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## FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings:

Governor Murphy on Tuesday unveiled a \$48.9 billion budget proposal for next fiscal year that delivers on the promise to make New Jersey stronger, fairer and more affordable.

The Governor has put forward a fiscally sound and future-focused budget that builds upon the historic progress made over the last four years towards a stronger, fairer, and more affordable New Jersey. There is much in this budget that will make life in New Jersey not just more affordable, but better, for so many residents.

While it advances affordability, inclusive economic growth, health and safety and planning for the future, the budget plan also continues to prioritize initiatives at Human Services that support New Jerseyans in every stage of life.

And the Governor continued his commitment to not raise taxes. In fact, during his first-term, Governor Murphy has cut taxes 14 times for working families, veterans, and older adults, all while continuing to make new investments in these same communities to make life more affordable and to help grow our economy from the bottom up and the middle out.

Below we are thrilled to highlight several budget proposals for NJ Human Services, while providing some recent updates.

- Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman

#### **FIRST TERM MIDDLE-CLASS AND SENIOR TAX CUTS**

- **INCREASED STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION TO \$15,000**
- **CREATED THE CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT (CDCTC)**
- **EXPANDED THE CDCTC AND MADE IT REFUNDABLE**
- **INCREASED THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT TO 40% AND EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY**
- **DOUBLED VETERAN INCOME TAX EXEMPTION TO \$6,000**
- **EXPANDED SENIOR FREEZE ELIGIBILITY**
- **EXCLUDED COMBAT PAY FROM INCOME TAX**
- **CREATED THE MIDDLE-CLASS TAX REBATE**
- **MODERNIZED THE HOMESTEAD BENEFIT**
- **EXTENDED THE VETERANS PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION TO PEACETIME VETERANS**
- **EXPANDED THE RETIREMENT INCOME TAX EXCLUSION**
- **TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY**
  - **CREATED THE NJBEST 529 PLAN TAX DEDUCTION**
  - **CREATED THE NJCLASS TAX DEDUCTION**
  - **CREATED A TAX DEDUCTION FOR UP TO \$10,000 IN IN-STATE TUITION PAYMENTS**



**THE OPPORTUNITY STATE**

Stronger, Fairer, More Affordable

## Investing in Maternal Health



The Department is committed to the First Lady's goal of making New Jersey the safest state in the nation to give birth.

Our shared goal is to make transformational change in a system that has historically failed our mothers and babies – especially our mothers and babies of color.

About 40 percent of births in New Jersey are covered by FamilyCare, and in recent budgets, we've taken steps to end reimbursement for early elective delivery, increase reimbursement for midwives, and begin covering doula services.

The next step in this work is to address overall physician reimbursement rates for maternity care.

The Governor's budget proposes increasing state Medicaid spending by \$15 million to raise the Medicaid rates for maternity care providers for the first time in decades. This funding will increase physician reimbursement rates for labor and delivery, and pre- and postpartum services codes, to 100 percent of the Medicare rates for these services, which in turn will increase reimbursements for midwives and doulas.

The investment would also bring in \$15 million in federal funding.

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# NURTURE NJ

**BECOMING THE SAFEST, MOST EQUITABLE STATE IN THE NATION TO DELIVER AND RAISE A BABY**

- \$15 MILLION TO RAISE MEDICAID RATES FOR MATERNITY CARE PROVIDERS
- \$1 MILLION TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MIDWIFERY EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- \$500,000 TO EXPAND THE REACH OF THE COLETTE LAMOTHE-GALETTE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER INSTITUTE
- \$17 MILLION TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR GROUNDBREAKING UNIVERSAL NURSE HOME VISITATION PROGRAM
- \$600,000 TO CREATE A DATABASE OF MATERNAL FEEDBACK ON QUALITY OF CARE
- \$100,000 TO DEVELOP A STILLBIRTH PREVENTION PUBLIC HEALTH CAMPAIGN
- \$2.1 MILLION TO STRENGTHEN THE CENTRAL INTAKE SYSTEM
- CONTINUED FUNDING FOR A NURTURE NJ PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



**THE OPPORTUNITY STATE**

Stronger, Fairer, More Affordable

## Cover All Kids



The budget plan provides nearly \$11 million more to continue our Cover All Kids work to ensure no child in New Jersey is left without the support and security of health care coverage.

This investment will fund coverage expansion for children who are currently ineligible due to immigration status, but would otherwise be income eligible for the program. Through this investment and the work of our NJ FamilyCare team, we will begin allowing these children to enroll in the same coverage every other child has, at no cost to their families.

Human Services has already eliminated waiting periods and premiums in the Children's Health Insurance Program, increased community and broader marketing efforts for NJ FamilyCare, and created an outreach and enrollment working group. Today, NJ FamilyCare has 26,000 more members under 21 than it did last June.

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## Child Care



**NEED HELP WITH CHILD CARE?**

New Jersey's child care assistance program helps eligible families pay for child care costs, find available child care options and more.

Visit [www.childcarenj.gov](http://www.childcarenj.gov) to learn more.

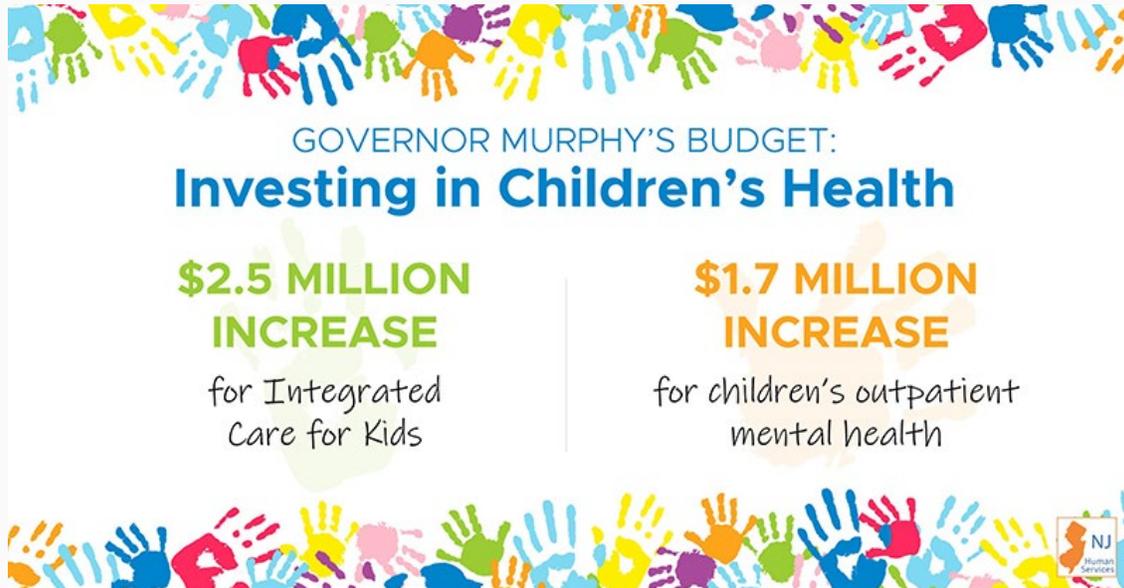
And as part of the Administration's continued focus on child care, the budget plan includes the continued implementation of federal American Rescue Plan child care investments to increase quality and access, lower costs for families, and stabilize child care providers.

The Administration also plans to develop new initiatives to encourage small businesses to provide child care benefits to employees.

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## Investing in Children's Health



The budget plan would provide \$1.7 million for rate parity between pediatric and adult outpatient services, including psychiatric evaluation, outpatient therapy, and partial care. With federal funding, this investment rises to \$4.6 million.

The Governor will also work with the Legislature on developing a Student Mental Health Initiative with American Rescue Plan funds to help students of all ages who have been impacted by the pandemic.

And it appropriates \$2.5 million to continue and expand the Integrated Care for Kids program, which aims to improve the quality of care for children under 21 through prevention; early identification; and treatment of behavioral, social, and physical health needs. With federal funding included, this would be a \$5 million increase.

## Ending the AIDS Epidemic

### GOVERNOR MURPHY'S BUDGET: **Ending the AIDS Epidemic**

-  The budget includes \$3 million to increase access to treatment to persons living with HIV/AIDS
-  Under this plan, FamilyCare will eliminate the use of step therapy and prior authorization for HIV treatment medication



The state last year released a strategic plan to end the HIV epidemic by 2025.

As part of this effort, the budget includes \$3 million to increase access to treatment so persons living with HIV/AIDS can achieve and maintain viral suppression.

Under this plan, FamilyCare will eliminate the use of step therapy and prior authorization for HIV treatment medication.

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# Critical Wage Enhancements

## GOVERNOR MURPHY'S BUDGET: **Critical Wage Enhancements**



Direct Support Professionals



Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Staff



Personal Care Assistants



Nursing Home Workers



Child Care Workers



Homeless Shelter Workers



Private Duty Nursing



JACC Home Health Aides



Personal Assistance Service Program Workers



Governor Murphy's budget plan includes critical wage enhancements for the vital workforce that helps Human Services serve individuals in need, including:

- Direct Support Professionals
- Personal Care Assistants
- Child care workers
- Nursing home workers
- Private duty nurses
- Jersey Assistance for Community Giving workers
- Personal Assistance Services Program workers
- Community-based mental health and substance use disorder providers
- Homeless shelter employees

# Serving Individuals with Disabilities

GOVERNOR MURPHY'S BUDGET:  
**Serving Individuals with Developmental Disabilities**



The infographic features three icons connected by a dashed line. The first icon is a computer monitor with 'WWW' and a mouse cursor. The second icon is a group of five people with a checkmark. The third icon is two hands shaking inside a heart shape. The NJ logo is in the bottom left corner.

A new disability information hub

More than \$9 million to continue last year's day program rate increases for a full fiscal year

\$8.2 million for a rate increase to support individuals with complex needs receiving care out of state

The budget plan also includes resources to create a new disability information hub, informed by individuals with disabilities, to help individuals with disabilities better plan for their future by providing up-to-date, consumer-friendly, accessible information about disability services in a central location. In partnership with the Governor's Office, we will be sharing more information about this in the future.

And it also includes more than \$9 million - \$18 million when federal funding is included - to continue last year's day program rate increases for a full fiscal year, and \$8.3 million for a rate increase to support individuals with complex needs receiving care out of state.

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## Assisting Older Adults



### GOVERNOR MURPHY'S BUDGET: **Helping Older Adults**

**\$6.8 MILLION**

increase to continue  
increased income limits for  
prescription drug assistance

**\$4 MILLION**

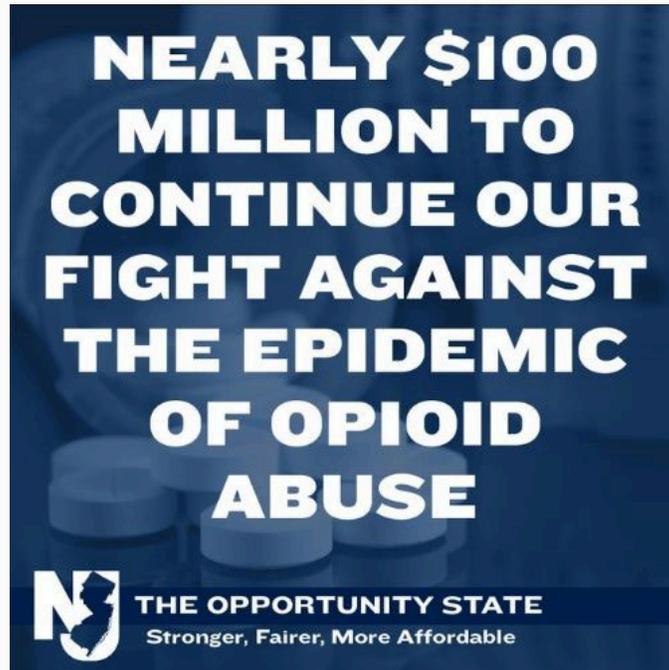
in federal money for county Area  
Agencies on Aging to provide  
additional supports in applying for  
vital services such as SNAP

To continue to make New Jersey more affordable for older adults needing help with prescription drugs, the budget plan includes a \$6.85 million increase to account for a full-year of the January 1 PAAD income limit increase.

The Governor is also proposing using \$4 million in federal money for County Area Agencies on Aging to provide additional support to older adults in applying for vital services such as SNAP.

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## Combating the Opioid Epidemic



The overall budget maintains the government-wide funding for the Governor's array of substance use disorder programs, which will be supplemented by more than \$640 million over the next 18 years through settlement funds from opioid manufacturers and wholesalers

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## Making Mental Health Care a Priority



The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services contracts with Carrier Clinic, Hampton Behavioral Health and Northbrook to provide diversion beds for individuals at risk of hospitalization. While these providers bill Medicaid and private insurance as appropriate, the state-only rate has not been increased since 2014.

So the budget plan would increase the rates to up to \$745 per day, based on applying a 2 percent annual increase to the 2014 rate through 2023. This \$1.2 million increase is vital to maintaining the availability of these beds.

The Federal Communications Commission recently approved a new 3-digit dialing code - 988 - for mental health crisis and suicide prevention.

It will launch on July 16, and states are required to build a comprehensive crisis response system able to respond to calls, chats and texts 24 hours/day, 7 days per week.

The central hub of New Jersey's proposed system will be a managing entity that provides a full complement of behavioral health and screening services, follow-up calls and oversight.

The budget plan includes nearly \$13 million to start implementing this vital new service.

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# Welcoming New Americans

## GOVERNOR MURPHY'S BUDGET: **Welcoming New Americans**

- One-time \$53 million in federal funding for Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers holders who did not receive federal stimulus aid
- The new program will provide a \$500 benefit to more than 100,000 ITIN holders
- Maintaining funding for legal representation for individuals facing detention or deportation based on immigration status and the Legal Services for Unaccompanied Minors Program



This budget includes resources to boost capacity in the Office of New Americans, and - importantly - maintains \$8.2 million for legal services for vulnerable immigrants with low-incomes, and \$3 million for the Legal Services for Unaccompanied Minors and Youth.

The budget also highlights additional investments made to the Excluded New Jerseyans Fund to ensure necessary funding is available for eligible applications received. The program closed at the end of last month and it received over 35,000 applications.

The Governor is also proposing a one-time \$53 million fund for Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers, or ITIN, holders who did not receive federal stimulus aid, building upon the previous work to support communities in need of assistance.

The new program will provide a \$500 benefit to more than 100,000 ITIN holders.

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## Emergency Housing Assistance

The graphic features a blue house silhouette with a white map of New Jersey inside. To the right, the text "NJ HOMELESS HOTLINE" is written in red, with "2-1-1" in large blue numbers below it. In the top right corner, there is a "2-1-1 New Jersey" logo and the "NJ Human Services" logo. At the bottom, two circular icons are present: a headset icon for "Live Assistance 24/7 in multiple languages" and a speech bubble icon for "Free & Confidential".

Along with the wage enhancements for homeless shelters, the budget includes about \$2.4 million to increase the daily hotel/motel rate by \$10 to ensure we continue to assist those receiving emergency assistance who need temporary emergency housing. This is the first increase to these rates since 2003.

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## Funeral and Burial Assistance



New Jersey currently offers funeral and burial reimbursements to help cover the costs of these services for deceased individuals who were receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, General Assistance or Supplemental Security Income clients.

Governor Murphy signed legislation raising these reimbursement rates for funeral homes by \$1,000 effective January 18. The budget plan includes \$8 million to continue to support these increases and raise the family contribution cap.

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# Human Services Awards Contract to Provide Cultural Competency to Opioid Treatment Providers to Reduce Treatment Gap Experienced by Black Residents



Human Services has awarded a contract to provide cultural competency training for opioid treatment providers to narrow the treatment gap experienced by Black residents, who are statistically less likely to receive or access services.

The Department awarded a \$750,000 contract to Family Connections Inc. to provide training, coaching, and consultation services to counselors and leadership employed at state-licensed opioid treatment providers. The plan is being funded by a grant through the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

A secondary goal of this initiative is to increase the prescribing of medication for Black residents that supports addiction recovery. [Medication-assisted treatment](#) is the clinical standard of care for opioid use disorder.

“This training will help counselors and agency leaders develop skills and new approaches to ensure that services are provided in a culturally appropriate manner,” Acting Commissioner Adelman said. “In the absence of healing, opioid use has been a way of coping when a community has been traumatized by decades of violence, poverty, and historic mistreatment in the health care system. Even today, implicit biases within the system result in individuals going without treatment and experiencing premature termination of treatment. When these factors are ignored or misunderstood, it becomes challenging for Black individuals with opioid use disorder to get treatment. This must change – and this training is a step in the right direction.”

Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who directs the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), noted higher rates of increase of drug overdose deaths for the Black population, compared to the overall population, including for synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.

“One reason for the high death rates is that Black residents with opioid use disorder have experienced limited

access to the full range of medication that can treat addiction,” Assistant Commissioner Mielke said. “This is often magnified in the Black community, where there is significant historical mistrust of the health care, social services, and the justice system. In particular, for men, there is the looming fear that seeking treatment will result in severe sentencing and incarceration.”

[Read more](#)

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## Division of Developmental Disabilities Launches New Office of Education on Self-Directed Services



The Division of Developmental Disabilities has launched the Office of Education on Self-Directed Services.

The Office of Education on Self-Directed Services provides a centralized place for the delivery of education and training for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities receiving services, their families, advocates, support coordinators, interested community partners and other stakeholders.

The Office serves as an additional support to help people understand how self-directed services can work if chosen by the individual.

Please visit [here](#) or email [DDD.OESDS@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.OESDS@dhs.nj.gov) for more information.

Acting Commissioner Adelman also spoke in March to the New Jersey Self-Direction Virtual Conference, saying, “Every person has the inherent right to determine the course of their own lives, and we are in this together. I applaud your advocacy and your efforts to promote and expand citizen-directed services and supports in New Jersey.”

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## Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2022



Governor Murphy officially declared March to be Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in New Jersey to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of community life.

To mark the month, Acting Commissioner Adelman was joined by Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried, Director of Special Project Eric Kaufmann and Governor's Policy Advisor Kaylee McGuire for a tour of Spectrum for Living, to see its program and talk to residents and staff, including President and CEO Christopher Perry.

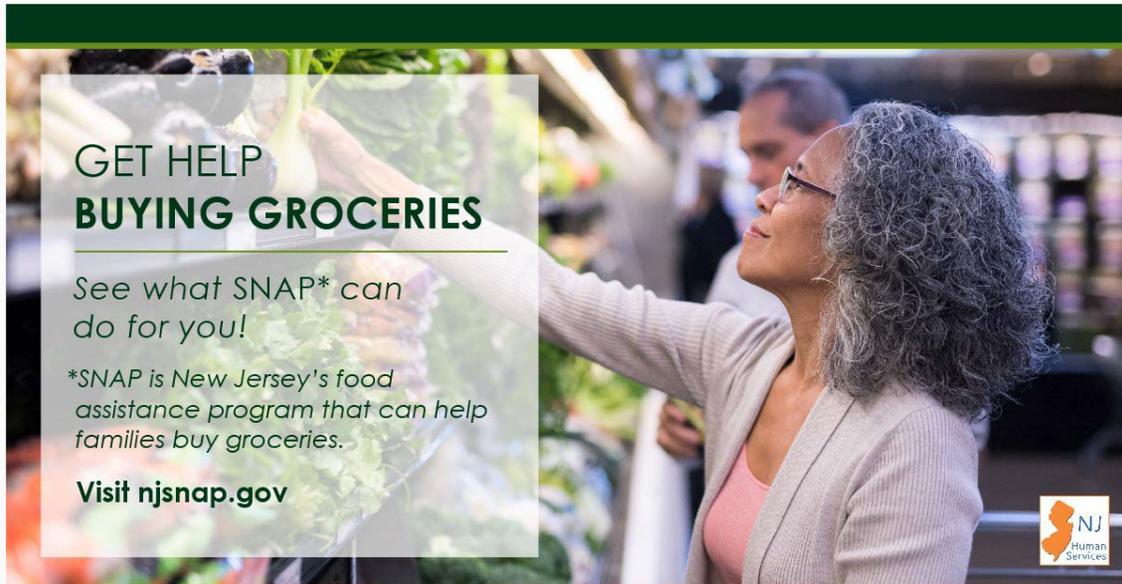
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## Extra Food Assistance Continued in March



All New Jerseyans who receive food assistance through New Jersey's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, received extra benefits in March to help address food needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recipients can always check their balance at [NJFamiliesFirst.com](https://NJFamiliesFirst.com), the ConnectEBT app or by calling the number on their card.

Human Services has been providing NJSNAP households with maximum benefits since March 2020, and has now distributed more than \$1.8 billion in supplemental monthly SNAP payments.

Learn more about New Jersey's SNAP program at [njsnap.gov](https://njsnap.gov).

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## Brain Injury Awareness Month



Governor Murphy declared March to be Brain Injury Awareness Month in New Jersey. As part of the recognition, Human Services raised awareness of the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Fund by catching up with Jason, who received TBI support for his recovery from a major brain injury. Watch the video below, and for more information on the TBI fund please visit [here](#).

# Social Work Month 2022



Governor Murphy declared March as Social Work Month. We celebrate social workers and thank them for their dedication to enhancing the well-being of others.



# International Women's Day 2022



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022



**Sarah Adelman**  
*Acting Commissioner*



**Elisa Neira**  
*Deputy Commissioner*



**Andrea Katz**  
*Chief of Staff*



**Johanna Calle**  
*Director*  
Office of  
New Americans



**Dr. Bernice Davis**  
*Executive Director*  
Commission for the Blind  
and Visually Impaired



**Elizabeth Hill**  
*Executive Director*  
Division of the Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing



**Jennifer Langer Jacobs**  
*Assistant Commissioner*  
Division of Medical Assistance  
and Health Services



**Natasha Johnson**  
*Assistant Commissioner*  
Division of Family  
Development



**Valerie Mielke**  
*Assistant Commissioner*  
Division of Mental Health  
and Addiction Services



**Peri Nearon**  
*Executive Director*  
Division of  
Disability Services



**Deborah Robinson**  
*Director*  
Office of Program Integrity  
and Accountability



**Louise Rush**  
*Director*  
Division of  
Aging Services

Tuesday, March 8 was International Women's Day, and Human Services recognized its women leaders committed to providing vital supports such as child & health care, food assistance & more.

## International Wheelchair Day



March 1 was International Wheelchair Day. The Division of Disability Services' Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant program helps communities across the state support the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities where they live, work, learn, and play. Visit [here](#) to learn more.

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# Winter Clothing Donations to HomeFront

Human Services staff on February 14 donated winter clothing to [HomeFront](#).



# Age-Friendly State Advisory Council Begins Its Work

**Governor Murphy signed Executive Order # 227 on March 2, 2021 establishing the Age-Friendly State Advisory Council in the Department of Human Services.**

- The Department of Human Services (DHS), with the input of the council, shall develop a blueprint for advancing age-friendly practices across the State and submit such blueprint to the Governor.
- The objectives of the Advisory Council shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of the following:
  - a. Identifying opportunities for, and barriers to, the creation of livable communities for people of all ages across the State of New Jersey;
  - b. Recommending best practices for age-friendly employment and civic participation among partners such as health and community services, business leaders, local and elected officials, advocacy organizations and volunteer groups, and innovative public-private partnerships; and
  - c. Promoting age-friendly community inclusion and equitable outcomes by examining programs and practices to ensure that they address disparities experienced by older adults of every race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, or ethnicity.

**NJ was accepted into the AARP Livable Communities Network in May of 2021**

The screenshot also shows a grid of video feeds for participants including: Hille Seltman, Heather Ottavi, Nancy Edouard, Sherrin Kuruvilla, Rita Steindlberger, Katie York, Janet Sharma, Elizabeth Schedl (Stre...), Andrew Swords, Sarah Adelman, Emily Greenfield (che...), Sherrin Kuruvilla, Elizabeth Schedl (she...), casi golaszewski, Cheryl Kastrenakes, Mary Eileen Eouratt, Maria La Face, Cheryl Rico-Francione, and Adella Sonalike.

The Age-Friendly State Advisory Council kicked off its first meeting on March 1. Under Governor Murphy's direction, the Council will work to make communities supportive and accessible places to live for people of all ages. New Jersey [last year](#) became the ninth state accepted into the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

## SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS



NJ SNAP - [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)

NJ FAMILYCARE - [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)

NJHELPS - [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)