Delaware County Chapter Launch and Announcement Frequently Asked Questions

What is happening?

The Down Syndrome Association of Delaware (DSA of DE) and the Delaware County Down Syndrome Interest Group (DSIG) are now one non-profit organization. Delaware County is now a chapter of the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware. Both boards approved the agreement, which took effect on August 3, 2026.

Why did the two organizations merge?

The Delaware County group was looking to expand services, outreach, programs and the DSA of DE had the infrastructure to help those areas grow. We have worked together to support families with a new diagnosis and through co-hosted events for many years. We decided we are stronger together and able to do more for the community when our forces are combined.

As one organization, families in both places get support across the full lifespan, local events, and more money and volunteer time going to programs instead of administration.

Is the DSIG "dissolving"? Does that mean the Delaware County group is going away?

The Delaware County community is staying. DSIG was set up as its own small nonprofit corporation, with its own bank account, insurance, records and board of directors. Dissolving is the legal filing that closes out that separate corporation so its work, funds and records can move to DSA of DE. The families, the events and the people who run them all continue under the DSA of DE, Delaware County Chapter.

When did this happen, and why are families only hearing about it now?

The agreement took effect August 3, 2026. This decision was not made hastily and was thoughtfully weighed, debated and considered for months prior to board approval. We even worked with a neutral third-party trained non-profit facilitator to guide the process. Since then, the two organizations have been working through the legal and administrative steps to ensure the smoothest transition possible. The organizations received a grant to assist with legal and other related fees.

What is the DSIG now called?

Down Syndrome Association of Delaware, Delaware County Chapter

What changes for Delaware County families?

Membership dues are eliminated. Your family's local experience stays local, with the same events run by the same people. What's new is what gets added: a paid staff member focused on Delaware County, a seat on the DSA of DE board, an Advisory Committee of Delaware County families, and access to DSA of DE programs for every age, including teens and adults. Exciting things to look forward to include expanded programming, outreach services, and events like cooking classes, and swim camps. Events and programs will remain in Delaware County.

Do I need to sign up again?

Yes, one time. DSA of DE will ask Delaware County families to fill out their family intake form, found here, so they have current information and can send program and event updates. There is no cost. All information is confidential and not shared with any third-party. The Delaware County Parent and Member Private Facebook group will continue- but will be renamed..

What changes for DSA of DE families?

You will probably see some new faces at webinars and programs. DSA of DE's programs, staff and events are not being cut or moved. In addition, you will have access to events in Delaware County, if you would like to travel, however, no Delaware programs or events are being cut.

How is Delaware County fundraising and funds handled moving forward?

DSIG's funds move to DSA of DE as part of the merger. Under the agreement, those funds are to be used primarily for families in Delaware County. DSA of DE also reports on its Delaware County finances to the Advisory Committee. Funds will be used to expand services in the area.

Who represents Delaware County in the combined organization?

Kelsey Mango, who served on the DSIG board, has joined the DSA of DE Board of Directors for a three-year term. Christa Ventura chairs the new Delaware County Advisory Committee. Lauren DiPasquale has joined the DSA of DE staff.

The agreement requires DSA of DE to have at least one Delaware County resident on its board at all times. If that seat opens up, the Advisory Committee nominates the replacement.

What happens to the rest of the DSIG board?

DSIG had a five-member board. Lauren DiPasquale has joined the DSA of DE staff, Christa Ventura chairs the Advisory Committee and Kelsey Mango has joined the DSA of DE board. Patty White and Yuhanna Bishar will remain involved with the Delaware County community in a more unofficial capacity. Their sage advice, historical knowledge, and community insights remain invaluable and we are thankful for their continued support and guidance. We thank them for their dedicated service to the DSIG board and family!

Further Questions?

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