

What Happens After 21

A guide for New Jersey families choosing an adult day program

Start here

If your son or daughter is approaching 21, or has recently left school, you're probably being handed a lot of acronyms and very little plain English.

This guide is short on purpose.

The first couple of pages cover the timeline — when to start, and who to call for help with the paperwork. There are people in New Jersey whose entire job is walking families through eligibility and funding, and they're better at it than any provider would be. We've pointed you to them instead of trying to do it ourselves.

Then we get to the part we do know something about: how to walk into a program and tell whether it's the right one. That section is written to be used at every program you visit, including ours.

The last section is about Green Vision.

The timeline, briefly

In New Jersey, adult services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are funded through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). School supports run through age 21. DDD picks up after that.

The part that catches families off guard: **you apply before 21, not at 21**. Applications can start at 18, and the process takes months rather than weeks. Families who wait for graduation are the families who end up with a gap.

Which leads to the one piece of advice worth more than anything else in here:

Start touring programs a year before you need one.

A family who has visited three places over twelve months makes a calmer decision than a family visiting their first place the week after graduation. Touring requires no paperwork, no application, and no approval. You can do it while everything else is still in process.

Where to get help with the paperwork

Eligibility, applications, funding, and service plans run through DDD and your Support Coordinator. There are also organizations in New Jersey whose entire job is helping families through this, and they do it better than any provider could.

All of these are free, independent, and not us.

- **DDD's application page** — nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/individuals/applyservices · eligibility, the application itself, and what's required, all in one place
- **DDD Intake, by phone** — **800-832-9173** · press 2, then your county. The fastest way to reach a person.
- **DDD Intake Helpdesk, by email** — DDD.BeforeYouApply@dhs.nj.gov
- **DDD Transition Helpdesk** — DDD.TransitionHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov · for students still in school

- **DDD Graduates Timeline** — the whole process on two pages · nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/individuals/applieservices
- **Planning for Adult Life** — planningforadulthood.org · free webinars and events for families of students 16–21
- **The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute** — thearcfamilyinstitute.org
- **SPAN Parent Advocacy Network** — spanadvocacy.org
- **The Boggs Center**, Rutgers — guides on choosing agencies and providers

Once you have a Support Coordinator, they're your main guide through all of it. They work independently of providers, so ask them for the full list of day program options in your county — and ask to tour any of them.

Part 1 — Choosing a program

Paperwork aside, this is the real question: where does your family member actually spend their days?

Most families tour two or three places and describe the same feeling — everything sounds fine in a brochure, and it's hard to tell the difference until you're standing in the room.

Here's what to pay attention to.

What to watch for on a tour

Is the day built around something, or built to fill time?

Look at what people are doing at 10:30 in the morning. Is there a structure with a beginning and an end, or is the room drifting? Activity with a purpose behind it builds different skills than activity designed to occupy hours.

Do staff know people by name, or by file?

Listen to how staff talk to participants when they're not giving the tour. That's the actual culture.

Does the program adapt to the person, or the person to the program?

Ask directly: what happens when someone doesn't fit the standard routine? A good answer is specific. A vague answer is an answer.

Is progress tracked, and can you see it?

Ask what gets documented and how often you'd hear about it.

How does the program handle a hard day?

Every person has them. Ask what happens, who responds, and what you'd be told.

Can your family member picture themselves there?

Bring them on the tour. Ten minutes in the room tells you more than an hour of description.

Questions worth asking anywhere

Bring this list. Ask it at every program you visit, including ours.

- ☐ 1. What does a typical day look like, hour by hour?
- ☐ 2. What's the staff-to-participant ratio, and does it change during the day?
- ☐ 3. What kind of support needs can you accommodate? What can't you?
- ☐ 4. How do you review an ISP before accepting someone?
- ☐ 5. How is progress tracked and shared with families?
- ☐ 6. Do you provide transportation? If not, what do families usually do?
- ☐ 7. What's your current availability, and is there a waiting list?
- ☐ 8. How do you handle behavioral support needs?
- ☐ 9. What does the program cost, and how is it billed through DDD?
- ☐ 10. Can we visit again with our family member before deciding?

If a program is uncomfortable with any of these questions, that's information too.

Program notes

Fill this in before you leave the parking lot, while the visit is still fresh.

PROGRAM

DATE VISITED

FIRST IMPRESSION & OPEN QUESTIONS

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Part 2 — About Green Vision

What we are

Green Vision is an approved New Jersey DDD provider offering structured skill-building and support services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We have two campuses in Northern New Jersey — Randolph and Lafayette.

What makes the day here different is where it happens. Green Vision runs a real, certified electronics recycling operation. Businesses, hospitals, schools, and municipalities send us their end-of-life electronics, and people from the community bring theirs in too. Participants take those devices apart and sort the components by material.

None of it is a simulation. The equipment is real, the operation is real, and what gets done each day is something an outside organization was counting on.

That operation is the environment. The skill-building is the point.

Since 2010, more than 14 million pounds of electronics have come through Green Vision, and more than 400 individuals have been part of the program. On a typical day, 40+ participants are here across both campuses.

Most of them are at Randolph, which has been running since 2010 and is our largest campus. Lafayette opened in 2026 and is still growing.

Green Vision was founded in 2010 by Tim Butler, a special education teacher who spent years watching students graduate with nowhere to go. The idea was straightforward: build the place that should have existed.

What a day looks like

The standard day runs 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The day has a shape. People arrive, settle in, and move into hands-on activity on the recycling floor with staff alongside them. There's structured wellness and fitness built into the schedule. There's time to eat together and talk. There are the ordinary social rhythms of a place where people know each other.

Not everyone is here five days a week. Schedules are built around what's authorized in each person's DDD budget and around what makes sense for the person. Some split their week with another program. Some need a day at home to rest. Two- and three-day schedules are common, and starting with fewer days and adding more later is normal.

Our four program areas

These aren't separate tracks you choose between. They run together through the same day.

Employment Related Skills

Participants build practical skills through structured, hands-on activity in the recycling environment: task sequencing, following directions, safety awareness, focus, time management, communication, and completing steps with staff support.

Wellness & Fitness

Movement and healthy routines are part of the daily schedule. Cardio equipment, outdoor walking, basketball, gardening, and group activity. Everything is guided by staff and adjusted to each person's goals and comfort level.

Community Inclusion

Supported, practical experiences connected to the daily rhythm of the organization: recycling pickups, trips for equipment and supplies, and appropriate interaction with community members during public drop-offs.

Socializing & Belonging

Participants have daily opportunities to build relationships with peers and staff. Conversation over lunch, shared interests, time together in between tasks, and the ordinary back-and-forth of a place where people know each other and notice when someone isn't there.

Friendships here are real and they last. For a lot of families, this turns out to be the part that mattered most.

Questions families ask

Is this paid employment?

No. Green Vision is neither paid employment nor volunteer labor. It's an approved NJ DDD provider offering structured, supervised skill-building and support services in a real electronics recycling environment.

Do you provide transportation?

Not at this time. Transportation is arranged separately by the family, caregiver, Support Coordinator, or planning team.

What are the hours? Does everyone attend five days a week?

The standard day is 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Not everyone attends every day. Schedules are built around what's authorized in each person's DDD budget and around what works for the person. Some participants split their week with another program. Some need a day at home to rest. Two- and three-day schedules are common, and many families start with fewer days and add more once things settle.

What's the staff-to-participant ratio?

Typically up to six participants per staff member. Ratios are adjusted based on individual support needs, so some participants receive closer support than that.

Is there room right now?

Yes. Lafayette is built for up to 24 participants a day and currently runs a smaller group, so there's real availability. Because schedules are built around each person's authorized days, we can usually find something that fits. Call Lisa Toriello, our Office & Compliance Manager at Lafayette, at (973) 998-7955 ext. 2 to confirm what's currently open.

Do we need a referral before we can visit?

No. A formal referral is not required to schedule a tour. Families, Support Coordinators, and planning team members can contact Lisa Toriello directly at ltoriello@gvinc.org to visit Lafayette, ask questions, and talk through fit.

Can you support behavioral or medical needs?

Medical and behavioral support needs are reviewed individually with the Support Coordinator, family or guardian, and planning team to determine safety, staffing, documentation, daily routine, and overall fit before services begin.

Who is it a good fit for?

Adults 21 and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities, particularly people who do well with structure, repetition, and clear routines. It's often a strong fit for individuals moving from school-based supports into adult services.

Is it only recycling?

No. Electronics recycling is the setting, not the purpose. It's the environment where participants build Employment Related Skills — task sequencing, safety awareness, focus, time management, and communication — along with routine, confidence, wellness, community participation, and greater independence.

How is it different from other options?

The day is built around a real operation with a real outcome. There's structure, purpose, and hands-on skill-building built into it, rather than programming created to fill time.

What does it cost us?

Services are funded through DDD. Your Support Coordinator can confirm how they're authorized in your family member's plan.

Our campuses

Randolph Campus (Headquarters)

8 Emery Avenue, Randolph, NJ 07869

Our original campus, open since 2010. This is where the model was built and proven.

Lafayette Campus

197 Route 94, Lafayette, NJ 07848

Opened in 2026 to serve more individuals across Sussex County and Northern New Jersey. 23,000 square feet on 15 acres, with the same program structure and standards as Randolph.

Lafayette is our newer campus and it's still growing. It's built for up to 24 participants a day and currently runs a smaller group than that. In practice, that means a quieter room, more staff attention, and a lot of space per person. If you've toured programs that felt too loud or too crowded, Lafayette is worth seeing.

Tours and enrollment are at Lafayette. It's the campus with room right now, so that's where a visit starts.

Come see it

There's no application required to visit, no pressure, and no minimum commitment. Bring your family member. Ask hard questions.

Most families know within the first ten minutes whether the space feels right.

Schedule a tour at Lafayette

gvinc.org/lafayette

Lisa Toriello — Office & Compliance Manager, Lafayette Campus

(973) 998-7955 ext. 2 · ltoriello@gvinc.org

Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM



SCAN TO BOOK A TOUR