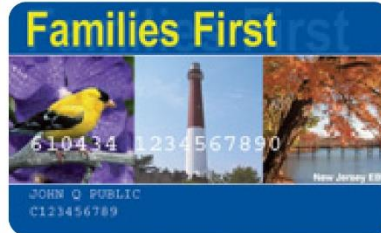


[View this email in your browser and translate to other languages](#)

NEWSLETTER | JULY 2023

Human Services Announces Plan to Replace Stolen Food & Cash Assistance Benefits to Fraud Victims

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR SNAP, TANF AND GA RECIPIENTS



If your food and/or cash benefits were electronically stolen *between October 1, 2022 and July 1, 2023*, you have until August 31, 2023 to request replacement benefits.

After July 1, 2023, you will have 30 days from the date you discovered the theft to request replacement benefits.



Human Services has received federal approval to replace food and cash assistance benefits stolen through electronic benefit transfer ([EBT](#)) card skimming schemes, which are on the rise

nationwide. Households that participate in the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), the [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#) program, and the [General Assistance \(GA\)](#) program can now request reimbursement for benefits that have been stolen on or after October 1, 2022.

"Participating households rely on these benefits to put food on the table and provide for themselves and their families," Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. "This fraudulent activity puts an unfair and unnecessary burden on households trying to make ends meet. As we work alongside the entire Murphy Administration to make life more affordable for New Jerseyans, we are glad we can now provide a recourse for individuals and families who have been victims of skimming. We look forward to continuing to work with our federal partners on more ways to enhance security and protect people's benefits."

The U.S. Congress passed a law in late December 2022 to replace SNAP benefits stolen via card skimming, card cloning, and other similar methods, in response to increased reports of benefit theft. The law allows states to use federal funds to replace benefits stolen electronically between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2024. Prior to this law, states had no authority to replace benefits that had been stolen from a SNAP household.

New Jersey then received approval in late May from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to replace stolen benefits. In addition, the recently signed FY2024 state budget extended the same protection to the public assistance programs TANF and GA, which utilize the same EBT system.

"We realize how devastating it can be to learn that the benefits you depend on for food and other basic necessities are suddenly gone," Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Elisa Neira said. "We encourage anyone who has had their benefits stolen to report the theft and submit a claim as soon as they notice their benefits are missing. Reports can be completed online, by phone, or in-person at the local [County Board of Social Services](#)."

"We urge individuals and families to continue to be proactive and take the necessary steps to protect their benefits when they are out shopping," said Assistant Commissioner Natasha Johnson, who oversees the Department's [Division of Family Development](#). "If you are unsure about the authenticity of any communication you receive concerning your food or cash assistance benefits, you can contact your local County Board of Social Services to verify."

[Read more](#)




REPLACEMENT FOR ELECTRONICALLY STOLEN FOOD AND CASH ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

Households that participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food assistance, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the General Assistance (GA) cash assistance programs can request reimbursement for electronically stolen benefits dating back to October 1, 2022.

Cardholders whose Families First card benefits were stolen *before July 1, 2023* will have until August 31, 2023 to submit a request for replacement.

Cardholders whose benefits are stolen *after July 1, 2023* will have 30 days from the date they discovered the theft to submit a request.

 Be sure to immediately re-PIN or replace your Families First card to protect your benefits going forward.

The *Request for Replacement* form can be found at www.NJSNAP.gov or by contacting your county board of social services.

Benefits may be electronically stolen in the following ways:



Skimming means illegally attaching a device to a point-of-sale machine to steal EBT card information or a PIN.



Cloning means copying stolen EBT card information to a new card.



Scamming or **phishing** means convincing someone to disclose their EBT card information, often by a phone call or text message that pretends to be from an official government agency.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



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



Department of Human Services
Sarah Adelman, Commissioner

\$5 Million Available to Expand Community Housing for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities & Acute Needs



Human Services is making \$5 million available to help developmental disability providers purchase, develop and renovate group homes serving newly placed individuals with acute behavioral and/or medical needs.

“This initiative is another step in Human Services’ efforts to develop and expand home and community-based services and to integrate physical, behavioral and social services in order to improve overall health outcomes and quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “This plan focuses on increasing community capacity and housing options, so we are able to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have acute behavioral and medical needs in the most appropriate settings.”

“Community housing is always in demand for individuals with acute needs,” Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire said. “Expanding our capacity further empowers individual choice, with our ultimate goal being to strengthen community infrastructure and ensure individuals are supported in their homes.”

The initiative’s \$5 million stems from the federal [Money Follows the Person](#) (MFP) Program, which enables the [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) to receive federal funding for eligible individuals for the first year of their home- and community-based services enrollment. Eligible individuals are those residing in a qualified institution for at least 60 days before their move to a community setting, are Medicaid eligible, and are moving to a setting with four or fewer unrelated individuals.

“This initiative allows the Division to continue working in concert with providers to incentivize targeted housing for individuals with complex needs,” said Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried, who directs the Division of Developmental Disabilities. “These new settings will enable individuals with high-level needs to choose from a larger array of providers and geographic locations across the state.”

[Read more](#)

DDD and Boggs Center Partner to Offer Peer EDUcation Series

The [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) and [The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities](#) are partnering to offer a Peer EDUcation Series for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The series prepares adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to help educate their peers about important disability-related topics, including:

- the service system in New Jersey
- self-direction
- person-centered planning
- community resources
- self-determination

Interested in becoming a Peer Educator? [Learn more and apply!](#)

New State Budget Includes \$112 Million in New Investments in Child Care to Support Working Families & Providers



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 to learn more.

The new state budget invests \$112 million in new state funding to further increase reimbursement rates for child care providers and continue assistance first made available to providers and families during the pandemic.

“Access to affordable, quality child care is indispensable,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “These child care investments continue the Murphy administration’s efforts to support child care providers vital to working families and the state economy, and ensure that more children have access to tools that are critical to their development. These investments allow providers and families to continue to benefit from assistance that has been so valuable.”

The \$112 million investment in the budget allows Human Services to:

- Continue the \$300 (full-time care) or \$150 (part-time care) supplemental payment.
- Continue paying child care providers based on enrollment rather than attendance.
- Continue waiving copayments for families.

- Bolster training and technical assistance for school districts that enroll in the Grow NJ Kids program, which supports quality child care and early learning.
- Increase rates in early 2024.

“Having access to affordable and reliable child care is critical for working families,” Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Elisa Neira said. “Families continue to shoulder rising prices for basic necessities. These investments can help alleviate some of that financial burden, and provide child care providers the support they need to continue to operate and grow.”

“Families should know that help is available. We urge anyone seeking assistance with child care to visit [ChildCareNJ.gov](https://www.childcarenj.gov) or contact their local county [Child Care Resource and Referral Agency](#),” said Assistant Commissioner Natasha Johnson, who directs Human Services’ [Division of Family Development](#), which oversees the child care program.

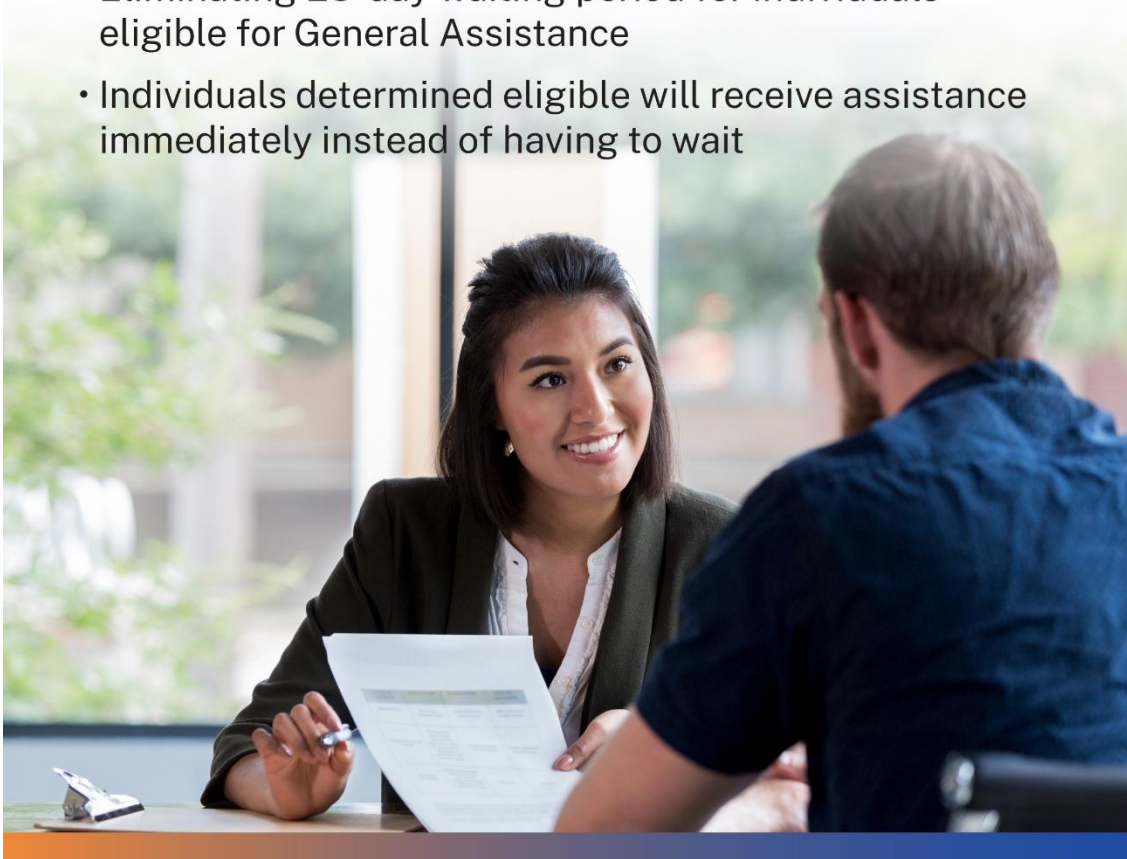
[Read more](#)

28-Day General Assistance Waiting Period Eliminated



General Assistance

- Eliminating 28-day waiting period for individuals eligible for General Assistance
- Individuals determined eligible will receive assistance immediately instead of having to wait



The new state budget eliminates the 28-day waiting period for the General Assistance program, which provides cash assistance, emergency housing assistance benefits and burial assistance, so eligible individuals can immediately get the help they need.

Human Services Awards an Additional Contract to Help Mental Health Provider Treat Individuals with Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorder



Reasons for recovery...

CALL 844-REACHNJ

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

INJ
Human
Services

The Department has awarded an additional contract to help mental health and substance use disorder programs provide medication that can support addiction recovery.

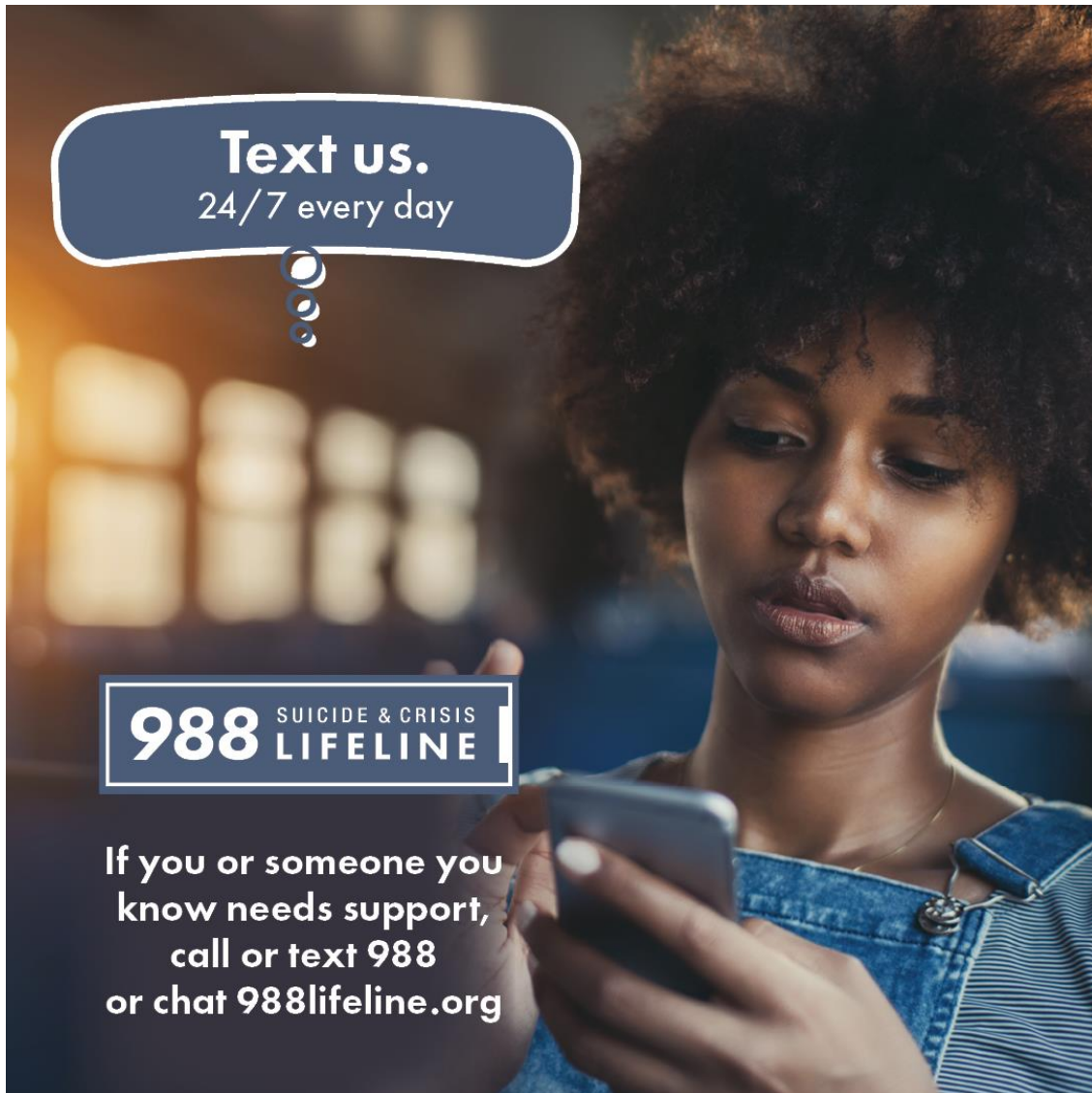
“Human Services is committed to expanding access to medication-assisted treatment, and this additional contract is a reflection of this unwavering commitment,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “By providing funding to this qualified treatment provider we ensure that more New Jerseyans in need receive quality care, which ultimately supports long-lasting recovery, improved lives, and stronger communities.”

The contract was awarded to NewBridge Services. Funds will be used to strengthen the provider's ability to prescribe and dispense substance use disorder medications, including buprenorphine, naloxone, naltrexone, methadone, and acamprosate. This includes recruiting additional medical staff and purchasing medical equipment.

“Medication-assisted treatment is greatly effective in treating co-occurring substance use disorders because it is a whole-person approach that uses a combination of medication and behavioral therapies. This contract works to make key supports more accessible to those in need,” said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who directs the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) that will oversee the initiative. “We will continue to do everything we can to make sure individuals can access life-saving treatment that is readily available.”

[Read more](#)

Human Services Highlights Investments to Suicide & Crisis Lifeline on First Anniversary of 988



In recognition of the one-year anniversary of the launch of the [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#), Human Services highlighted ongoing investments by the state to support the 988 Lifeline, including \$10 million in state funding to help the 988 Lifeline centers in the state expand their capacity, and a nearly \$3 million public awareness campaign that will launch soon to bolster promotion of the 988 Lifeline statewide.

"Mental health care matters, and in New Jersey, we are making every effort to make it easier for people to get the help they need," Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. "Since 988 launched in July 2022, we have seen an increase in calls to the Lifeline. We are grateful to Governor Murphy and the Legislature for their continued support of 988. I also want to recognize the 988 Lifeline Centers for all their hard work over the last year to meet this demand, and ensure people experiencing a crisis will find a compassionate, caring voice on the other end of the line when they need it most."

Commissioner Adelman highlighted the 988 investments during an event at [Rutgers University Behavioral Health Center](#) in Piscataway, where she joined representatives from the state's 988 Lifeline Call Centers – [Rutgers-UBHC](#), [CONTACT of Burlington County](#), [Caring Contact](#), [CONTACT of Mercer County](#) and [Mental Health Association in New Jersey](#) – for a roundtable discussion about their work, the state's goals for 988 and how the state can continue to support their efforts.

"New Jersey is investing in mental health care and 988 is a big part of that," said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who heads the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#). "We are working to expand our 988 system so more New Jerseyans can get immediate help, and the most appropriate care when experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis."

[Read more](#)





In honor of the one-year anniversary of the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#), Commissioner Sarah Adelman and [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke joined staff from the 988 Lifeline Centers at [Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care](#) to hear about their work and how the state can continue to support their efforts.

988 One Year Anniversary

There is help available, and I think one of the takeaways from this is, and what our team has been working hard on

Sarah Adelman
Commissioner, NJ Human Services

The image is a video thumbnail with a black background. In the top left corner is the 'HUMAN SERVICES' logo. The main title '988 One Year Anniversary' is in white. Below it is a video player frame with a red play button. The video frame shows a meeting scene with several people seated at a table. Below the video frame is a quote from Sarah Adelman. At the bottom, her name and title are listed in white text.



988 One Year Anniversary



Sarah Adelman
Commissioner, NJ Human Services

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Expand Access to Behavioral Health Care in K-12 Schools

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

9-8-8

NJMentalHealthCares Helpline

1-866-202-HELP

**ACCESS American Sign Language and
Videophone Helpline**

973-870-0677

Assistance and Referrals to Addiction Treatment

1-844-ReachNJ



As part of his efforts to address youth mental health needs at the state and national levels, Governor Phil Murphy signed a bill ([A-3334](#)) expanding expenses that New Jersey's K-12 public schools may be reimbursed for in regards to behavioral health services that are provided to students and their families who are Medicaid recipients.

"It's undeniable that many young people are facing mental health challenges right now and would benefit from the support of compassionate, trained professionals," Governor Murphy said. "Through the work of my Administration, in collaboration with local, state, and national partners, we are taking decisive action to address the mental health needs of our youth. By ensuring schools will be reimbursed for the provision of behavioral health care services to students covered by Medicaid, this legislation will advance our ongoing efforts to expand affordability and access to the mental health support New Jersey children need."

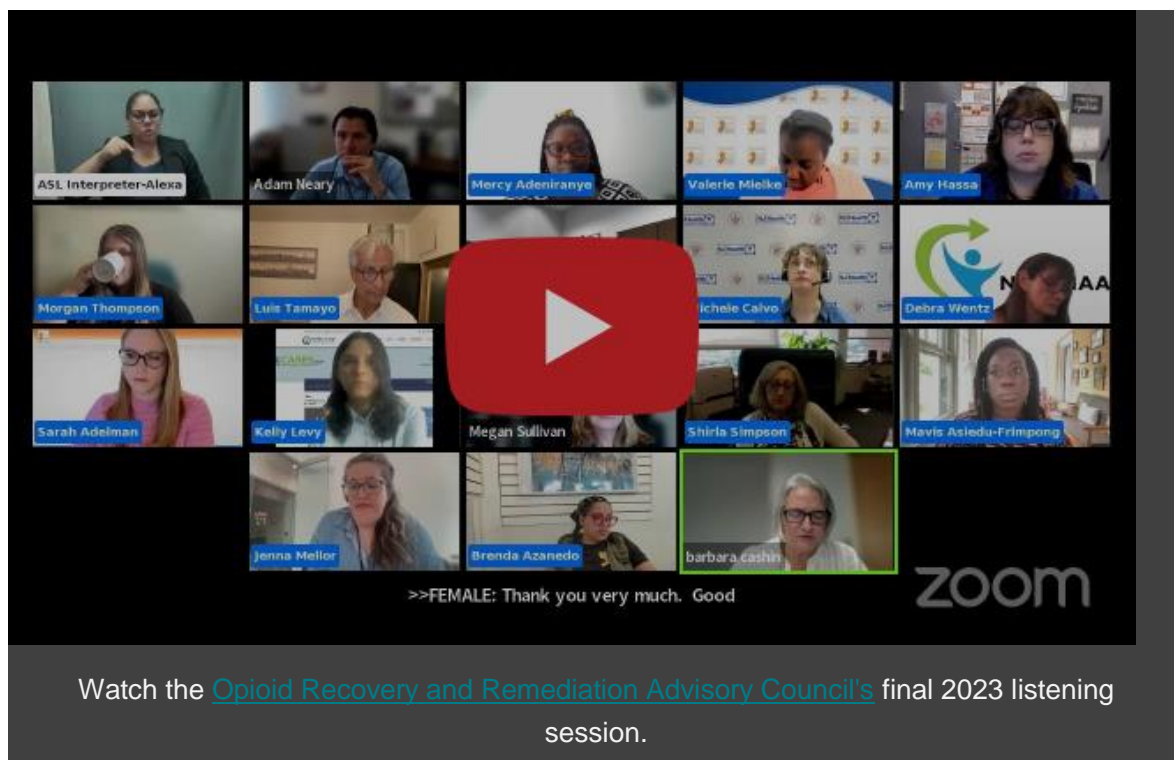
The [Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services](#) and its contracted managed care organizations will be responsible for reimbursing local education agencies for the provision of

behavioral health services covered under [Medicaid](#) to students who are eligible Medicaid beneficiaries.

“Ensuring access to youth mental health remains a top priority for the Administration,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “Under Governor Murphy’s leadership, the Department has expanded access to behavioral health services and made significant investments in the provider workforce pipeline. We look forward to leveraging federal flexibilities and Medicaid funding to further help school districts connect students to health services.”

[Read more](#)

Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council Listening Session



Watch the [Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council's](#) final 2023 listening session.

Governor Murphy Signs Bipartisan Resolution Designating July 14 as Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Day



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

Governor Phil Murphy signed a bipartisan resolution to annually designate July 14 as Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Day. The resolution aims to help raise awareness about the dangers of fentanyl and honor the lives lost to this substance.

“Fentanyl has taken the lives of far too many New Jerseyans, leaving behind loved ones and entire communities to grieve these tragedies,” Governor Murphy said. “I encourage everyone throughout our state to not only raise awareness about the dangers of fentanyl on this annual day, but to help educate others and work to mitigate the harms of fentanyl every day of the

year. Together we can and will work to save the lives of our fellow community members impacted by the national opioid crisis.”

“Fentanyl-involved overdoses have tragically affected too many New Jersey families,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “This Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Day should serve as a reminder to those struggling with the illness of addiction that recovery is possible, and help is available through 1-844-REACH NJ help line, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This awareness day should also serve as a reminder that anyone can save a life. Naloxone is safe, easy to use and effective in reversing overdoses – it’s also available free and anonymously at many New Jersey pharmacies.”

[Read more](#)

Get Free Life-Saving Naloxone

Trenton Thunder Addiction Awareness Night

NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY OF ANGELS

TRENTON THUNDER ADDICTION AWARENESS NIGHT

AUGUST 19

6:30 PM

GATES OPEN AT 5 PM

**First-come first-serve while supplies last.
No prescription needed. No payment required.
No insurance required. No name required.**



Stopoverdoses.nj.gov



NALOXONE
SAVED ME
FROM AN OPIOID
OVERDOSE.



 **STOPOVERDOSES.NJ.GOV**



LA NALOXONA
ME SALVÓ DE UNA
SOBREDOSIS DE OPIOIDOS.



 **STOPOVERDOSES.NJ.GOV**

Tips for Older Adults on Beating the Heat



[Division of Aging Services](#) Assistant Commissioner Louise Rush with some tips for older adults on beating the heat during hot summer weather.

Outreach to Older Adults





The [Division of Aging Services](#) visited the Fair Lawn Senior Center to share information about services available to older adults. The event was hosted by the [Assembly Majority Office](#). To learn more about DoAS programs, visit [here](#).

Disability Pride Month



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately 20 percent of the United States' population has some type of disability, which correlates to approximately 1.85 million people in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are vital members of their communities and residents of our Great State; and

WHEREAS, through the advocacy work of people with disabilities, all residents gain greater understanding and acceptance of disabled peoples' capabilities and contributions to the Garden State; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Human Services is the home of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Division of Disability Services, all of which serve as gateways to New Jersey's resources for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Disability Pride encourages individuals to join together in an effort to gain greater public understanding that having a disability is only one part of the many attributes of an individual and does not diminish an individual or lessen what an individual is capable of accomplishing; and

WHEREAS, Disability Pride promotes the independence, inclusion and wellbeing of residents with disabilities across New Jersey;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

JULY 2023
AS
DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-seventh day of June in the year two thousand twenty-three, the two hundred forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States.

Lt. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR



Dr Bernice Davis

*Executive Director
Comm. for the Blind & Visually Impaired*

Happy Disability Pride Month!

DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH



I'm proud to recognize, this month, July as Disability Pride Month.

DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH





▶

We focus on enhancing health, education, employment, recreation and social engagement for those we serve.





DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH



▶

It invites people with disabilities to embrace the whole person that they are





DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH



CTC Academy Tour and Roundtable



Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire and [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried, Division Director of the Provider Performance and Monitoring Unit Wendy Yosco, and policy advisor Jack Teters were among those who met with CTC Academy parents and staff to tour the facility and discuss the needs of students as they become adults.

Americans with Disability Act Awareness Month



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately 26 percent of adults in the United States, or 1 in 4, have some type of disability; and

WHEREAS, 21 percent of adults in New Jersey, or 1 in 5, have some type of disability; and

WHEREAS, about 4.3 percent of children in the United States have a disability, with cognitive challenges being the most common; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are vital members of their communities and residents of our great state; and

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990 to ensure the civil rights and equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the ADA has expanded opportunities for Americans with disabilities by reducing accessibility barriers, changing perceptions, and increasing participation in community life; and

WHEREAS, on the 33rd anniversary of the ADA, we celebrate and recognize the progress that has been made by reaffirming the principles of equality and inclusion, and recommitting our efforts to reach full ADA compliance; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Human Services is the home of the Division of Disability Services, which serves as the gateway to New Jersey's resources for adults with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Division of Disability Services has implemented the Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant program, to improve health outcomes and promote access and engagement statewide; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Human Services is the home of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Division of Disability Services, all of which serve as gateways to New Jersey's resources for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families' Division of the Children's System of Care provides services to families of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education ensures that students with disabilities are served in and by their schools through its Office of Special Education; and

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act protects people with disabilities from discrimination in employment, transportation, public accommodations, communications and access to state and local government programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the ADA encourages respect and inclusion for people with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby acknowledge:

The 33rd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-fourth day of July in the year two thousand twenty-three, the two hundred forty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States.

Deirdre J. Stein
LT. GOVERNOR

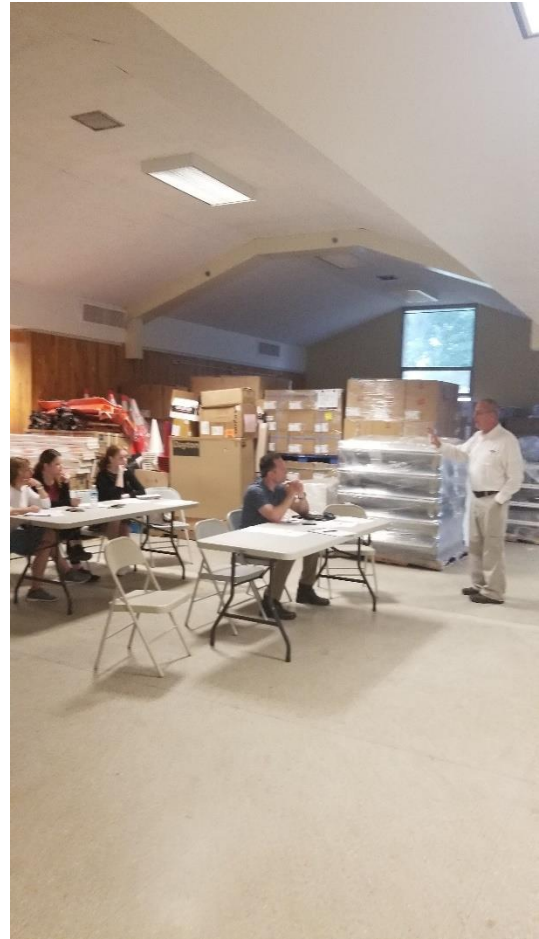
Philip D. Murphy
GOVERNOR



The Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law on July 26, 1990. Here's a look back at the Division of Disability Services' video marking the ADA's 30th anniversary.

Hurricane Season Training to Support Individuals with Disabilities





Human Services' [Office of Emergency Management](#) conducted training with the state's Functional Assessment Service Team, or NJ FAST, at New Lisbon Developmental Center.

The NJ FAST Team can respond to shelters during a disaster and assess any required needs or resources to support those with disabilities or access and functional needs.

The training consisted of an overview NJ FAST operations Red Cross care training.

"It is Hurricane season so it is important to be prepared and ready," said Joseph Geleta, Human Services' director of emergency management.

Commendation for Hurricane Response



Emergency Planner Colleen Ekey was honored with a commendation from Commissioner Sarah Adelman for her work helping Puerto Rico recover from Hurricane Fiona. Here she's presented with the Commissioner's commendation by Human Services Director of Emergency Management Joseph Geleta.

World Hepatitis Day

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY

NJ FamilyCare covers **#HepC**
drug treatment once someone
is diagnosed with the virus.

#NOHep



Human Services marked [World Hepatitis Day](#) on July 28 by noting [NJ FamilyCare](#) covers hepatitis C curative drug treatment once someone is diagnosed with the virus. [Before](#) the Murphy Administration, individuals in New Jersey were required to wait until their liver had already been damaged before accessing this treatment.

Notable Document Award

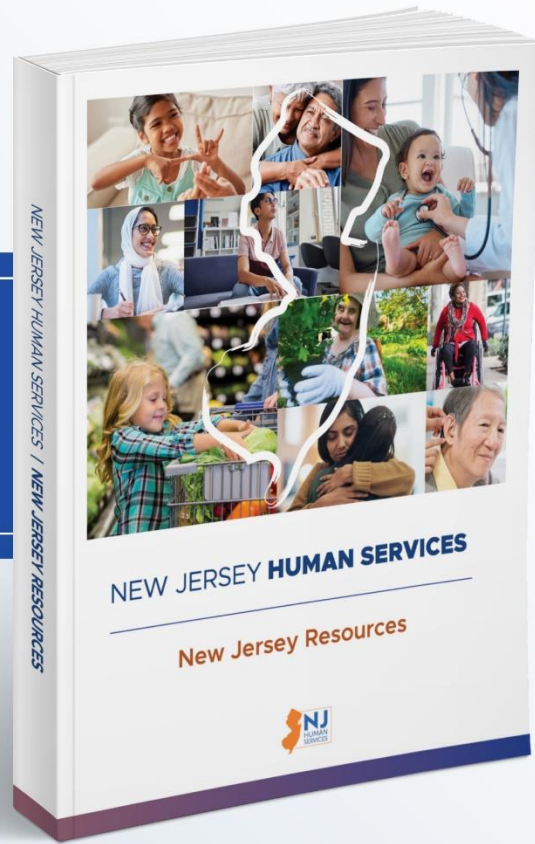
NJ Caregiver Task Force's 2022 Report won the *2023 Notable Document Award*



New Jersey's Caregiver Task Force Report [won](#) a 2023 Notable Document award presented by the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#). The [report](#) was compiled by the Caregiver Task Force and provides recommendations to strengthen supports and services available to caregivers.

SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

New Jersey Resources



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)**



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

FOLLOW US!



