



NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES | IN THE COMMUNITY

NJ Human Services Begins Delivering \$116M in Food Assistance Benefits for Newly Eligible Children



Human Services Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced extra food assistance benefits were sent starting June 12 to New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households with children under 6 years of age. In total, about \$116 million will be delivered to about 105,000 children to enhance nutritional support.

Beginning Tuesday, a benefit of \$122.76 per child, per month, was available on the Families First EBT card of households who received [SNAP](#) in October. Payments will continue to be added for each eligible month in the following days. By June 25, an additional benefit of \$122.76 per child, per month, will have been issued to the household's EBT card for every additional month through May that the household was receiving SNAP. The benefit for June will be posted to Families First accounts at the end of July.

Households enrolled in SNAP for the entire time period will receive, in total, nearly \$1,000 in extra food assistance.

"We're committed to providing as much additional food security as we can to eligible children," Acting

Commissioner Adelman said. “These additional food security benefits are critical for so many children who lost nutritional support during these challenging times. We’re pleased to help provide this support, and will continue to look for all opportunities to provide food assistance to families and children.”

“We have been focused on providing as much food assistance to New Jerseyans in efforts to address food insecurity concerns, particularly in young children,” Deputy Commissioner Elisa Neira said. “Ensuring children have nutritional support is a priority, especially considering the difficulties faced by many children during the pandemic. These additional benefits will help support healthy families and children.”

[Read more](#)

Human Services Delivers Extra June Food Assistance Benefits to 430,000 Households



DO YOU RECEIVE SNAP BENEFITS?

All New Jerseyans who receive food assistance through NJ SNAP will receive extra benefits in June to help address food needs related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Check your balance at www.NJFamiliesFirst.com or by calling the number on your card.

Also, the 430,000 New Jersey households who receive food assistance through the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP) received \$75.2 million in total extra benefits in June.

Human Services has been providing NJ SNAP households with maximum benefits since March 2020 when the pandemic began. Under a change implemented in April by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), New Jersey households that had already been receiving the maximum available SNAP benefit are now also eligible for the temporary extra assistance.

A 15 percent increase in SNAP benefits also remains in effect through September.

Human Services has now distributed \$769.3 million in supplemental monthly SNAP payments to households since March 2020.

[Read more](#)

NJ Human Services Announces \$15 Million in Grants for Summer Youth Camp



Acting Commissioner Adelman announced \$15 million in grants will be available for summer youth camps to help them meet health and safety protocols and provide financial assistance to eligible families.

“As the public health situation improves, we are looking forward to an active summer, especially for our children,” Acting Commissioner Adelman said. “Attending a summer camp is a great tradition that brings many positive experiences and benefits – along with great memories. We’ll help summer camps stay open and safe, while assisting eligible families to help their children attend a camp.”

“We’ve taken many steps throughout the pandemic to help child care providers stay open while helping families afford care and handle remote schooling, and these summer camp grants are the next step in our ongoing effort,” Deputy Commissioner Neira said. “We will be helping children enjoy summer safely, while providing a boost to our economy by assisting a vital summer service. We’ll also continue helping child care providers in as many ways as we can.”

[Read more](#)

New Jersey Continues Enhancing Addiction Treatment Efforts



Acting Commissioner Adelman announced that New Jersey will be enhancing access to information about its addiction treatment options by joining a project that gives consumers an online reference guide to help those with a substance abuse disorder find the help they need.

Shatterproof, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reversing the nation's addiction crisis, is working with Human Services and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey to expand the reach of its free resource tool, [ATLAS](#), to New Jersey.

“When someone decides to research addiction treatment for themselves or their loved ones, being empowered with the tools to make informed decisions can mean the difference between researching treatment and seeking it,” Acting Commissioner Adelman said. “We look forward to working with Shatterproof to bring ATLAS to New Jersey. We know this will be a crucial tool in our collective fight against addiction.”

ATLAS evaluates addiction treatment providers' use of evidence-based best practices, and publicly displays this information to support those in need and their loved ones in navigating to appropriate, quality care.

“This tool will add to our efforts and become another vital component of addiction treatment in New Jersey,” said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who directs the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. “The more data and feedback we can provide to the consumer about their options, the more informed their treatment decisions will be.”

[Read more](#)

NJ Human Services Receives \$22.6M Federal Grant for COVID-related Mental Health Services

NJ Mental Health Cares

If you're concerned about your mental health or the mental health of someone you love, **NJ Mental Health Cares** can help. The **free helpline** offers telephone counseling, emotional support, information and assistance.

866-202-HELP (4357)

7 days per week, 8am - 8pm



Acting Commissioner Adelman announced the Murphy Administration secured another \$22.6 million in federal funds to expand and support mental health services, especially in the wake of COVID-19.

"The pandemic continues to take its toll on individual's emotional and mental health, and the services and support we provide through New Jersey Human Services are now needed more than ever," Acting Commissioner Adelman said. "We are grateful for this federal funding to maintain and expand the services that individuals need, and we want people to know they are not alone and that help remains available."

"The funding helps us strengthen services to individuals diagnosed with serious mental illnesses, including the impact COVID has had on their lives," Assistant Commissioner Mielke said. "Many of these programs serve people with persistent mental illnesses that were exasperated by COVID."

The funding will be used to enhance diversionary efforts, crisis stabilization, and community integration efforts with a goal of reducing visits to emergency departments and inpatient admissions, along with enhancing outreach and treatment activities that will increase access to community services.

[Read more](#)

Governor Releases Report on NJ's Response to the Opioid Overdose Epidemic During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in 2020



Governor Phil Murphy released a report on New Jersey's response to the opioid overdose epidemic during the COVID-19 public health emergency in 2020. The report details the overdose mitigation strategies implemented over the course of Governor Murphy's administration that contributed to the resiliency demonstrated during the convergence of the opioid crisis and the pandemic. Governor Murphy also announced a new public data dashboard from the Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner that will provide public health partners and law enforcement agencies with near real-time data regarding suspected-drug related deaths, enhancing their ability to rapidly address potential threats to the community.

"Last year was among the most challenging in our lifetimes, and we know that stress causes some individuals to be more vulnerable to addiction or relapse. Governor Murphy's Administration has remained focused on supporting individuals in their recovery with a comprehensive, wide-ranging strategy built around increasing access to treatment and prevention programs throughout New Jersey," Acting Commissioner Adelman said. "We're committed to saving lives by reaching those in need, removing barriers to treatment, expanding access to vital medication-assisted treatment, and distributing life-saving naloxone across our state. I continue to urge anyone needing help to call 1-844-ReachNJ. Treatment works, and recovery is possible. Together, we can keep saving lives."

[Read more](#)

Immigrant Heritage Month







Governor Murphy [declared](#) June to be Immigrant Heritage Month in New Jersey. We take the opportunity to celebrate immigrants and immigration, our heritage, and the countless contributions that immigrants make to our state and our nation.


NJ Human Services Awards Volunteers for Efforts to Prevent Osteoporosis

MAY IS OSTEOPOROSIS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Help treat and prevent osteoporosis with

HEALTHY DIET EXERCISE MEDICINE VITAMINS



In commemoration of Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month and the 25th anniversary of a volunteer program to help older adults keep their bones strong, New Jersey Human Services announced the recipients

of the 2021 Osteoporosis Prevention Awards.

High school students, peer leaders, faith-based caregivers and a recently deceased long-time volunteer were among those awarded for their efforts, which were even more important during a pandemic that kept so many older adults inside and threatened to prevent the exercise necessary to maintain healthy bones.

All of the awardees were participants in New Jersey's Project Healthy Bones (PHB), a volunteer-led wellness program designed to prevent osteoporosis-related health issues through weekly exercise and education classes for seniors.

"Osteoporosis is largely preventable, and we appreciate all of the volunteers who took time during this particularly challenging year to help promote the healthy behaviors that can help people maintain their health and independence," Acting Commissioner Adelman said. "We know that through a balanced diet, proper nutrition and exercise, older adults can maintain more independence with less threat of injury."

Governor Phil Murphy declared May to be Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month, in conjunction with National Osteoporosis Awareness Month.

"Many people are not aware they have osteoporosis until they fall and break a bone," Division of Aging Services Director Louise Rush said. "Osteoporosis can have devastating effects, such as impairing an individual's ability to walk unassisted, which often results in prolonged or permanent disability, institutionalization or death."

[Read more](#)

New TCNJ Partnership Boosts 'Leveling The Playing Field'

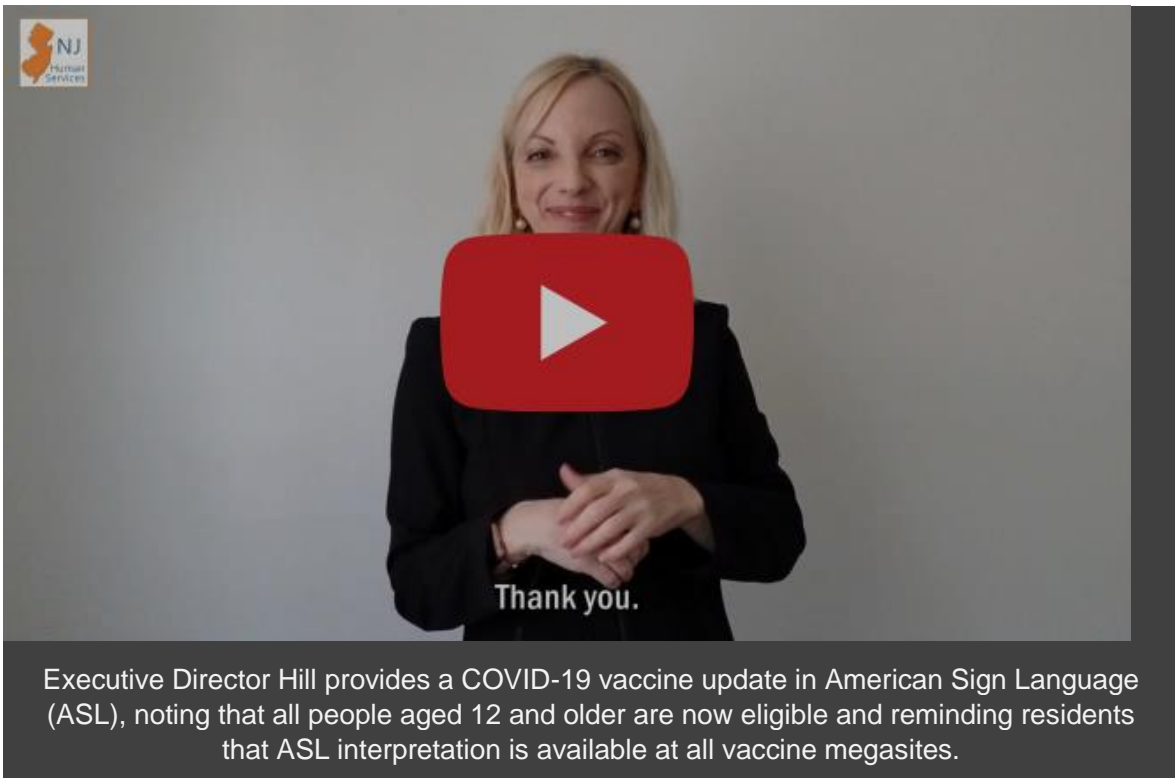


Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is partnering with The College of New Jersey's (TCNJ) School of Education to increase supports to families with deaf and hard of hearing children ages 0-5 by boosting the [Leveling the Playing Field](#) program.

The partnership with TCNJ will create a statewide campaign to provide resources and supports to families to promote language equity, literacy skills, and provide a foundation for positive educational outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing children. The initiative will also offer opportunities for professional providers that serve deaf and hard of hearing children to have access to information on language milestones and connect to program supports.

TCNJ's Campaign for Language & Literacy Excellence invites community and professional stakeholders to engage in this important work. If you are a parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child, a professional who works with deaf and hard of hearing children, or a community stakeholder who is deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind, we invite you to learn more and sign up [here](#).

American Sign Language Vaccine Update

A video thumbnail featuring a woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark blazer, standing against a grey background. She has her hands clasped in front of her. A large red play button icon is centered over her chest. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'NJ Human Services' with the letters 'NJ' in a stylized orange font. At the bottom of the video frame, the text 'Thank you.' is displayed in white. Below the video frame, there is a dark grey text box containing the following text:

Executive Director Hill provides a COVID-19 vaccine update in American Sign Language (ASL), noting that all people aged 12 and older are now eligible and reminding residents that ASL interpretation is available at all vaccine megasites.

GetCoveredNJ



New state and federal financial help now available to lower coverage costs. **If you didn't qualify before, you may now!** 9 out of 10 qualify for financial assistance.



New state and federal financial help for affordable health insurance is available at [GetCovered.NJ.gov](https://www.getcoverednj.gov), New Jersey's health insurance marketplace. More New Jerseyans now qualify for financial help and additional savings to lower their health insurance costs. Visit [GetCovered.NJ.gov](https://www.getcoverednj.gov).

SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

Register Ready



What is Register Ready?

Check out the American Sign Language video prepared by Human Services on [Register Ready](#), where New Jersey residents with disabilities or access and functional needs and their families, friends, caregivers and associates can voluntarily provide information to emergency response agencies so emergency responders can better plan to serve them in a disaster or other emergency.

Hurricane season is here, which means it's a good time to think about Register Ready, New Jersey's voluntary special needs registry for disasters that allows residents with disabilities or access and functional needs - along with their families, friends, caregivers and associates - to provide information to emergency response agencies so they can better plan to serve them in a disaster or other emergency. The information is confidential and will not be available to the public. It will be held securely and only used for emergency response and planning. Learn more [here](#).

Adult Protective Services



SEE IT.



STOP IT.



PREVENT IT.

If someone you know is 18 years of age or older, living in the community and the subject of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation, contact your county Adult Protective Services.

If someone you know is 18 years of age or older, living in the community and is the subject of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation, contact your [county APS office](#).

An APS investigation is a thorough assessment of a potential at-risk adult. Within 72 hours of a referral's receipt, a face-to-face meeting with the adult by a trained APS social worker is required. During this meeting the potential client is interviewed in private. Every effort is made to determine the competence of the adult. Other individuals or agencies that have knowledge of the situation may also be interviewed. When the investigation is complete a report is submitted to the APS Supervisor who will then consult with the social worker and determine if the adult is at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation. All information generated by the investigation is confidential.

New Jersey [APS Fact Sheet](#)

National Center on Elder Abuse [\(NCEA\) Fact Sheet](#)

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