



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

NEWSLETTER | FEB. 3, 2023

Human Services Enables Pharmacies to Provide Individuals with Life-Saving Naloxone for Free and Anonymously



FIRST-IN-THE-NATION

NALOXONE
INITIATIVE



After it was announced by Governor Murphy during his State of the State address, Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman detailed how individuals can anonymously obtain the opioid overdose antidote naloxone for free at participating pharmacies at any time.

The new first-in-the nation initiative is part of the Murphy Administration's ongoing efforts to combat the opioid crisis and save lives by getting life-saving naloxone into as many hands as possible.

Under the initiative, those age 14 and over will be able to request and obtain naloxone at participating pharmacies for free without having to provide a name or reason.

No prescription will be needed.

One two-dose naloxone nasal spray kit will be provided per visit.

Human Services has held special pharmacy naloxone giveaways in recent years, but this program will permit consumers to obtain free naloxone any day of the year.

"We are bringing new resources to this battle to save lives," Governor Murphy said. "Turning back this challenge requires constant vigilance from all of us, but this nation-leading policy will ensure that a crucial and lifesaving tool is put in the hands of more people, for free and anonymously, so we can save more precious lives and allow individuals struggling with addiction to seek treatment."

"We are focused on saving lives, and making naloxone as accessible as possible is a critical component of that effort," Commissioner Adelman said. "New Jerseyans will be able to obtain this life-saving antidote for free and without stigma, making it more accessible than ever before. Naloxone is safe, easy to use, and fast-acting against overdoses. We want naloxone in every New Jersey medicine cabinet because it saves lives."

[Read more](#)



**All Children Can Now Apply for NJ FamilyCare
Regardless of Immigration Status**

NJ FAMILY CARE | Cover All Kids



NJ Covers All Kids!

All children can apply for NJ FamilyCare,
regardless of their immigration status.



Governor Phil Murphy recently highlighted expanded eligibility for the [NJ FamilyCare](#) health care coverage as part of his Administration's efforts to provide all New Jersey children with health insurance through the [Cover All Kids](#) campaign. As of January 1, children under the age of 19 whose families meet income eligibility requirements are now able to obtain Medicaid coverage regardless of their immigration status.

[NJ FamilyCare](#) is the state's publicly funded health insurance program that includes Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) recipients and is managed by Human Services.

"Every child should have access to health care," Governor Murphy said. "By helping more children get [NJ FamilyCare](#) coverage regardless of their immigration status, we are working to make New Jersey a fairer, more affordable place for all to live. This expanded eligibility is an important step in my Administration's ongoing efforts to ensure every child in our state has access to the quality health insurance coverage they deserve."

“Access to health care, particularly to primary care, makes kids healthier and communities stronger, and doing so is a fiscally responsible investment in our children’s futures,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “Income eligible children, regardless of immigration status, can now enroll in the same FamilyCare coverage any other child has and we encourage families to sign up.”

Families can learn more and apply by visiting nj.gov/coverallkids or by calling 1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711).

[Read more](#)

Ahora todos los niños pueden solicitar para NJFamilyCare sin importar su estado migratorio

NJ FAMILY CARE | **Cover All Kids**



¡NJ cubre a todos los niños!

Todos los niños pueden solicitar NJ FamilyCare,
independientemente de su estado migratorio.



El gobernador Phil Murphy destacó la ampliación de la elegibilidad para la cobertura de salud de [NJ FamilyCare](#) como parte de los esfuerzos de su Administración para proporcionar seguro de salud a todos los niños de New Jersey a través de la campaña [Cover All Kids](#). A partir del 1 de enero de 2023, los niños menores de 19 años cuyas familias cumplan con los requisitos de elegibilidad de ingresos, ahora podrán obtener cobertura de Medicaid, independientemente de su estado migratorio.

[NJ FamilyCare](#) es el programa estatal de seguro médico financiado con fondos públicos que incluye a los beneficiarios de Medicaid y el Programa de Seguro Médico para Niños (CHIP, por sus siglas en inglés) y está gestionado por el Departamento de Servicios Humanos de New Jersey.

"Todos los niños deben tener acceso a la atención médica," dijo el gobernador Murphy. "Al ayudar a más niños a obtener cobertura de [NJ FamilyCare](#), independientemente de su estado migratorio, estamos trabajando para hacer de New Jersey un lugar más justo y asequible para todos los que viven aquí. Esta

elegibilidad ampliada es un paso importante en los esfuerzos continuos de mi Administración para asegurar que cada niño en nuestro estado tenga acceso a la cobertura de seguro de salud de calidad que se merecen."

"El acceso a la atención médica, en particular a la atención primaria, hace que los niños sean más sanos y las comunidades más fuertes, y hacerlo es una inversión fiscalmente responsable en el futuro de nuestros hijos," dijo la comisionada de Servicios Humanos Sarah Adelman. "Los niños elegibles por ingresos, independientemente de su estado migratorio, ahora pueden inscribirse en la misma cobertura de FamilyCare que cualquier otro niño y animamos a las familias a inscribirse."

Las familias pueden obtener más información y solicitar visitando la página nj.gov/coverallkids o llamando al 1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711).

[Leer más](#)

Watch the Governor's Announcement



Watch as Governor Murphy, Commissioner Adelman and others highlight how children may now apply for [NJ FamilyCare](#) regardless of their immigration status.

First Lady Murphy & Human Services Commissioner Adelman Announce Enhanced NJ FamilyCare Maternal Health Care Reimbursement



First Lady Tammy Murphy and Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced that NJ FamilyCare has increased reimbursement rates for perinatal, midwifery and community doula care as part of ongoing efforts to improve birth outcomes and make New Jersey the safest, most equitable state in the nation to deliver and raise a baby.

The increases are retroactively effective as of July 1, and made possible by \$15 million appropriated in the most recent state budget – matched by \$15 million in federal funding - and federal approvals secured by Human Services for [NJ FamilyCare](#), which is the state's Medicaid and CHIP program. NJ FamilyCare covers approximately 30,000 New Jersey births each year, or about 30 percent of births in the state.

Under the changes:

- Reimbursement rates for physicians and midwives will match 100 percent of current Medicare rates for certain maternity-related services, up from 50 percent.
- All midwives will receive the same reimbursement rate as physicians for all covered services. This includes midwifery care outside of maternity-related care, such as routine gynecological care.
- Community doulas will receive \$1,165 for labor support and eight perinatal visits, up from \$900.

These changes are part of Human Services' ongoing efforts to support the First Lady's [NurtureNJ](#) effort, which aims to reduce maternal mortality in the state by 50 percent over five years and eliminate the racial disparities in birth outcomes.

"Raising the reimbursement rates for our maternal care providers is both a groundbreaking and commonsense step toward improving New Jersey's maternal health outcomes," First Lady Murphy said. "I thank Commissioner Adelman and her team at the Department of Human Services for their essential advocacy that has placed New Jersey's reimbursement rates among the highest in the nation. Ensuring every New Jersey mother and baby has access to quality maternal health care gets us one important step closer to becoming the gold standard of maternal and infant health."

Commissioner Adelman noted the changes stem in part from feedback and advocacy from midwives and community doulas.

"Our shared goal is making transformational change in New Jersey to support mothers and babies – especially our mothers and babies of color," Commissioner Adelman said. "These improvements further promote access to care associated with improved birth outcomes, and make sure our rates are competitive so we can retain and recruit high quality perinatal providers and community doulas. These enhancements will lead to positive outcomes for mothers and babies – and a healthier New Jersey for everyone."

[Read more](#)

Watch the First Lady and Commissioner Adelman's Announcement



New Jersey Joins Nationwide Settlements with CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Teva and Allergan for Alleged Roles in Opioid Crisis

**EVERY
DAY IN
RECOVERY
IS A
BETTER
DAY.**



Addiction recovery starts here. Talk to your doctor and learn how FDA-approved medications can support your recovery. Don't wait any longer, because there are better days ahead.



SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

Call us at **844-REACHNJ**
or visit **ReachNJ.gov**

New Jersey has joined nationwide settlement agreements with pharmacy chains CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart, and drug makers Teva Pharmaceuticals and Allergan, to resolve claims involving their alleged roles in fomenting the country's opioid crisis.

The five companies have agreed to pay as much as \$20.1 billion, collectively, to states and local governments across the nation as redress for their role in the opioid epidemic. In addition to holding the companies financially accountable, the settlements require them to make significant changes to their business practices to prevent similar crises in the future.

New Jersey and its eligible county and municipal governments stand to receive up to a combined total of approximately \$508.1 million from all five settlement agreements.

"The devastation caused by the opioid addiction crisis cannot be measured in dollars and cents. No amount of money can undo the pain and suffering it has wrought. But these settlement funds will help New Jersey heal and move forward," Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin said. "By working together to hold accountable companies that created and fueled this crisis, and compelling them to change the way they do business, we are putting measures in place to ensure this never happens again."

"This new settlement will enhance our continued efforts to save lives, connect New Jerseyans to support and treatment, and improve prevention efforts, while further holding those entities who played a role in sparking this epidemic accountable," Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. "I thank Attorney General Platkin for taking steps to ensure New Jersey receives these resources and look forward to working with the [Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council](#) to ensure settlement funds are used effectively. The goal - as always - is to find ways to save lives and quell this epidemic."

[Read more](#)

Human Services Awards Contracts to Provide Medication that Supports Addiction Recovery at Homeless Shelters



Human Services has awarded contracts to increase access to medication that can support addiction recovery at homeless shelters.

Under the program, providers will provide medication for substance use disorder and support services for individuals who reside or drop in at homeless shelters. The providers will either help the individual maintain treatment with this medication or transition the individual to a community provider that will do the same.

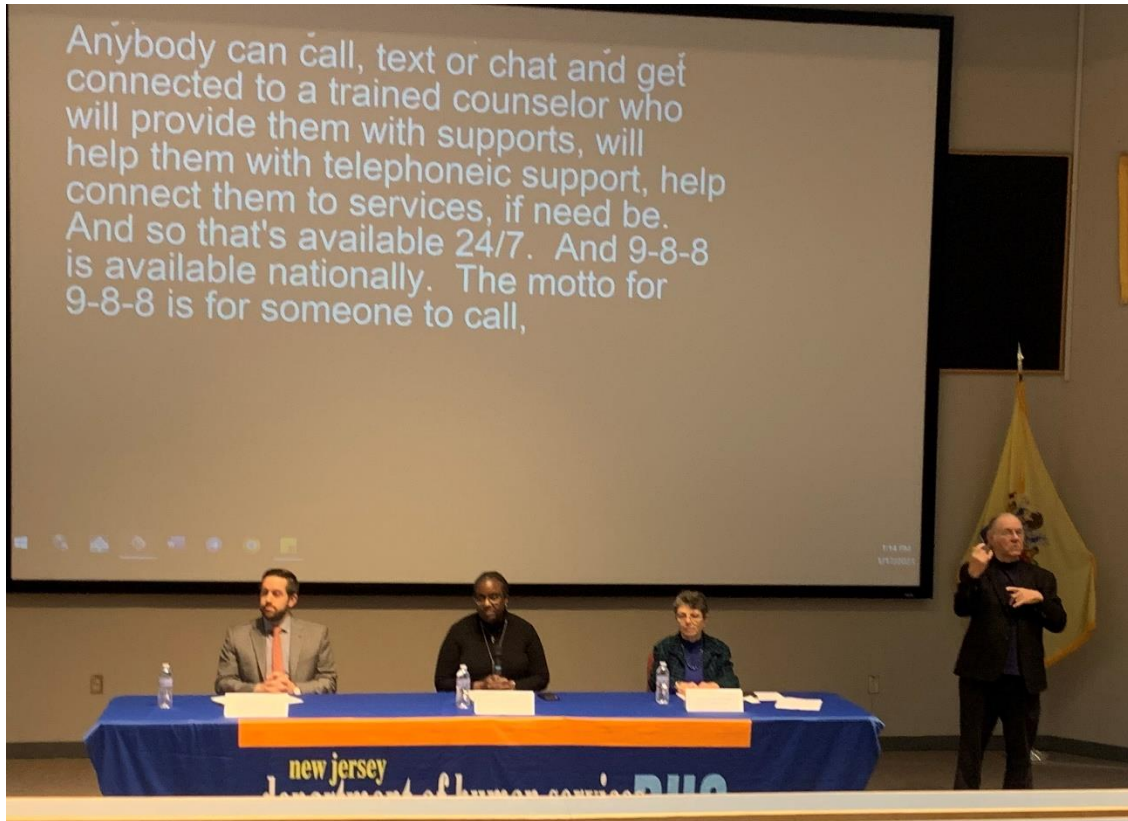
“Many individuals at highest risk for an opioid overdose are those who do not enter or sustain treatment in addiction treatment programs, and this especially includes individuals who are experiencing homelessness,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “But data also indicates that those facing instability such as homelessness will seek treatment more readily when services are brought to them. The use of medications to treat substance use disorder is an evidence-based practice that increases the likelihood individuals can embark on recovery. With this new program, we will increase access to these crucial medications and decrease barriers to care and service.”

“This is yet another step forward in our work to reduce obstacles to treatment for individuals facing addiction,” Deputy Commissioner for Health Services Lisa Asare said. “This program will treat individuals who present at the shelter on a walk-in basis, without requiring an appointment. Patients will be seen by the prescriber the same-day they present. Through this service, there will be no gaps in access to medication and services provided by the team at the shelter and other treatment providers.”

“It’s not always possible for unsheltered individuals with addiction concerns to focus on recovery due to dealing with a multitude of other issues but implementing harm reduction programs such as this one is a way to address that concern and bring about positive outcomes,” said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who directs the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#).

[Read more](#)

988 Listening Sessions



The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services hosted three listening sessions to garner public input on the [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) mobile crisis response teams.

Meeting with HHS Region 2



Thank you to our [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region 2](#) administrators for joining Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman, [Health](#) Commissioner Judith Persichilli, [Children and Families](#) Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer and many others for an excellent planning discussion about the combined work to serve New Jerseyans in 2023.

Congratulations to the Newest Human Services Police Graduates



Welcome Police Officer Joshua Rosenel and Police Officer Michelle Pistone, both of whom graduated from the Mercer County Police Academy on Jan. 27.

Department of Human Services Coat Drive

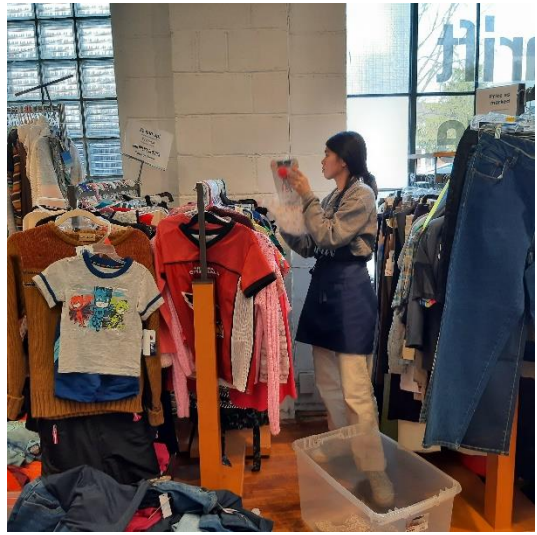


Human Services employees donated 150 coats, and 100 hats, scarfs, mittens and gloves to [Homefront](#) as part of the Department's annual coat drive.

Community Service















Human Services employees marked January by volunteering at valued community partners such as [Rise](#) and the [Community Food Bank of New Jersey](#).

SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

NJ FAMILY CARE

RENEWAL PACKETS ARE COMING

Update your mailing address at

1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711)





DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Helping deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind children 0-5 receive language acquisition services in child care settings.

[NJ SNAP](#) | [NJ FAMILYCARE](#) | [NJHELPS](#)

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