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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2023

New \$95 Minimum SNAP Benefit Begins March 1



CHECK YOUR MAIL!

SNAP recipients: check your mail for a letter regarding your March benefits and end of extra benefits.



With federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ([SNAP](#)) emergency allotments coming to an end, every SNAP household in New Jersey will receive at least \$95 in monthly benefits going forward. This nation-leading law represents New Jersey's ongoing commitment to combating food insecurity.

The federal government began providing emergency allotments to SNAP households in March 2020 to offer a temporary boost in food assistance benefits to individuals and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. With these additional payments ending as of the end of February, a new state law signed by Governor Murphy will raise the minimum SNAP benefit in New Jersey to \$95 starting March 1.

"As the federal government's temporary boost to SNAP benefits comes to an end, we cannot ignore the significant impact this will have on households and communities throughout our state," Governor Murphy said. "No one should ever have to wonder where their next meal will come from. By implementing a minimum monthly SNAP benefit of \$95 for all beneficiaries, New Jersey is leading the nation in ensuring families have the support they need to keep putting food on the table. While we may be the first state to do this, it is my hope we will not be the last to put these critical protections into effect."

"Families are feeling the pinch every time they go grocery shopping. With food prices soaring and the federal emergency SNAP benefits ending this month, we are glad we can provide some relief to families and individuals that rely on this assistance to put food on the table," Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. "The Murphy Administration, in partnership with the Legislature, has made strengthening food security a top priority. Today's bill signing further proves this commitment. Access to healthy food is a must, and we will continue to work to connect New Jerseyans in need to food and other important resources vital for their health and well-being."

[Learn more](#)

Food Assistance Available to Adults 60 and Over



	<p>You can get \$95 or more every month in benefits to help you purchase food</p>	<p>Apply online at MyNJHelps.gov</p> <p>You can have a friend or family member (authorized representative) submit an application on your behalf either online or in person. Visit njsnap.gov to find contact information for your county</p>
<p>Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program</p>	<p>You can get \$30 to use at a participating farmers market to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables</p>	<p>Apply for any of these 3 programs, by contacting your County Office on Aging www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home/saaaa.html or calling the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) at (877) 222-3737</p>
<p>Congregate Nutrition Services</p>	<p>You can get free lunch in a senior or community center</p>	
<p>Home-Delivered Nutrition Services</p>	<p>You can get meals delivered to your home, if needed</p>	
<p>Commodity Supplemental Food Program</p>	<p>You can get a monthly Food Package with nutritious foods</p>	<p>Apply for this program by contacting the CSFP Office at (609) 292-9560 or visit www.nj.gov/health/fhs/wic/senior-nutrition/commodity-supplementa/foodbanks.shtml</p>

*Program eligibility and rules apply

**For additional information on food resources, including food pantries:
Call 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898-211**



State of New Jersey
Phil Murphy, Governor | Sheila Oliver, Lt. Governor



Department of Human Services
Sarah Adelman, Commissioner

[MyNJHelps.gov](https://www.MyNJHelps.gov)

[njsnap.gov](https://www.njsnap.gov)

[County Offices on Aging](#)

[Commodity Supplemental Food Program](#)

Human Services Opens New Grant Funding to Create Inclusive and Healthy Communities for Individuals with Disabilities



Human Services recently announced that non-profits, and local county or municipal government agencies can now apply for the 2023 Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant Program (IHC) to help communities support the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities where they live, work, learn and play.

First [launched](#) in January 2021, the IHC Grant Program is an initiative spearheaded by the [Division of Disability Services \(DDS\)](#) to support communities and ensure that the voices and needs of people with disabilities are included in healthy community planning.

The [Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy](#) at Rutgers University partners with DDS to manage the IHC grant program and provide technical assistance to grant recipients in implementing projects across New Jersey.

“Since the inaugural launch of the IHC Grant Program over two years ago, we have seen meaningful progress for disability inclusion and addressing access challenges in the disability community through the ongoing work of our grantees,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “We look forward to building on this momentum as we open this next round of funding. We urge those interested to [learn about and apply](#) for the program, so we can continue our work in creating safe, healthy and accessible communities for all.”

“At Human Services, we believe that through inclusivity we can help improve our communities and the health of all New Jerseyans, and this additional funding allows more community members to join this impactful effort,” Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire said. “Like-minded organizations will join and enhance the ongoing efforts of [24 communities](#) already working on a range of solutions to help build more equitable communities for individuals with disabilities. Everyone deserves access to the support they need to experience a healthier life.”

“People with disabilities can experience inequalities in aspects of life that contribute to health and well-being, and it is important to change this,” DDS Executive Director Peri L. Nearon said. “Through this ongoing initiative, we aim to help communities create inclusive community resources and practices so that people with disabilities can achieve better health outcomes. We are proud to help improve the quality of life for all New Jerseyans and look forward to a third cohort joining ongoing efforts to create foundational change throughout our state.”

[Read more](#)

Governor Murphy Proposes \$10M Investment to Expand ARRIVE Together Law Enforcement-Mental Health Collaboration Statewide



Governor Phil Murphy has announced that his upcoming budget proposal will include \$10 million to expand the ARRIVE Together program to the entire state, creating the first statewide law enforcement and mental health co-responder collaboration in the country.

"The ARRIVE Together program is a game changer, and I am incredibly pleased by the success the program has had during its pilot stages in connecting those experiencing behavioral health crises with a certified mental health professional," Governor Murphy said.

"ARRIVE Together began as a State Police pilot program, and through partnerships forged between law enforcement and mental health providers we are building it into a statewide program," Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin said. "It has been a transformative and powerful model, consistently de-escalating situations that could have had far worse outcomes for everyone involved."

"The deployment of mental health professionals, in concert with New Jersey State Troopers, has provided vital services to those in mental distress at the time where it is needed the most," Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police said.

"A law enforcement response is rarely the most effective or appropriate way to help someone experiencing mental health crisis," Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman said, "New Jersey's ARRIVE Together program – which puts mental health professionals at the center of the intervention – is an evidence-based solution to address this national and systemic challenge. This expansion of ARRIVE Together will continue to improve public safety, prevent tragedies and serve NJ residents more effectively."

[Read more](#)



Watch Governor Phil Murphy, [Attorney General](#) Matthew J. Platkin, [New Jersey State Police](#) Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, [Middlesex County Prosecutor](#) Yolanda Ciccone, Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Rev. Michael Keene of Trinity A.M.E. Church, and Rev. Dr. Myra Turner Billips of North Stelton A.M.E. Church announce the expansion of the [ARRIVE Together](#) mental health crisis response initiative.

Human Services Awards Contracts to Serve Individuals with Gambling Disorders



Human Services has awarded contracts to provide treatment and case management for individuals with a gambling disorder, including those who may also have a substance use disorder and/or mental illness.

"Gambling disorders, substance use disorders and mental illness can often be coexisting and compounding challenges, and that is why it is important to treat these conditions simultaneously," Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. "In order to do this, we must increase the availability of mental health and substance use disorder providers who have expertise in identifying and treating gambling disorders. These contracts work to do just that."

Under the \$600,000 program, licensed substance use disorder and mental health treatment providers will establish gambling disorder services. Each provider will use \$120,000 to hire, at minimum, one gambling disorder clinician who will provide specific treatment services for individuals with a gambling disorder. Services include screening, assessment, education, and treatment.

The gambling disorder clinicians will also work with individuals to assist with issues that often occur concurrently with gambling disorders such as financial distress, estranged relationships, legal issues, and a need for social services.

Services can be added at the following levels of care: standard traditional outpatient, intensive outpatient, partial care and residential services. These services will be provided in addition to substance use disorder and mental health treatment services.

“Incorporating gambling counseling within the substance use disorder and mental health treatment space will reduce the devastating effects caused by gambling disorders by making these services easily accessible for those in need throughout the state,” Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Lisa Asare said. “Through treatment and recovery activities, this initiative will work to support long lasting recovery from gambling disorder.”

“Research shows that gambling disorder is a condition that can have a negative impact on the affected individual as well as their loved ones. That is why it is important to develop the capacity to administer treatments that effectively address this disorder,” said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who directs Human Services’ [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) that will guide this program. “Through therapeutic approaches that can bring about positive outcomes, we can help change and improve the lives of those affected.”

[Read more](#)

Combating the Opioid Epidemic

Reasons for recovery...



CALL 844-REACHNJ

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration



Human Services Expands Recovery Centers that Support Individuals with Substance Use Disorder to All 21 Counties

The Department has awarded grants to organizations in Mercer and Salem counties to establish Community Peer Recovery Centers (CPRCs). CPRCs provide safe spaces where individuals recovering from substance use disorder can receive information about substance use disorder treatment and recovery support services.

There are 19 counties that have already received this funding. The new grants will expand CPRCs to Mercer and Salem counties, the last two remaining counties without CPRCs.

“Each of these recovery centers provide a safe place for individuals in all phases of recovery to gather in support of one another, share experiences, discuss coping skills, and offer each other hope in a community setting,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “We are glad that now every county in the state will have a recovery-based center where people in recovery can learn about treatment options and services that can support their recovery, from people who understand their struggle.”

“These centers offer a safe and sober space that allows individuals from all recovery backgrounds to come together to receive peer-to-peer support as well as training, social, educational and recreation opportunities. I encourage anyone in recovery and in need of support to take advantage of these services,” Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Lisa Asare said.

The grants have been awarded to Creative Change Counseling, Inc. for services in Mercer County and Center for Family Services, Inc. for services in Salem County.

“All activities at these centers will be led and driven by peers. These are individuals who have experience with addiction and recovery either directly or indirectly through a family member or friend, and who received training on how to provide recovery supports and services to others. This shared experience can be impactful and beneficial to individuals who up until now have been wary of seeking these types of services,” said Assistant Commissioner Valerie L. Mielke, who heads the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#).

[Read more](#)

NJ Human Services Awards Contract to Create Substance Use Prevention Awareness Campaign Aimed at Youth and Young Adults

The Department has awarded a contract to develop an evidence-based risk messaging campaign to help reduce substance use rates among youth and young adults.

The \$1 million contract was awarded to the [New Jersey Prevention Network \(NJPN\)](#) to develop and distribute risk messaging assets tailored to youth, young adults, parents, caregivers and communities across the state. Risk messaging aims to share information that is vital to saving lives, protecting health and minimizing harm to self and others.

“Young people may not fully comprehend the risks they take when they engage in underage substance use, or experiment with illicit substances or prescription medications that are either intended for someone

else or not taken as prescribed," Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. "Through this effort, we hope to educate and raise awareness about the hazards of misusing these substances and the potential long-term effects to help young New Jerseyans make informed decisions and avoid the pitfalls."

NJPN will work with key partners to identify the needs of the target populations and will reach out to youth leaders who are already engaged locally through schools and other youth serving organizations to encourage them to participate and provide their input and insight.

"We are excited that young people will be involved in the planning and design of this campaign. Including the perspective of the very people we're trying to reach. We hope that this will help make the messaging that much more effective and impactful," Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Lisa Asare said.

"The majority of adults who meet the criteria for having a substance use disorder started using substances during their teenage and young adult years. Educating young people early about the health risks involved can deter them from high-risk substance use," said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who directs the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#).

[Read more](#)

Drug Disposal Bags Distributed to Hospice Care and Other Facilities to Fight Opioid Misuse and Diversion

Eighty hospice and long-term care facilities are receiving drug disposal bags from the state, providing the facilities with a safe and easy way to dispose of leftover medications, preventing opioids from being diverted or misused after they are no longer needed for a patient.

The bags were shipped out last week by Verde® Environmental Technologies, Inc., the maker of [Deterra® Drug Deactivation System](#). Deterra® is a safe medication disposal pouch or container that can be used at home or in a clinical setting to destroy and properly dispose of unused, unwanted, and expired medications (i.e. pills, patches, liquids, creams, and films) by adding water.

"Ensuring the safe and quick disposal of leftover medication keeps opioids out of the wrong hands and reduces misuse and abuse," [Attorney General](#) Matthew J. Platkin said. "By supplying hospice and long-term care facilities with drug disposal bags, we're cutting down on the supply of diverted opioids, which in turn helps prevent overdoses and damage to our communities."

Funding for these bags was provided by Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, which received grant funding from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) to address the opioid overdose crisis. New Jersey was among several states and territories to receive grant funding to prevent drug abuse and misuse.

“An important part of combatting the opioid epidemic is ensuring proper disposal of unused medications,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “I thank the hospice and long-term care facilities, Verde Environmental Technologies and Attorney General Platkin for their partnership to help ensure safe disposal of opioids. By working together, we can reduce addiction and save lives.”

“Addiction can start anywhere,” said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, of the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#). “Safe and secure opioid disposal can go a long way towards curbing this epidemic that has taken far too many lives.”

[Read more](#)

Highlighting Medications for Opioid Use Disorder with the Office of National Drug Control Policy







Commissioner Sarah Adelman on Feb. 21 [joined Office of National Drug Control Policy](#) Director Dr. Rahul Gutpta in Camden County to [highlight](#) the use of medications for opioid use disorder in justice-involved settings.

New Jersey has been a [leader](#) in such efforts, and the federal government is planning to allow states to use Medicaid funds to provide medication to combat addiction in jails and prisons.

Later that day, they [visited](#) Cooper University Health Center's [Southern New Jersey's MAT Center of Excellence](#) to discuss [recent steps](#) to [make it easier](#) for primary care providers to prescribe medication that can support addiction recovery.

Check out Human Services' Latest 844-ReachNJ Promotional Campaign





41st Annual New Jersey Child Support Council Training Event



Commissioner Sarah Adelman attended the [New Jersey Child Support Council's](#) 41st Annual New Jersey Child Support Training Event to highlight the work of Human Services' child support program to support

New Jersey's families and thank workers for their dedication. Visit [here](#) to learn more about the state's child support program.



Protector.
Teacher.
Monster Checker.
Dad.

Parents have so many roles.

Whether you live with your children or not, support them in every way possible.
Remember, child support is more than just money.

njchildsupport.org
1.877.NJKids1

**Call for Entries: 2023 New Jersey Teen Media
Contest Celebrates Everyday Moments**

Let Your Talent Shine



Enter the New Jersey
2023 Teen Media Contest

ChildSupport.
It's more than just money.

Human Services is inviting teenagers across the state to begin submitting entries for the 28th Annual New Jersey Teen Media Contest, highlighting Human Services' mission to support families.

The contest, run by Human Services' [Division of Family Development](#), is open to all New Jersey middle- and high school-aged students. This year, the contest will once again accept entries in the hand-painted/hand-drawn and written word categories.

This year's contest challenges teens to illustrate – through art or the written word – the following theme: *How do your parents or loved ones make everyday things special? What do they do to celebrate these small milestones and achievements?*

"This is a wonderful opportunity for young artists to showcase their talents through their artwork. Families come in all shapes and sizes but what matters is that children feel loved and supported. This contest

helps us highlight the importance of supporting strong families. I encourage all budding artists in middle school and high school to submit an entry,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said.

“Every year we are blown away by the talent that abounds in our state. I look forward to seeing this year’s submissions and seeing the theme of celebrating everyday moments come to life,” Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Elisa Neira said.

“The Teen Media Contest is a unique and creative way for New Jersey teens to share their appreciation for their families,” said Division of Family Development Assistant Commissioner Natasha Johnson. “Even as time passes and family dynamics evolve, the Teen Media Contest continues to draw hundreds of submissions from talented young artists throughout the state.”

[Read more](#)

An Important American Sign Language Update about NJ FamilyCare



Hi, my name is Elizabeth Hill, Executive Director for the NJ Department of Human Services!

Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Executive Director Elizabeth Hill with an important American Sign Language update about upcoming NJ FamilyCare renewals. Visit [here](#) to learn more.

Wear Red Day 2023

Staff from throughout Human Services wore red around [National Wear Red Day](#) on Feb. 3 to help raise [awareness](#) about heart disease and stroke in women.









WE WEAR RED
AT THE CBVI CRO
2023



Help yourself
to a heart healthy
SNACK!!

We Care about
your health!

Quit
Smoking!

Good news!
DARK Chocolate
is
Good for
your



Helping the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen







Staff from the [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#), the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) and Central Office filled nearly 500 bags of hygiene products and wrapped at least 500 sets of plastic utensils for the [Trenton Area Soup Kitchen](#).

SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

NJ FAMILY CARE

RENEWAL PACKETS ARE COMING

Update your mailing address at

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





NEW JERSEY DIVISION
OF AGING SERVICES
Program Guide



Support for caregivers of adult individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Callers receive support from a parent of an individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities – someone whose understanding comes from similar experiences.

**Call 1-833-NJ-ADULT
(1-833-652-3858)**

8:30am-8pm | Daily



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

FOLLOW US!

