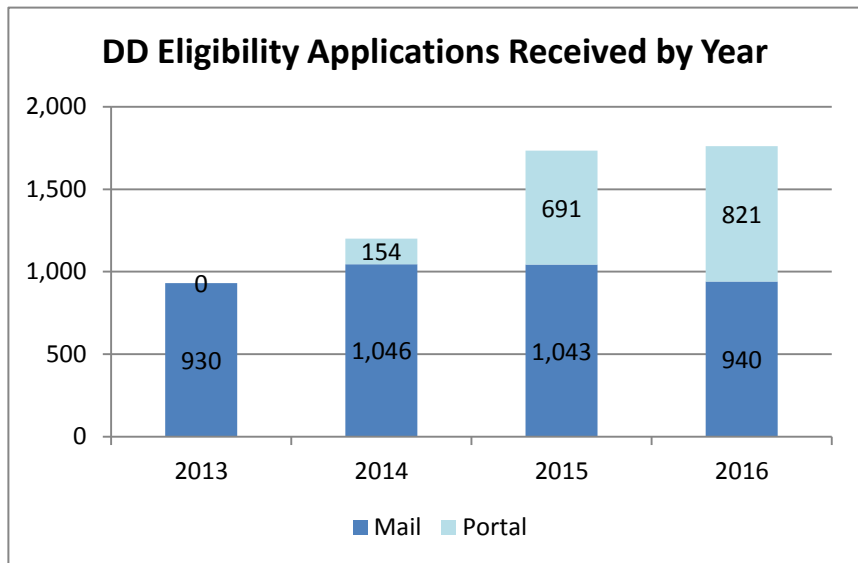
"We have made significant progress toward building a continuum of care for our youth with IDD."

Developmental and Intellectual Disability (I/DD) Services

CSOC has developed a vast array of services and supports to keep children and families together in their community.

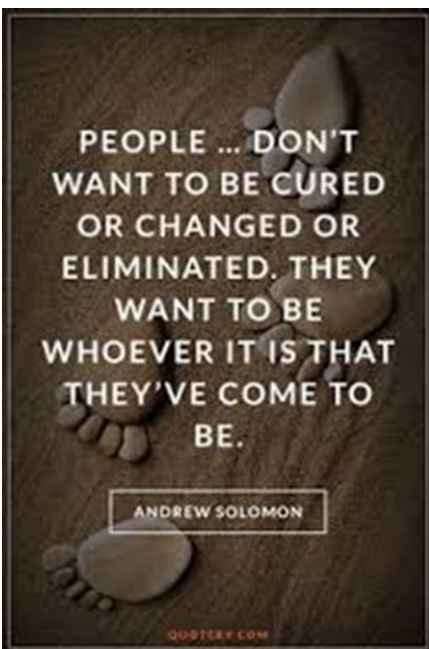
Families can now apply for childhood developmental disability (DD) eligibility determination through the CSOC web portal on PerformCare's website.

PerformCare is CSOC's Contracted Systems Administrator (CSA). Web portal applications are streamlined to make it easier for families to apply for eligibility and track their eligibility applications online.



In 2016 we received nearly twice as many applications over 2013, thanks to the ease of the portal

Application material may also be downloaded, printed, and completed by hand. Families may also have the application mailed to them by calling CSA at 1-877-652-7624. Eligibility determinations are made within 60 days of receipt of your application



Water Safety

Many individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) tend to wander and are drawn to water. Drowning accounts for 91 percent of deaths for children up to 14 years of age with Autism Spectrum Disorder, according to Autism NJ.

Sixty-eight percent of drowning deaths occur in a nearby pond, lake, creek, or river. Parents and caregivers are strongly encouraged to take special precautions for all children regarding water safety. Families caring for children and youth with ASD should make it a top priority teach them to swim and avoid water without supervision.

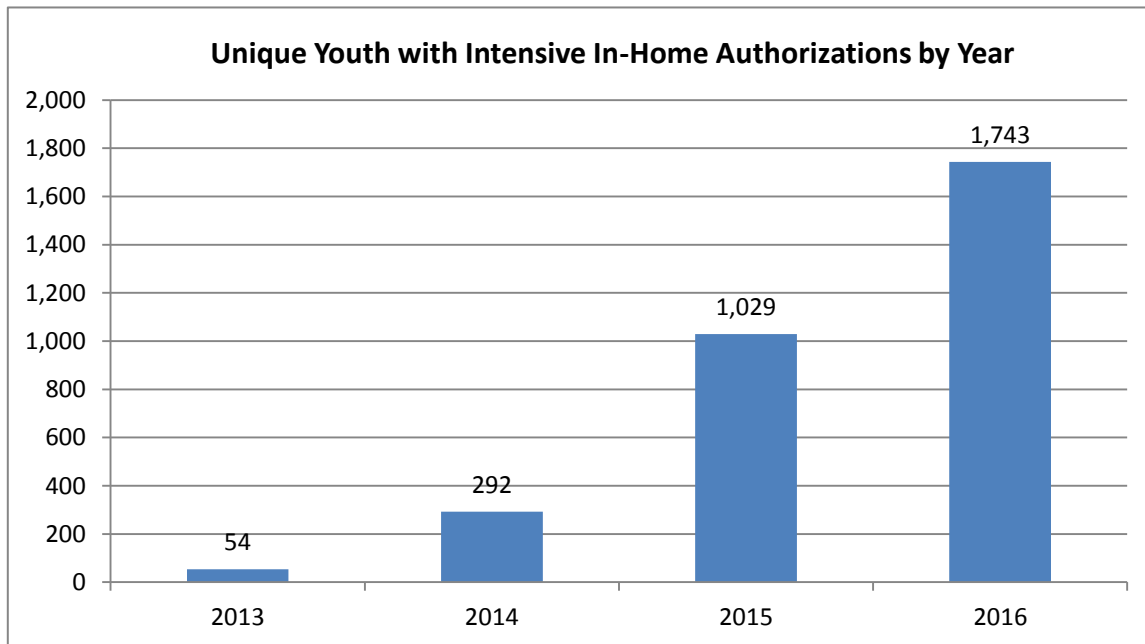
Finding swimming lessons can be a challenge, so Autism NJ has a compiled a list of providers that is available by calling 800 4 AUTISM. For more information on water safety for children and youth with ASD, visit <https://www.autismnj.org/swim-safety>.

Community Services

CSOC introduced **Intensive In-Home (IIH)** services for IDD youth in 2013. These services are intensive community-based, family-centered services delivered face-to-face by a qualified team of service providers. These services are for "moderate" or "high needs" youth and their families.

IIH services improve or stabilize the youth's level of functioning within the home and community in order to prevent, decrease, or eliminate behaviors that impact the youth's ability to function in their home, school, or community. IIH services help families in keep youth at home.

Services include a comprehensive integrated program to support improved behavioral, social, educational, and vocational functioning. Services can include individual and family counseling, negotiation and conflict resolution skill training, effective coping skills, healthy limit-setting, stress management, self-care, budgeting, symptom/medication management, and developing or building on skills that enhance self-fulfillment, education, and employability.



2016 showed almost 32 times the amount of IIH Authorizations versus 2013

Family Support Services (FSS) is a coordinated system of on-going public and private supports, services, resources, and other assistance to maintain and enhance the quality of life of a young person with IDD and their family. FSS strengthens and promotes families that care for a child or young adult at home. Services can include assistive technology (including assistive devices, vehicle and environmental modifications), educational advocacy, and respite care.

Fee-for-Service Respite

Respite care gives families caring for a youth with IDD a break from caregiving responsibilities. Since transitioning to a fee-for-service respite care program, CSOC has been able to significantly increase the variety of respite programming available to youth and families. Providers are reimbursed for each unit of service they provide, incentivizing them to find creative ways to serve youth and families.

Summer Camp

Summer Camp applications will be available on CSA website on March 1, 2017.

CSOC is able to provide eligible children, youth, and young adults under 21 financial support for camp tuition. Youth eligible for developmental disability services and enrolled in a care management organization are eligible for financial support. Application must be submitted through PerformCare for either financial assistance and/or a one-to-one aide. The number of camp applications and one-to-one requests approved last year was the greatest since the transition.

Transitioning to Adulthood

CSOC provides IDD services to youth until age 21. Youth determined DD eligible through CSOC, or the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) prior to the transition, as a child planning to receive DDD services upon turning 21 must seek and receive an adult eligibility determination from DDD before turning 21. The DDD eligibility process can begin when a youth turns 18.

Immediately after turning 18, youth should apply for Social Security Insurance (SSI) for Medicaid eligibility. If SSI is denied, an application for Medicaid can be made through the local Board of Social Services.

Once the youth has been determined Medicaid eligible, an intake application can be submitted to DDD who will determine whether the youth meets DDD eligibility criteria.

May 4th 2017 is Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

Please wear green on May 4, 2017, in recognition of Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.

CSOC is partnering with community organizations to raise awareness of children's mental health and discussing services and supports available to New Jersey's youth through CSOC on this date.



For more information, please email. For more information about events in your area or to invite CSOC staff to attend your event, please contact jessica.houghton@dcf.state.nj.us.