

**Please note: *The Medicaid redetermination issues discussed below pertain to people who have NJ Medicaid -- not to those who have SSI and Medicaid.***

The Arc of New Jersey's original email has been edited to reflect the changes that occurred at the end of December 2022, due to the passage of the omnibus spending bill in Congress. The following are the important excerpts from an email on "Medicaid Unwinding" that The Arc of New Jersey distributed previously:

**Please notify NJ Medicaid if there has been a change of address.** If the Medicaid beneficiary has moved since March, 2020, families of Medicaid enrollees with IDD should be certain that NJ Medicaid has the up-to-date address on file. If you don't know whether Medicaid has the correct mailing address, please contact the call center for NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid at **800-701-0710**. If NJ Medicaid does not have your current mailing address, please provide it.

**When the NJ Medicaid redetermination process is underway, anyone who has more than the allowable amount of resources is at risk for a Medicaid termination! Therefore, it is important to pay attention now to the amount of resources that Medicaid beneficiaries with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have. Caregivers should be certain that the resources (assets) do not exceed the allowable Medicaid limits. Please see below for additional information.**

1. For most individuals with IDD enrolled in New Jersey's Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) Medicaid program, the maximum amount of allowable resources is a total of only **\$2,000**. The allowable exceptions are having an ABLE account or a special needs trust (SNT) as long as it was prepared by an attorney who has expertise in writing an SNT that is in accordance with NJ Medicaid regulations.
2. Enrollment in NJ WorkAbility Medicaid is another exception to the \$2,000 resource limit. The current NJ WorkAbility regulations allow individuals with disabilities who are employed part-time or full-time to have up to **\$20,000** in resources. People enrolled in NJ WorkAbility Medicaid are also permitted to have a retirement account (e.g., IRA or 401k).
3. Another exception on the \$2,000 maximum in resources occurs if a person with IDD has recently received a "back payment" from Social Security. The recipient of a back payment from Social Security is permitted nine (9) months from the date it is received to spend it down to \$2,000.
4. For anyone with IDD who has resources that exceed, or are likely to exceed, the Medicaid resource limits mentioned above, there are a few options:
  - A spend-down for items that are needed for the individual with IDD, such as new computer equipment, therapies that are not otherwise covered, etc. All of the spend-down expenditures should be clearly documented and please keep all receipts.
  - If the Medicaid enrollee has resources that are in excess of the Medicaid maximum amount, then opening an ABLE account may be appropriate (see below for more information on ABLE accounts).
  - If the Medicaid enrollee's resources are higher than the amount that can be deposited into an ABLE account (\$16,000 per year), then a Special Needs Trust

(SNT) should be considered. If a special needs trust will be prepared, it is strongly recommended that the parents contact an attorney with extensive experience and a thorough understanding of the Medicaid SNT regulations.

5. ABLE accounts are special, tax-advantaged savings accounts for persons with disabilities. The acronym ABLE stands for "Achieving a Better Life Experience." To be eligible for an ABLE account, the onset of the disability must have occurred before the age of 26. Deposits are limited to a total of \$16,000 per calendar year. Having an ABLE account does not jeopardize one's eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or NJ Medicaid. For information on NJ ABLE, see this website: <https://savewithable.com/nj/home.html> Additional information on ABLE accounts is available from the ABLE National Resource Center: [www.ablenrc.org](http://www.ablenrc.org) The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute has developed a fact sheet, which provides a helpful summary about **ABLE accounts**.