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NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2023

Overdose Awareness Day 2023

Human Services Launches [StopOverdoses](#) Website Detailing Pharmacies Offering Free & Anonymous Overdose Antidote

NALOXONE
SAVED MY DAUGHTER
FROM AN OPIOID
OVERDOSE.

HUMAN SERVICES | [STOPOVERDOSES.NJ.GOV](https://stopoverdoses.nj.gov)

The advertisement is set against a solid orange background. On the left, there is a white nasal spray device with a circular inset showing the spray nozzle. To the right of the device is a photograph of a woman and a young girl smiling and embracing each other. The woman has her arm around the girl's shoulder. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a dark blue banner with the Human Services logo on the left and the website URL "STOPOVERDOSES.NJ.GOV" in white text on the right.



Commissioner Sarah Adelman visited [Mast Pharmacy](#) in Bordentown City to show how easy it is to anonymously get free naloxone without a prescription at participating New Jersey pharmacies. Visit stopoverdoses.nj.gov to learn more.

Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced the launch of StopOverdoses.nj.gov, where residents can find pharmacies offering life-saving naloxone anonymously and at no cost.

The 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.

Naloxone is a medication that rapidly reverses the effects of an opioid overdose.

Under the Naloxone365 initiative, those ages 14 and older can request and obtain naloxone at participating pharmacies for free without having to provide a name or reason. No prescription is needed. One two-dose naloxone nasal spray kit is provided per visit.

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

"Naloxone is a safe, easy to use, fast-acting and effective nasal spray medication to reverse an overdose and save someone's life," Commissioner Adelman said. "Making

naloxone accessible and available for free and anonymously in pharmacies eliminates the most common barriers to the life-saving medication, helps reduce stigma, and ultimately may encourage people to seek treatment and long-term recovery. New Jerseyans can search StopOverdoses.nj.gov to find participating pharmacies in every county across the state. Keeping naloxone in your medicine cabinet is a good idea for any person, so please consider getting some today.”

“Naloxone is not just an opportunity to save lives - it’s an opportunity to give more people struggling with addiction the chance to treat the effects substance use disorder has on their lives,” said Human Services Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who oversees Human Service’s [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#). “We want individuals to know that recovery is achievable and help is available. Naloxone availability is one of the many resources we have available to help individuals. It is a top priority of our ongoing work to reverse the tide of this epidemic.”

[Read more](#)

NALOXONE
SAVED ME
FROM AN OPIOID
OVERDOSE.

HUMAN SERVICES | **STOPOVERDOSES.NJ.GOV**

Trenton Thunder Addiction Awareness Night





Led by Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Deputy Commissioner Jonathan Chebra and Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, Human Services handed out free naloxone at the Trenton Thunder's annual Addiction Awareness Night held in partnership with [City of Angels](#).

[844-ReachNJ](#)



[TreatmentATLAS.org](#)

**Every journey
needs a map.**



Navigate trusted roads
to recovery today at
TreatmentATLAS.org



Paying Tribute to Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver



“

Tammy and I, and our children, are incredibly saddened and distraught to learn of the passing of our dear friend, colleague, and partner in government, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver.

When I selected her to be my running mate in 2017, Lieutenant Governor Oliver was already a trailblazer in every sense of the word. She had already made history as the first Black woman to serve as Speaker of the General Assembly, and just the second Black woman in the nation's history to lead a house of a state legislature. I knew then that her decades of public service made her the ideal partner for me to lead the State of New Jersey. It was the best decision I ever made.

In the five and a half years that we served together in office, in addition to her responsibilities as Lieutenant Governor, Sheila led the Department of Community Affairs, handling some of the most challenging issues facing our State, including the revitalization of our cities, affordable housing obligations, and homelessness prevention. As someone who was born and raised in Newark, and who has called East Orange home for more than 40 years, Sheila did not view these issues in the abstract because she lived with them every day of her life. She brought a unique and invaluable perspective to our public policy discourse and served as an inspiration to millions of women and girls everywhere, especially young women of color.

Beyond all of that, she was an incredibly genuine and kind person whose friendship and partnership will be irreplaceable. We ask that you all keep the Oliver family and all those who knew and loved her in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

- Governor Phil Murphy

”



“

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver. Sheila was a trailblazer, and an unwavering champion for the most vulnerable, for women's rights, education, public safety and equality. Her legacy will shine on. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.

”

- Commissioner Sarah Adelman



Paying Tribute to New Jersey Disability Advocate Beverly Roberts

“

Our hearts are heavy with the news of Beverly Roberts passing. Bev was a valued colleague to us at Human Services and an extraordinary advocate for people with disabilities. Her empathy, passion, and measured determination to improve healthcare for individuals with disabilities was unmatched. Her loss will be felt deeply not only at The Arc of New Jersey and Human Services, but across the entire community. As we mourn the loss of our dear colleague, we also celebrate the incredible impact she had on the lives of so many individuals and families. Bev's legacy will live on in the countless lives she touched and changes she inspired.

— Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Deputy Commissioner Kaylee McGuire, Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried, Assistant Commissioner Jennifer Langer Jacobs and the NJ Human Services team

”



Human Services Makes Available \$1.5 Million in Grants to Help Get More Eligible Kids Enrolled in NJ FamilyCare

NJ FAMILY CARE | **Cover All Kids**



NJ Covers All Kids!

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



As part of [Governor Murphy's ongoing Cover All Kids initiative](#), Human Services has made \$250,000 in grants available to organizations to provide education, outreach, and application assistance to low-income and immigrant communities to help get more eligible children enrolled in [NJ FamilyCare](#).

"This grant program continues the Murphy Administration's efforts to expand health care access to all New Jersey kids and to get uninsured kids who are eligible for NJ FamilyCare covered," Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. "Ensuring access to healthcare services for New Jersey children will pay health and economic dividends across their lives."

[Cover All Kids](#) provides comprehensive health coverage through NJ FamilyCare to all income-eligible children in New Jersey who are under 19 years old, regardless of immigration status.

Since the launch of Cover All Kids in 2021, more than 86,000 New Jersey children who were eligible but not enrolled are now insured through NJ FamilyCare.

Since January 2023, when Cover All Kids [expanded coverage](#) to all income-eligible children regardless of immigration status, more than 24,000 kids now have NJ FamilyCare coverage.

"We want eligible families to apply for health coverage, so they can protect the health of their children," said Assistant Commissioner Jennifer Langer Jacobs who directs the [Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services](#) that oversees NJ FamilyCare. "More kids who were uninsured now have health coverage because of Cover All Kids, and we look forward to partnering with trusted organizations to continue to remove barriers to health care."

[Read more](#)

Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Honors Blind and Visually Impaired Individuals





Celebrating the accomplishments of individuals who are blind, deafblind and visually impaired, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) announced college scholarships to four blind, deafblind or visually impaired students, while also honoring four

individuals who are blind and visually impaired during a Trenton Thunder pregame ceremony.

“For nearly 20 years, CBVI has recognized the talents of individuals who are blind, deafblind, and visually impaired and we are excited to present such deserving students with these scholarships as well as recognize the accomplishments of trailblazers in the blind and visually impaired community,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “We are honored to promote community inclusion and awareness of the achievements of those who are blind, deafblind, and visually impaired.”

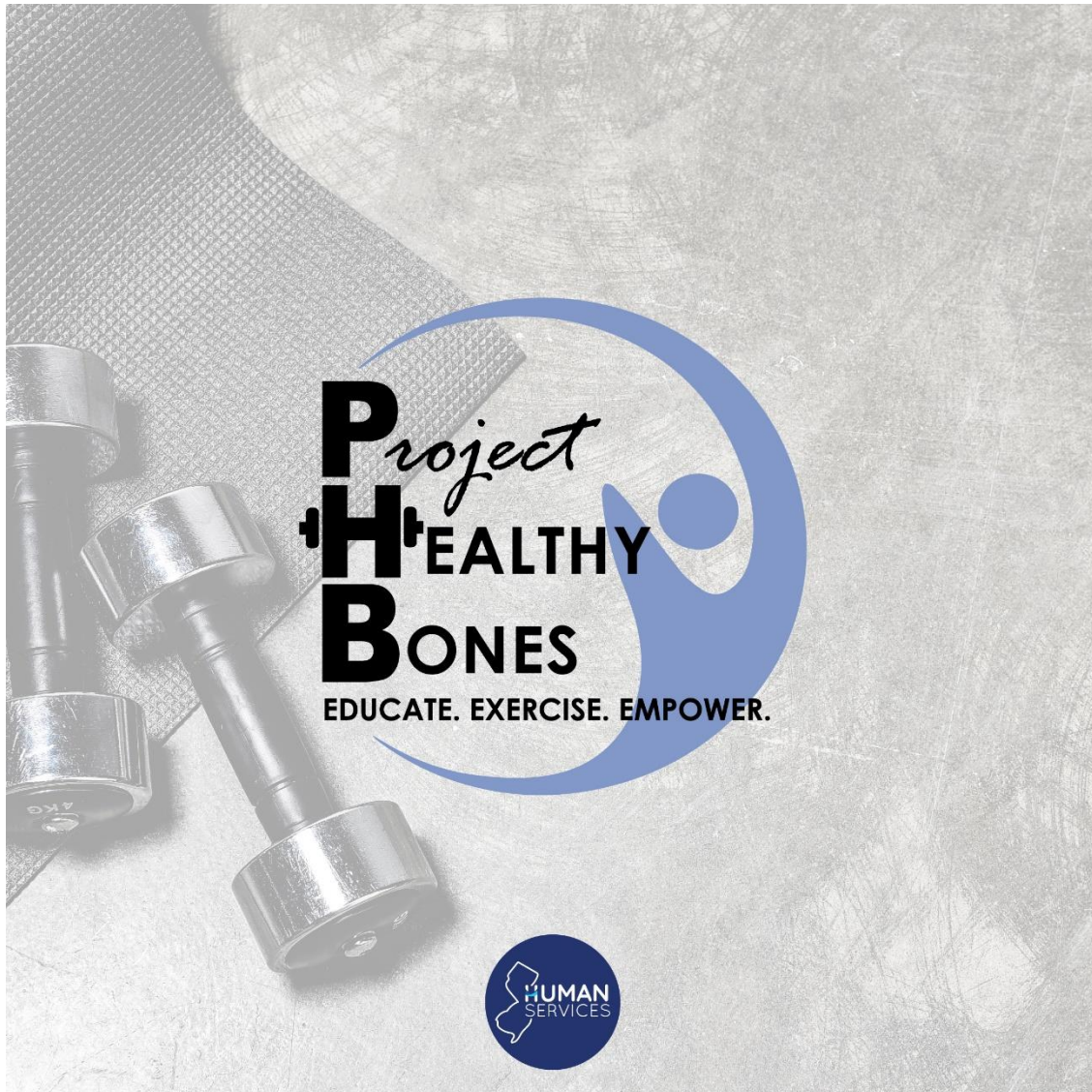
“Scholarships play an important role in promoting equitable access to education by alleviating the financial stress that can be associated with higher education, and we are happy to help ease that burden with these scholarships,” Deputy Commissioner for Social Services Elisa Neira said. “Also, by honoring these individuals for their amazing talents, we in turn help foster a more inclusive and diverse community. We look forward to their continued success and the positive impact they will have in creating an even better New Jersey.”

“Recognizing the potential and promoting the achievements of individuals who are blind, deafblind, and visually impaired is of utmost importance,” said [Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) Executive Director Dr. Bernice Davis. “We congratulate these individuals on their amazing accomplishments and wish them all the best as they continue to achieve their personal goals.”

[Read more about the recipients and honorees](#)



Project Healthy Bones



[Project Health Bones](#) - a [Division of Aging Services](#) osteoporosis prevention exercise and education program - celebrated its annual 25th anniversary at the Livingston Senior Center on August 24.

The program has demonstrated improved balance, increased strength, improved nutrition, home falls prevention and increased socialization among participants.

[Learn more](#)



National Academy for State Health Policy Annual Conference



Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire joined Ohio Department Of Aging Director Ursel McElroy and Harvard Medical School Professor of Health Care Policy David C. Grabowski at the [National Academy for State Health Policy's](#)

36th annual conference in Boston to discuss nursing home reforms.

"We delved into the realm of possibilities, future prospects, and meaningful steps for enhancing quality and oversight in nursing homes," Deputy Commissioner McGuire stated. "Empowering discussions for improved care!"

**Governor Murphy Signs Bill to Ensure
Households Receive SNAP Benefits for
Maximum Time Allowed Before Needing to
Reapply**

Get help buying groceries.

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

All eligible households will receive at least \$95 in monthly benefits.

Visit njsnap.gov



To help combat food insecurity, Governor Phil Murphy signed a bill ([A-1715/S-1713](#)) to ensure every household receiving [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) benefits is able to receive those benefits for the longest allowable period of time before needing to apply for recertification.

New Jersey is already a leader in advancing food security and improving access to NJ SNAP, including allowing the longest recertification periods permitted under federal rules. Under this new law, New Jersey is making these certification periods permanent so that NJ SNAP enrollees are able to maintain their benefits for no less than 12 months or a period of no less than 24 months for households in which every adult is elderly and/or disabled –

the maximum amount of time permitted under federal regulations.

“By ensuring every eligible household receives their SNAP benefits for the maximum time allowed before needing to have their benefits recertified, we will make it easier for low-income families to access and retain the food assistance they need,” Governor Murphy said. “Cutting down on the frequency with which households must reapply for their benefits, we will make life easier for many residents already struggling to make ends meet and help them continue to put food on the table for their families.”

“No one should go hungry,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “But access to affordable and nutritious food continues to be challenging for many. That is why the Governor, Legislature and Human Services continue taking every step to expand the availability of SNAP food assistance benefits so they go farther and reach more people. With today’s bill signing we are making the process easier so individuals can keep and rely on needed assistance for as long as possible.”

[Read more](#)

Congratulations to Director Geleta



Congratulations to Human Services Office of Emergency Management Director Joseph Geleta, who graduated from the Emergency Management Institute’s National Emergency Management Executive Academy.

Pathways to Preparedness





Human Services' Office of Emergency Management provided Pathways to Preparedness Training at the Alliance Center for Independence in Edison and the Midland School in Branchburg.

The Pathways to Preparedness Training was developed in coordination with the Statewide Independent Living Council. See [here](#) for the training guide.

The Office of Emergency Management is offering this training to groups and organizations across the state that serve individuals with disabilities. Participants of the training will receive a go-bag, solar charger and USB drive with all the pertinent information to assist them with their disaster preparedness efforts. Reach out to schedule a training session at 609-631-4363 or email EOCesf6@njsp.gov.

Senior Citizens Day

NJSave

With NJ Save's new online application, eligible older New Jerseyans and individuals with disabilities can:

- ✓ Fill out an online application to check eligibility for multiple savings and benefits programs
- ✓ Submit supporting documents
- ✓ Create an account and save the form so they can access it later



Human Services highlighted the NJSave program on Senior Citizens Day on August 21.

Older residents & people with disabilities can save money without leaving home. NJSave is an online application that can help older adults and individuals with disabilities save money on:

- Medicare premiums
- Prescription costs
- And other living expenses

Apply [here](#).

Child Support Awareness Month



Did you know ...

The Child Support
program in
New Jersey serves

1 in 6

children – that's
332,000 NJ kids!



Learn more at www.NJChildSupport.org

August is Child Support Awareness Month, an annual time to raise awareness about a critical income support program that helps children and families. Visit [here](http://www.NJChildSupport.org) to learn more about New Jersey's program administered by the [Division of Family Development](#).

National Health Center Week





Deputy Commissioner for Social Services Elisa Neira visited Ocean Health Initiatives in Toms River to mark National Health Center Week with the New Jersey Primary Care Association, where she was joined by Eric LeGrand and others.

"New Jersey's community health centers serve as a lifeline for some of our most vulnerable populations," Deputy Commissioner Neira said. "Expanding health care access to more New Jerseyans continues to be a priority for this administration, and the state's community health centers play a role in this effort. They provide preventative and primary health care to individuals and families who may otherwise not have access to these services; serving patients regardless of income, insurance or immigration status. National Health Center Week provides a wonderful opportunity to highlight this important work and raise awareness about how community health centers are helping improve the health and well-being of underserved communities."

National Farmers Market Week





The [Division of Aging Services](#) marked National Farmers Market Week by visiting the Trenton Farmers Market to highlight the [Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program](#) in collaboration with [SNAP-Ed](#) and [WIC](#).

Women's Equality Day



WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY 2023



Sarah Adelman
Commissioner



Lisa Asare
Deputy Commissioner
of Health Services



Kaylee McGuire
Deputy Commissioner
for Aging and
Disability Services



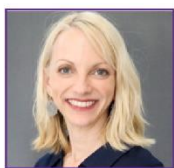
Elisa Neira
Deputy Commissioner
for Social Services



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



Denise Meckel
Assistant Commissioner
Human Resources



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
Assistant Commissioner
Division of
Aging Services

Human Services marked Women's Equality Day on August 26 by highlighting its many women leaders.

National Night Out



The Human Services Police joined National Night Out events in Ewing Township and Pleasantville, where they joined a football game with some children.

Hunterdon Developmental Center Festivities



The Hunterdon Developmental Center held a Carnival of Clowns to [provide](#) a day of fun for residents and their families.

**Mark Your Calendars - Blindness Awareness
Month 2023 Community Outreach Fair**

**ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW EXPERIENCING
VISION LOSS THAT AFFECTS THE ABILITY TO:**

*Read prescription bottles? Travel safely? Work?
Maintain your home? Care for yourself and your family?*

**Join Us at Our Blindness Awareness Month 2023
Community Outreach Fair**

**Thursday, October 12, 2023
12 noon to 3 p.m.**

**Cheesequake State Park
Hooks Creek Lake Pavilion
300 Gordon Rd., Matawan, NJ 07747**

A Day Full of Information, Resources, Exhibits, Demonstrations,
Fun Activities, Food Trucks, Music, and MORE!



For Further Information: AskCBVI@dhs.nj.gov



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



Department of Human Services
Sarah Adelman, Commissioner



SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

NJ FAMILYCARE MEMBERS

- 1** Make sure NJ FamilyCare has your mailing address
- 2** Respond to mail from NJ FamilyCare right away

For more information, call **1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711)**





DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Providing specialized telecommunications and home safety equipment to New Jersey residents with low incomes.

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

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