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NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2024



Governor Murphy Announces Allocation of \$95 Million from New Jersey’s Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund

Governor Phil Murphy announced the allocation of over \$95 million from [New Jersey’s Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund](#) to support critical programs tackling the opioid crisis, connecting New Jerseyans with tools to reduce overdoses and other harms of substance use, and supporting the treatment and recovery of residents struggling with substance use disorders. At the recommendation of the State’s Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council and with extensive input from the public, six programs addressing four priority areas – harm reduction, prevention and recovery support, treatment, and housing – have been identified to receive funding over the next two to three years.

“We are making a historic investment in life-saving and life-changing programs that will connect those suffering from a substance use disorder with the help they need. By bringing together service providers, subject matter experts, and those who have experienced firsthand the impact of the opioid crisis, we have identified key programs to maximize the State’s Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund,” said Governor Murphy. “Together, the services being funded will empower families and individuals in New Jersey who have felt the devastating impact of addiction, giving them the resources necessary to support sustained recovery.”

“We are incredibly proud to announce our initial spending recommendations and decisions, which invest significantly and strategically in initiatives designed to end and recover from the opioid epidemic in New Jersey,” said Sarah Adelman, New Jersey Human Services Commissioner and Chairperson of the Advisory Council. “We are hopeful these initiatives will have a meaningful impact on individuals and families affected by opioid use. These recommendations serve as the foundation on which we will continue to build in response to the ever evolving and multifaceted disease of addiction.”

[MORE HERE](#)

Watch the full press conference below.



NJ Save

**NJ Save is the one-stop
online application for older
New Jerseyans and
individuals with
disabilities to access
benefits and savings!**



Human Services Announces Expanded Income Eligibility Limits for Prescription Drug Assistance Programs, Efforts to Get More Eligible New Jerseyans to Apply for Savings

Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced that income limits for the [Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled](#) (PAAD) and the [Senior Gold Prescription Discount](#) drug assistance programs have increased by \$10,000, making more older adults and individuals with disabilities eligible to save on prescription drug prices. This increase is funded through Governor Murphy's FY2024 Budget and was included in a series of changes following the enactment of [legislation](#) to expand prescription drug savings for older adults.

“By expanding income eligibility for prescription drug assistance, hearing aid assistance, and utility assistance programs for older adults, we are delivering much-needed relief to families throughout our state,” **said Governor Phil Murphy.** “No one should have to face the difficult choice to skip or ration their medications, and this program expansion will make a real difference in the lives of New Jerseyans as we continue to make prescription drugs more affordable and accessible.”

“Prescription drug costs can really add up, especially if you are on a fixed income. Expanding the income eligibility for these programs means more people in need of support can apply for these savings. We encourage anyone who thinks they are eligible, or knows someone who may be eligible, to visit aging.nj.gov to learn more about the different assistance programs available. Eligible residents can apply online for all of them at once at njsave.org,”

said Commissioner Adelman.

“The [NJSave](#) application will check your eligibility for PAAD, Senior Gold, and other assistance programs that can help you save on prescription costs, as well as Medicare premiums, utilities and other living expenses. By raising awareness about the resourcefulness of the NJSave application and increasing application assistance we hope more eligible people will apply so they can start saving,” **said Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire.**

“We are working to remove barriers that keep people from applying and are ramping up our outreach efforts. We will soon have navigators available to help people apply because we know the need is there,” **said Division of Aging Services Assistant Commissioner Louise Rush.**

[MORE HERE](#)



NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES

DMHAS

Division of Mental Health
and Addiction Services

NJ Human Services Awards Contracts to Offer Outpatient Services for Older Adults with Serious Mental Illness

Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced the Department has awarded two contracts to providers enabling coverage in the northern, central, and southern regions of the state for outpatient services to older adults aged 55 years and older, with priority given to those with serious mental illness (SMI).

“These contracts will help older adults with serious mental illness manage their mental health, enhance their quality of life, remain active members of their community and maintain their independence,” **Commissioner Adelman said**. “Ensuring that this resource is accessible throughout the state is important and we look forward to seeing the positive impact this initiative will have among older adults in our state.”

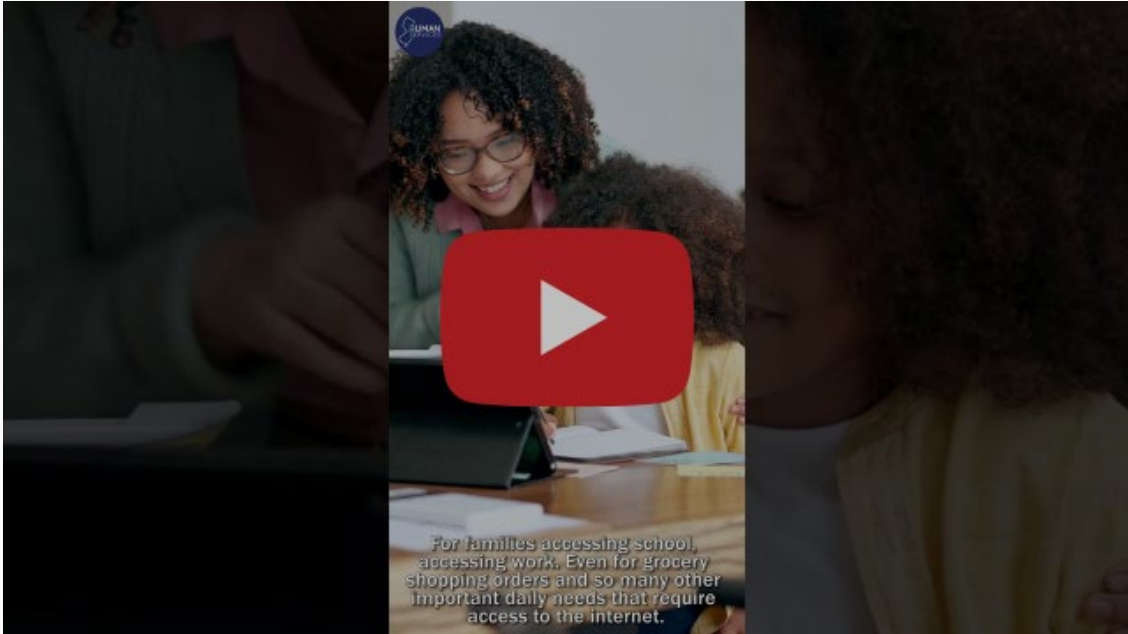
“Older adults play a foundational role in society and help shape future generations. That is why it is so important to focus on mental health resources for this population in their communities, as this creates a more supportive and understanding society as they age. These contracts work to do just that,” **Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Lisa Asare said**.

“With the understanding that wait times are a major barrier to older adults receiving proper treatment for SMI, the Department decided to focus on improving outpatient services in regions identified as having the longest wait times for outpatient counseling and prescriber services. This is why awards were issued in Burlington, Sussex, and Union counties,” **said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, [who directs Human Services’ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#)**. “We are proud to enhance the overall health of older adults throughout the state.”

[MORE HERE](#)

NJ Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman joined Congressman Frank Pallone and Federal Communication Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel at a press conference calling for the reauthorization of the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#).

Watch Commissioner Adelman's remarks below. 





It may not be “summer nights” quite yet, but the

New Lisbon Developmental Center hosted a Sock Hop for residents.

NJ Human Services Deputy Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire and Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried were among those on hand to help promote a fun time for residents.



NJ Department of Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman was a speaker at the 42nd Annual NJ Child Support Conference along with Division of Family Development Assistant Director, Patricia Risch. This year's theme was LEAP – Lead Energize and Activate your Potential.



NJ Department of Human Services Sarah Adelman joined [Volunteers of America Delaware Valley](#) for a ribbon cutting event to launch their new Navigational Resource Center in Vineland. VOADV aids in navigating reentry services, housing assistance, employment services, substance use & mental health referrals, legal assistance & more.



NJ Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman with Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman at the Princeton YMCA for an important discussion on securing childcare for NJ families. When parents know their kids are looked after, it opens the door to better jobs and a better life.



NJ Department of Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman, along with Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire, Division of Aging Services Assistant Commissioner Louise Rush, Division of Family Development Assistant Commissioner Natasha Johnson and executive staff from Division of Aging Services and the Division of Family Development, visited [Parker Health Group](#) to tour their child development center that is co-located with their nursing home and adult day programs where they provide intergenerational programming.

Valentine's Day Community Service Event



Staff from DDD, OPIA and Commissioners Office used their lunch break to participate in a Valentine's Day utensil rolling community service project for Trenton Area Soup Kitchen.



Thanks to this project, TASK will receive hundreds of prewrapped utensils to use for meals.

❤️ National Wear Red Day ❤️

February 2nd is National Wear Red Day!

Staff all across NJ Human Services wore red to help raise awareness about heart disease and stroke in women.

This day also serves to inspire women to make lifestyle changes, mobilize communities, and shape policies to save lives.









**February 16th is National Caregiver Day.
NJ Human Services would like to thank all caregivers
for providing dedicated support to people with disabilities,
older adults & those who are chronically ill, often at great cost to themselves.
For resources & supports visit [here](#).**



Has Vision Loss Affected Your Daily Life?

We can help.
Call us toll free at
(877) 685 -8878



Email us at AskCBVI@dhs.nj.gov
Visit our website for more information
cbvi.nj.gov

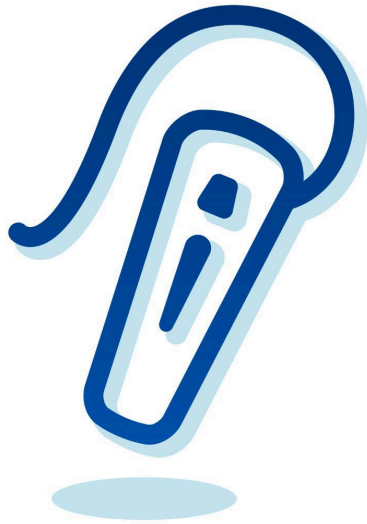
Low Vision Awareness Month

The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) will help people with low vision acquire visual aides appropriate for their degree of vision loss in social situations, at work, school, and when involved in leisure time or recreational activities.

For more info on CBVI's programs and services, visit our website: <http://bit.ly/3RHfNDn>

SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF THE
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING



NJ HEARING AID PROJECT

*Providing free refurbished
hearing aids for eligible
New Jersey older adults.*



Need a hearing aid but having trouble affording one?
The NJ Hearing Aid Project provides
refurbished hearing aids for eligible older adults.

Visit [here](#) to learn more.



NALOXONE SAVES LIVES

The State of New Jersey is Providing Naloxone
for Free at Participating Pharmacies



No Individual
Prescription Needed



No Payment or
Insurance Required



No Name
Required

One two-dose nasal spray package per visit.
Recipients must be age 14 or over.

Visit [Stopoverdoses.nj.gov](https://stopoverdoses.nj.gov) to find participating pharmacies



FOR ADDICTION HELP 24/7 CALL 844-REACHNJ

New Jersey is offering **FREE NALOXONE** at participating pharmacies! No
prescription or name needed.

Click the link to find a pharmacy near you:

[StopOverdoses.nj.gov](https://stopoverdoses.nj.gov)

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