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## NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2022

### Human Services Expands SNAP Navigator Program to All 21 Counties



Commissioner Sarah Adelman recently announced that the Department has made more Navigators available in more counties to help individuals who want to apply or already participate in the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ([SNAP](#)).

SNAP Navigators can help answer questions about the SNAP food assistance program, and help people apply for SNAP benefits. Previously, there were three agencies serving as SNAP Navigators serving portions of the state. Now, there are 11 agencies with SNAP Navigators available to assist residents.

"Families struggling to put food on the table shouldn't also struggle to find help. Now in every county, SNAP navigators are a free and confidential one-stop to help New Jerseyans access food assistance," Commissioner Adelman said. "By expanding this service, vital SNAP assistance is more reachable for all New Jersey families."

Visit [here](#) for the SNAP Navigators by county.

"We are very appreciative of the partnership we have with the agencies serving as SNAP Navigators," Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Elisa Neira said. "They not only provide direct assistance to eligible families and individuals, they also raise awareness through community education events about SNAP. Through these efforts, we hope to link more individuals to food assistance."

"Along with our new streamlined online application, the expansion of the SNAP Navigator program will help to make food available to more SNAP eligible New Jersey residents struggling to buy groceries." said Assistant Commissioner Natasha Johnson, who directs Human Services' [Division of Family Development](#), which is responsible for the [SNAP](#) program.

[Read more](#)

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## **Governor Murphy Announces Appointments to Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council**



Governor Phil Murphy announced the appointments of 10 public members to the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council. The Council will provide recommendations for uses of the funds the state is receiving as a result of nationwide [settlement agreements](#) with several opioid manufacturers and distributors for their contributions to the ongoing opioid epidemic.

“As we work to combat the opioid epidemic, it is essential that our approach continues to be informed by individuals and communities who have experienced it firsthand, whether that be personally or professionally,” Governor Murphy said. “By distributing proceeds from national opioid litigation settlements efficiently and equitably, we will move closer to ending the opioid epidemic and supporting those affected by it. I am proud to appoint members to this Advisory Council today and I look forward to their valuable and critical insight.”

As part of the agreements, the several opioid manufacturers and distributors will pay New Jersey and eligible

counties and municipalities a combined total of over \$600 million in settlement funds over the next two decades. The purpose of the council will be to make recommendations for the Administration's consideration regarding the prioritization and effective use of the state's share of these settlement funds in ways that align with the terms of the settlements. This process will also include review of submissions from members of the public – including treatments providers, advocates, residents with substance use disorders, and social service organizations – regarding the use of these settlement funds. Public input was accepted through an online portal from August 31 through October 31.

The funding must go towards goals such as treating opioid use disorder, addressing the needs of justice-involved individuals, offering harm reduction services, preventing overdose deaths, supporting relevant research and training, and other similar ways of combating the opioid epidemic – a crisis that has tragically taken over 14,000 lives in New Jersey in the past five years alone.

The Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council will be chaired by Commissioner Sarah Adelman and also include as members the Attorney General and the commissioners of the Departments of Health and the Department of Children and Families.

“These settlement funds are the result of a once in a generation effort to hold accountable drug manufacturers for the devastation they have caused, and we are considering the disbursement of the funds with equal gravity,” Commissioner Adelman said. “With the establishment of the Council, we are bringing together individuals with lived experience, providers and experts with the intention of expanding programs to prevent and treat opioid addiction and expanding services for those who have suffered. I look forward to working with my fellow council members to ensure the distribution of these funds is as impactful as possible.”

The Governor appointed the following members to the Advisory Council:

- Mavis Asiedu-Frimpong
- Brenda N. Azanedo
- Robert Detore
- Jenna Mellor
- Solomon Middleton-Williams
- Dr. Amesika Nyaku
- Shirla Simpson
- Brian Thompson
- Morgan Thompson
- Dr. Debra Wentz

[Read more](#)

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**Human Services Awards Contract to Provide Family Support in Psychiatric Screening Services in Burlington and Camden Counties**

**988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline 9-8-8**

**NJMentalHealthCares Helpline 1-866-202-HELP**

**ACCESS American Sign Language and  
Videophone Helpline 973-870-0677**

**HEAL NJ Healthcare Workers COVID  
Hope & Healing Helpline 1-833-416-8773**

**RISE NJ First Responders COVID  
Hope & Healing Helpline 1-833-237-4325**

**Assistance and Referrals to Addiction Treatment  
1-844-ReachNJ**



The Department has awarded a contract to [Legacy Treatment Services](#) to provide support and information about mental illness and treatment options for families of individuals who are experiencing a psychiatric crisis and are receiving psychiatric emergency screening services in Burlington and Camden counties.

“Human Services is committed to supporting the needs of individuals with mental illness, and we understand that family support is integral to meeting these needs,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said.

This initiative will focus on hiring family members who have first-hand experience in supporting their loved ones when they become involved in the acute care system in response to a psychiatric crisis. This is so they can use that experience in supporting others with a loved one in crisis. It's anticipated that 2,080 people will be served over the course of a year.

Services include providing families with greater knowledge of mental illness, treatment options and the behavioral health system; enhancing family members' skills in helping their loved one manage and reduce symptoms; and enhancing communication and levels of environmental stimulation which have been demonstrated to reduce the number of psychiatric crises and hospitalizations.

"Family support extends beyond the household and can be a powerful tool in the psychiatric screening setting," Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Lisa Asare said.

"The process of going to an emergency room and being assessed by a psychiatric screening service can be stressful not only for the individual experiencing an acute crisis but their family as well," said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who leads the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#).

[Read more](#)

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## Additional Departments Join ARRIVE Together



Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin recently announced that the ARRIVE Together mental health crisis response initiative has expanded to additional municipalities in Cumberland and Union Counties, while Atlantic County has initiated an innovative new version of the program.

The ARRIVE Together program, first piloted by the State Police in Cumberland County in December 2021, pairs a state trooper with a mental health screener from the Cumberland County Guidance Center in an unmarked vehicle to respond to 9-1-1 calls for service relating to mental or behavioral health crises. The

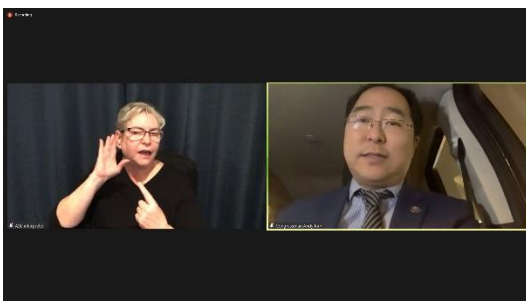
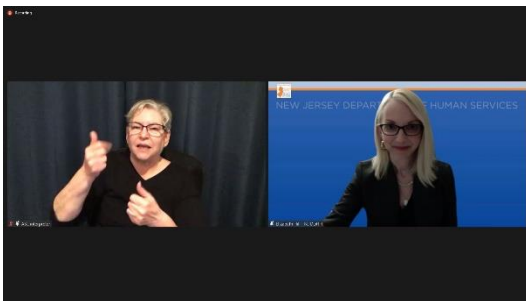
program expanded to a pilot in Union County in June 2022 run by the Elizabeth and Linden Police Departments and Trinitas Medical Center. The pilots have served hundreds of individuals in distress who come into contact with law enforcement.

The new municipalities participating in the initiative are the Bridgeton Police Department in Cumberland County (joining in partnership with the State Police); Roselle Park Police Department in Union County (joining in partnership with Elizabeth and Linden), and Atlantic City Police Department in Atlantic County. In Atlantic City, the pilot will use telehealth tools to aid law enforcement officers in better responding to mental health-related calls for service. Officers will be equipped with electronic tablets that can be used by individuals in distress to obtain real-time virtual telehealth services from mental health professionals at AtlantiCare Regional Mental Center.

“This is all about saving and rebuilding lives by bringing together law enforcement and mental health professionals to handle crisis situations in a smart and effective way that puts the focus on helping the individual in need,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “The continued expansion of this program is part of our ongoing work to improve mental health care in New Jersey with innovative and appropriate programs. We remain appreciative of this partnership with the Office of the Attorney General and the New Jersey State Police and look forward to expanding this vital work to more communities across the state.”

[Read more](#) from the Office of the Attorney General

## Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids



[Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) Executive Director Elizabeth Hill joined [Congressman Andy Kim](#) for a webinar focused on new over-the-counter hearing aids and how to choose the most affordable option. Learn more [here](#).

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## **Become an Instructor or Teacher for the Blind and Visually Impaired**



# BECOME AN ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY INSTRUCTOR

Are you a people person? Do you like working and meeting people of diverse backgrounds? Do you enjoy working out in the community?

If you answered yes, then a career in **ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY (O&M)** may be for you.

## What is Orientation and Mobility (O&M)?

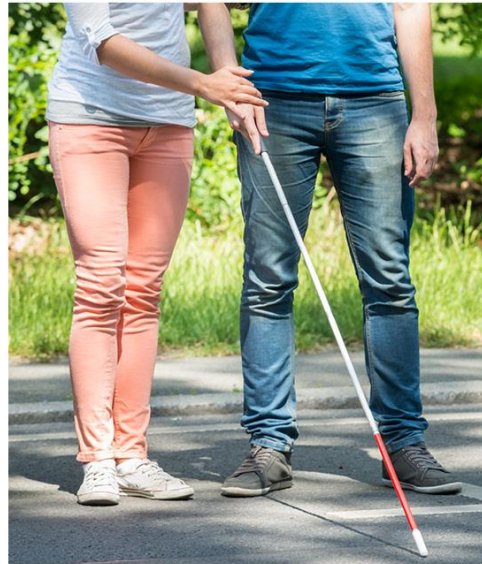
Orientation and Mobility (O&M) is a profession specific to blindness and low vision that teaches safe, efficient, and effective travel skills to people of all ages who are experiencing vision loss

**ORIENTATION** – the ability to know where you are and where you want to go

**MOBILITY** – the ability to move safely, efficiently, and effectively from one place to another

## Why should I become an O&M?

The NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired has several job openings for Orientation and Mobility Instructors statewide. It is a rewarding and creative job. You have the opportunity to work in a variety of settings, such as: schools, places of employment, homes and communities. This unique career affords you the opportunity to make a difference in peoples lives.



## How do I become an O&M?

There are several Schools, Colleges and Universities that offer courses and certifications in Orientation and Mobility. All have different programs to address certifications. There are two nationally recognized certifications.

The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) offers a Certification as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) and the National Blindness Professional Certification Board offers a National Orientation and Mobility Certification (NOMC).

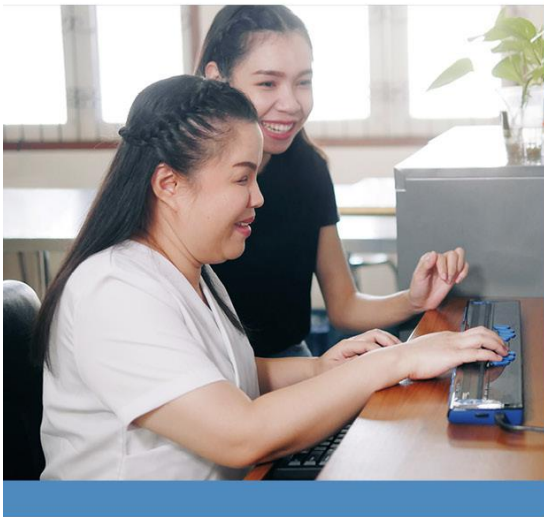
To apply and learn more, visit [cbvi.nj.gov](http://cbvi.nj.gov).



# BECOME A TEACHER OF BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS

Consider a rewarding career as a certified Teacher of Blind or Visually Impaired Students (TVI).

TVIs provide specialized instruction to blind or visually impaired students and assist classroom teachers in meeting their needs.



## Consider becoming a TVI if:

You would like the opportunity to work in a variety of school settings, collaborate with others, teach amazing students the skills they need to be successful in school and in life.

You have strong communication skills and are well-organized.

You like new challenges and have the desire to learn new skills.

As a TVI you can be part of a community of TVIs and other blindness professionals who share knowledge and experience to provide coordinated services to young learners, school-age students, and adults alike.

## How to become a TVI?

**1.** Professional Teacher Preparation: You must complete an accredited college or university program for Teacher of Blind or Visually Impaired Students.

**AND**

**2.** Hold a Certificate of Eligibility (CE), Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS), or a standard NJ instructional certificate with an endorsement appropriate to the subject or grade level to be taught.

If you would like more information or to apply for instructional certification, please see the NJ DOE website: [nj.gov/education](http://nj.gov/education)

To look at current job opportunities and learn more visit [cbvi.nj.gov](http://cbvi.nj.gov) for more information.



## Helping Celebrate the Camden Coalition



Commissioner Sarah Adelman, second from right, was [among those](#) helping the [Camden Coalition](#) celebrate its 20th anniversary, thanking them for "[innovative, person-centered, life-changing care in your community.](#)"

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**Nurture NJ**



Commissioner Sarah Adelman, fourth from left, was among those who [joined](#) First Lady Tammy Murphy for an update on the [Nurture NJ](#) efforts to improve maternal and infant health and make New Jersey the safest and most equitable place in the nation to deliver and raise a baby.

## Visiting Children's Aid and Family Services

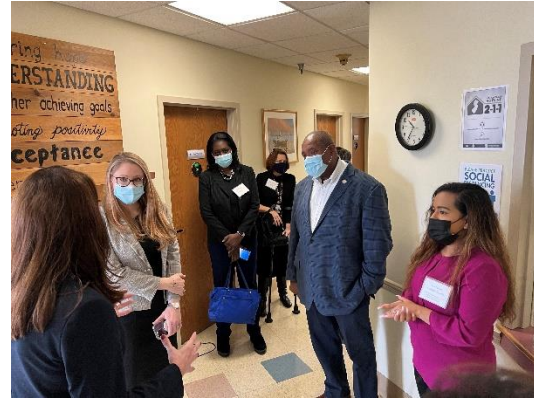


Commissioner Sarah Adelman visited [Children's Aid and Family Services](#) to [see](#) first-hand its work to help thousands of individuals with life-saving mental health and addiction services and life enhancing disability services.

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## Early Intervention Support Services Open in Burlington County





Commissioner Sarah Adelman joined [Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton](#) to open a new [early intervention support service](#) in Westhampton.

The clinic provides walk-in crisis mental health treatment for adults in Burlington County seven days a week, and is staffed with licensed clinicians, psychiatrists, nurse clinicians and peer community health workers

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## Human Services Police Officers Graduate



Congratulations to, from left to right, [Human Services Police](#) Officers Nicolas Sachs, Marc Vitello, Brianna Alfieri, and Joseph Nguyen, all of whom graduated Dec. 1 from the Morris County Police Academy.



And congratulations to Officers Alex Peltzman, left, and Tevan Holden, right, who graduated from the Camden County Police Academy on Dec. 15.



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## **Holiday Festivities at New Lisbon**

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Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire and Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried celebrated with residents and their families at New Lisbon Developmental Center to [help welcome](#) in the holiday season.

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## **Direct Support Professional and Supervisor Wage Increases**

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Wage increase for direct support professionals and supervisors will be implemented January 1<sup>st</sup> via increases to the fee-for-service reimbursement rates for the following services: Career Planning, Community Based Supports, Community Inclusion Services, Day Habilitation, Individual Supports, Prevocational Training (Individual and Group), Respite, and Supported Employment (Individual and Group).

For information, please see:

- [Public Notice](#)
  - [Quick Guide to FY2023 FFS Rate Increases Effective 1/1/23](#)
  - [Quick Guide to Updated Waiver Program Budgets Effective 1/1/23](#)
  - [FAQs: FY2023 DSP & Supervisor Wage Increase](#)
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## SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS



# GET HELP BUYING GROCERIES

See what SNAP\*  
can do for you!

*\*SNAP is New Jersey's food  
assistance program that can  
help families buy groceries.*

Visit [njsnap.gov](https://njsnap.gov) for  
more details.



# Are You Experiencing Homelessness and Need Child Care?

Call **1-800-332-9227** to get connected to your local child care resource and referral agency or visit **[www.ChildCareNJ.gov](http://www.ChildCareNJ.gov)** for information.



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

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