What is the NJCAT?

The New Jersey Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJCAT) is a mandatory assessment used by the Division of Developmental Disabilities to determine an individual's eligibility for services and to assess the individual's level of need.

The NJCAT ensures that all individuals seeking Division-funded services have their support needs assessed through a single, standardized format.

The results of the NJCAT establish an individual's **Tier**. The tier system ensures that individuals with like needs have like budgets with which to access services and supports.

- There are five base tiers: **A, B, C, D, E**

    o Individuals identified through the NJCAT as having a significant behavioral and/or medical need have an acuity factor included (represented by a lower-case "a"): **Aa, Ba, Ca, Da, Ea**

- Each tier has a corresponding **individualized budget**, used by the individual to access services.

- An individual's tier also determines the **provider reimbursement rate** for that individual for most available services.

When should the NJCAT be completed?

- Individuals applying for DDD-funded services for the first time will complete the NJCAT as part of the DDD Eligibility Application and Intake process.

- Students turning 21 and exiting school-based services can complete the NJCAT in the fall/winter before graduating. (**Please note:** *students receiving IDEA services through the school district are entitled to remain in school through age 21; the Division of Developmental Disabilities only funds services for individuals 21 and older*.)

When will I be notified of my tier?

For individuals determined eligible for DDD-funded services, a tier assignment letter is mailed to the individual/guardian 3-6 weeks after the NJCAT is completed.

Can I review a sample NJCAT before completing the "live" assessment?

Yes. A sample NJCAT (both English and Spanish) can be viewed prior to completion of the "live" assessment. The Division also developed a short webinar, *Completing the NJCAT*, which provides a general overview of what to expect from and how to prepare for the NJCAT.

View the NJCAT sample assessment and the webinar on the NJCAT Resource page of the Division's website: **www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/resources/njcat.html**.