



## NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

November 2022

### Supporting Child Care

#### NJ Human Services Continues Support & Increases Grants for Child Care Providers



*A visit to Sandy Lane Nursery School in Belleville to announce additional child care support. Left to right, Dr. Beverly Lynn, CEO of Programs for Parents; Margaret Milliner, Human Services' Assistant Director of Child Care Operations; Human Services Deputy Commissioner for Social Services Elisa Neira; Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman; Elaine Perna, Sandy Lane Nursery School administrator; Senator Teresa Ruiz; and Human Services' Division of Family Development Assistant Commissioner Natasha Johnson.*

Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman recently announced the continuation of retention and hiring bonuses and increases to grants aimed at both stabilizing [child care programs](#) in New Jersey and supporting child care staff.

The \$1,000 Hiring and Retention Bonus Grant has relaunched and providers can apply now through December 4.

The \$1,000 bonuses, available to both new child care employees as well as those who already received a bonus from the previous phase, are being provided by the Murphy administration to recruit new child care workers and retain staff. The state has provided more than \$37 million in bonuses to over 37,000 child care workers so far.

In addition, [child care centers that were awarded NJ American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Stabilization Grants earlier this year to help with operational expenses](#) will be eligible to receive up to \$75,000 in additional grant funding as long as they continue to meet program criteria. That is on top of the remaining balance of the total award they were already approved. Family child care providers will receive an additional \$3,000 on top of their remaining balance.

“We know these grants have been a major support for the child care industry as they continue to recover from the pandemic and we are glad to continue to provide and increase this funding,” Commissioner Adelman said. “Under the leadership of Governor Murphy, we continue to work hard to support child care providers that are so important to working families and our economy.”

“Stabilizing the child care industry and its workforce continues to be a top priority for the Murphy Administration,” Deputy Commissioner for Social Services Elisa Neira [said](#). “Retention and Hiring Grants will be open until the end of the month; I urge providers to take advantage of this resource. Technical assistance and support is available for providers needing assistance to apply.”

“We’ve heard from so many child care providers about their struggle to hire and keep staff,” said Assistant Commissioner Natasha Johnson, who oversees Human Services’ [Division of Family Development](#). “Between the Hiring and Retention Bonus Grant and the additional funds available to support a variety of personnel expenses and costs, such as salary, wages, payroll and benefits, we hope these funds will ease some of their staffing issues. You can visit [ChildCareNJ.gov](#) for more information about available grants.”

Adelman [announced](#) the additional grant funding for providers during a visit to Sandy Lane Nursery School in Belleville. **Adelman was joined by [Senate Majority Leader Teresa Ruiz](#), who has championed making child care more accessible and affordable** for New Jersey families. See photos of the visit [here](#).

[Read more](#)



More from the visit to Sandy Lane Nursery School



## First Lady Murphy Launches Child Care Facilities Improvement Grants





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# 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.

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First Lady Tammy Murphy recently announced that the [New Jersey Economic Development Authority](#) as of Nov. 15 is accepting applications for grants from \$54.5 million [Child Care Facilities Improvement Program](#).

The grants build on the Murphy Administration's comprehensive strategy to support the state's child care sector. The first phase of the program will provide about \$15 million in grants of up to \$200,000 to licensed child care centers to cover the cost of facility improvements.

Full eligibility criteria and resources for applicants can be found [here](#).

"Every New Jersey family deserves reliable, safe, high-quality child care, a critical part of Nurture NJ and our work to make New Jersey a leader in child health. This program will help to ensure facilities all over the

state provide our children - and most especially our children in underserved communities - with high-quality early childhood environments that have lifelong impacts,” First Lady Murphy said. “The NJ Child Care Facilities Improvement Program will provide the capital for child care facilities to make essential improvements that will elevate their ability to care for this and future generations.”

“Under Governor Phil Murphy’s leadership, New Jersey is making significant investments to bolster the child care sector, which is crucial to our economy and the ability of New Jersey parents to return to work and have the peace of mind of knowing their children are well cared for,” NJEDA Chief Executive Officer Tim Sullivan said. “These grants will help child care centers that are the backbone of our economy to emerge better positioned to care for our children and families.”

“We are excited to work in partnership with the NJEDA to make these grants available to child care providers in the state,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “Child care providers were among some of the hardest-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, and are still working to overcome the lingering effects of the pandemic, all the while meeting the needs of New Jersey’s working families. These grants will help providers make facility improvements that they may not otherwise be able to afford, so they can provide high-quality early childhood learning environments for our youngest residents. This is in addition to the stabilization grants that Human Services is providing to help providers pay for operational expenses and the \$1,000 hiring and retention bonus payments to assist with staffing. Safe, affordable and reliable child care in New Jersey is vital to our economy and for working families. Under the leadership of Governor Murphy, the state has made significant investments to support the child care industry, and we will continue to work to support this critical workforce and the families that rely on them.”

[Read more](#)

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## Human Services & Treasury Detail One-Time Benefit for Eligible ITEN Taxpayers



Commissioner Sarah Adelman and State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio recently announced a one-time benefit of \$500 per eligible resident under the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) Direct Assistance Program was mailed this month to income-eligible New Jersey individuals and families who were not eligible for federal stimulus payments and file taxes using an ITIN.

Eligible individuals did not need to apply for this benefit. If a person's tax filing met the eligibility requirements, they automatically were mailed a check from the State of New Jersey to the address used by the individual when they filed their 2021 taxes. Human Services' Office of New Americans developed education and outreach materials to raise awareness about this benefit in partnership with [Treasury](#).

"Eligible residents could expect one-time financial support of up to \$500 for each household member who has an ITIN and is listed on the resident's tax return," Commissioner Adelman said. "Because this is a one-time benefit, it will not be considered under the public charge rule nor impact eligibility for public benefit programs, such as Medicaid, SNAP or TANF. With the holidays here, we are glad to see this assistance go out to ITIN filers with low-incomes this month."

"This program was designed to provide assistance to residents who work hard and pay taxes, and were equally impacted by the pandemic, but have not received similar assistance from the federal government," Treasurer Maher Muoio said.

[Read more](#)

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## **Human Services Works to Raise Public Awareness of Cost-Savings for Medicare Beneficiaries**

# Medicare Open Enrollment Ends Dec. 7

Get **FREE, UNBIASED HELP** today! Visit **aging.nj.gov** or call **1-800-792-8820**.



With the Medicare open enrollment period underway, Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced the Department has awarded \$360,000 in grants to local social service agencies to promote and raise awareness about assistance available to low-income Medicare beneficiaries to help lower their premiums and prescription drug costs.

The purpose of these grants is to increase the number of low-income Medicare beneficiaries in New Jersey who know about and apply for Medicare Part D, the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy (LIS) – also known as “Extra Help” - and/or a Medicare Savings Program (MSP). The grantees will also work to increase awareness and use of free and reduced-cost preventive benefits covered by Medicare Part B.

“We know there are New Jerseyans on Medicare who are eligible for, but are not taking advantage of the savings provided by these programs,” Commissioner Adelman said. “For older adults on fixed incomes, this assistance can make a huge difference. These agencies will help amplify information about these programs, and help people enroll so they can start saving.”

“These grants have been effective in getting more people enrolled in these cost-saving programs, and we look forward to reaching even more individuals who are eligible, but have not applied and could really benefit from lower Medicare premiums and prescription drug costs,” Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire said.



“We understand that navigating the Medicare system can be overwhelming. These agencies will help people with their applications so they don’t miss out on these potential savings. I encourage all Medicare beneficiaries who could use some assistance to contact their local service agency and apply,” Division of Aging Services Director Louise Rush said.

[Read more](#)

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## Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week



Ahead of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Deputy Commissioner Elisa [Neira](#) and Chief of Staff Jonathan Chebra [toured](#) the [Food Bank of South Jersey](#) to learn more about its work to fight food insecurity.

Visit [here](#) to see Human Services’ Hunger and Homelessness Awareness video playlist.

Visit [here](#) to learn more about the Department’s programs to combat food insecurity.

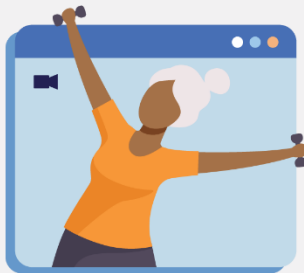
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## Human Services Partners with GetSetUp to Offer Free Online Courses for Older Adults



# Free Virtual Classes for Older Adults

The New Jersey Division of Aging Services has partnered with GetSetUp to provide free virtual classes for older adults taught by peers - ask questions, make new friends, learn new things and have fun.



## GetSetUp

Try an Online Class Today!  
[www.getsetup.io/partner/NJ](http://www.getsetup.io/partner/NJ)



Human Services has partnered with GetSetUp, an interactive online learning community, to provide free, live virtual classes for New Jerseyans ages 60 and older.

The GetSetUp platform offers [live classes](#) taught by peers who are experts in their field, [social hours](#) hosted by community members, and [special events](#) with speakers who directly address areas of interest to older adults.

Older New Jerseyans can choose from more than 500 available classes on a range of topics such as aging in place, computers, budgeting, mental fitness, and more. Classes are offered in English, Spanish, Hindi and Mandarin. Classes are available 24 hours a day. To reach the New Jersey GetSetUp site, visit [here](#).

“We are so excited to provide this opportunity to older New Jerseyans who want to learn a new skill or simply stay connected,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “Older adults often face social isolation that can be detrimental to their physical, mental, and emotional health. Exploring new activities and interacting and connecting with others can help enhance their quality of life and help prevent the health risks associated with isolation.”



“We know that having social connections can help older adults live healthier lives,” Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire. “The GetSetUp portal offers virtual learning and social interaction that can help reduce the risk for social isolation. I encourage older New Jerseyans to sign up and take advantage of the free classes available.”

“One of our goals at the Division of Aging is to bridge the technological gap for older adults,” [Division of Aging Services](#) Director Louise Rush said. “GetSetUp offers technology and social media classes that can help older New Jerseyans be more comfortable with technology, so they can use it to their benefit. Older New Jerseyans who lack internet access can check their eligibility for discounted internet service through the federal [Affordable Connectivity Program](#). Those eligible can also qualify for a one-time discount on the purchase of a tablet or laptop.”

[Read more](#)

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## **Human Services Launches New Program to Improve Services at Self-Help Centers**

**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 develop a state-wide learning collaborative to improve services at New Jersey's Self-Help Centers that provide assistance to mental health consumers. The [Self-Help Centers](#) provide dedicated space for mental health consumers to grow in their recovery through self-help, socialization, peer support, opportunities for employment, and specialized wellness programs.

Under the new \$375,000 program, the [Mental Health Association in New Jersey](#) (MHANJ) will train and provide technical assistance to the peer workforce at the centers. MHANJ will develop and organize a Whole Health Learning Collaborative that will provide evidence-based, best and promising practices on whole health self-management for peers who are leaders or members of the 30 community-based wellness centers across the state.

"The learning collaborative will inspire, cultivate and enhance a culture of healthy living and positive well-being among leaders and members," Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. "Our goal is to help individuals develop coping skills and facilitate shared learning, while providing a unique opportunity to increase social connectedness, provide a new meaning and purpose in life and support service to others—all cornerstones of a wellness and recovery-oriented life. We want to assist individuals with getting the information, support, motivation and guidance they need to develop or re-initiate healthier life-styles, in addition to learning how

to work with their peer community, healthcare and behavioral healthcare providers to better self-manage their own medical-related conditions and needs.”

The target population are individuals with mental health diagnoses; those with a mental health and a co-occurring substance use disorder and/or a chronic medical condition who serve as peer providers; and the members who attend any of the Centers - in particular, those who've been negatively affected by the pandemic through grief, loss, social isolation, and poverty.

“The learning collaborative will encourage centers to facilitate their members access to health screenings and primary health care,” Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Lisa Asare said. “The initiative can, for example, help individuals learn about diabetes self-care, improve money management skills, enhance social connectedness, and promote smoking cessation by connecting center members to services. Understanding the condition in which a person has lived, addressing behaviors at an early stage, and managing stress can not only prevent multiple health concerns, but also help restore health and stop the negative progression across a person’s lifespan.”

“Several health-related risk factors prevalent among individuals with mental illness will be addressed,” said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who directs the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#). “People encounter side effects associated with use of psychiatric medications, and they may not routinely receive or use preventive healthcare and other related services. Some conditions that result in disproportionate mortality and morbidity in individuals with mental health conditions are frequently associated with life- style habits such as smoking, poor diet, physical inactivity, poor sleep, and lack of self-care. The whole health approach promotes healthy behaviors, environments, and policies to maintain health and prevent, treat, and reverse chronic diseases and harmful conditions and environments.”

[Read more](#)

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## Human Services Expands Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Treatment Hours in Ten Counties



**ONE CALL  
STARTED  
MY  
ADDICTION  
RECOVERY**

**CALL 844-REACHNJ**

The Department has awarded contracts to expand substance use disorder outpatient treatment service hours in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean and Passaic counties. Providers can begin increasing hours as soon as possible, and no later than within three months.

“We at Human Services understand that individuals with substance use disorder more readily seek treatment when services are available at times that accommodate their work, school and family obligations,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “That is why the Department is pleased to award contracts that remove traditional barriers to treatment and make it easier for individuals to access medication that can support recovery in outpatient care while fulfilling their personal needs.”

“These contracts work to ensure individuals are able to attend treatment uninterrupted and receive ongoing care,” said Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Lisa Asare. “Continuous treatment is key to lasting recovery and we look forward to implementing expanded treatment hours throughout the state. We are committed to ensuring all New Jerseyans receive equitable access to medication that can support recovery.”

“It is important to make it easier for individuals who face substance abuse challenges to access treatment,” said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who directs the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction](#)



[Services](#) that will oversee the initiative. “Removing traditional barriers to treatment will help ensure more New Jerseyans in need are provided with help when they need it most through outpatient care.”

[Read more](#)

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## State to Expand ARRIVE Together Mental Health Crisis Response Initiative

Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin, Colonel Patrick J. Callahan and Commissioner Sarah Adelman recently announced that the New Jersey State Police has won a competitive \$549,750 grant award from the federal government to fund an expansion of the ARRIVE Together mental health crisis response initiative.

This grant will supplement legislation signed by Governor Murphy over the summer that appropriated \$2 million to expand the ARRIVE Together program. The grant will support law enforcement-behavioral health cross-system collaboration to improve public health and safety responses and outcomes for individuals with mental health disorders and co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

The ARRIVE Together program, first piloted by the State Police in Cumberland County in December 2021 in partnership with Human Services, pairs a 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 ARRIVE Together program has thus far been a tremendous success for our law enforcement officers, our mental health screeners, and most importantly, for the communities that they serve,” [Attorney General](#) Platkin said. “I am thankful for all of our partners, and applaud Colonel Callahan and the State Police for, with the support of the Department of Human Services, applying for and winning these federal grant funds that will expand coverage of this critical program in New Jersey.”

“The Arrive Together initiative has already proven to be an effective tool in assisting law enforcement officers to meet the needs of people who are experiencing a mental or behavioral health crisis,” said Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent of the [New Jersey State Police](#). “This federal grant represents a significant step toward expanding the program to ensure that more New Jersey residents have access to the same resources.”

“This innovative program is about saving lives by bringing together law enforcement and mental health professionals to respond to crisis situations in the most appropriate way to stabilize a situation and help the individual in need,” Commissioner Adelman said. “The program represents more progress in our ongoing work to improve mental health care services in New Jersey. We’re appreciative of this important partnership with the Office of the Attorney General and the New Jersey State Police, and are committed to supporting its expansion to more communities across the state.”

[Read more](#)

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## **Inclusive Healthy Communities**



**Hudson County Inclusive Employment**

Deputy Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire spoke at Hudson County's Inclusive Employment Breakfast in Jersey City, where she spoke about the work the Department has done in ensuring the workforce includes those with disabilities.

Deputy Commissioner McGuire, middle, was joined by, left to right, Erin Ross Burgess of the Hudson County Health and Human Services, Hudson County Commission Vice Chair Anthony Romano, Darice Toon of the Hudson County Health and Human Services, Hudson County Commissioner William O'Dea, and Deputy Director of the Hudson County Health and Human Services Nicole HARRISAION-GARCIA.



**Human Services Partners with Department of Environmental Protection to Expand Access to Coastal Resources for Individuals with Disabilities**





Human Services has awarded additional funding to continue helping communities implement inclusive initiatives that increase recreational access to coastal resources for individuals with disabilities. The funding was awarded in collaboration with the [Department of Environmental Protection \(DEP\)](#).

“At Human Services we remain focused on expanding accessibility and inclusion across the state so individuals with disabilities can thrive in the places they live, work, explore and play,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “All New Jerseyans should have the opportunity to explore the wonders of the state’s coastal areas and connect with nature. We thank the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for their partnership and commitment which help make these awards possible.”

“The Murphy Administration is committed to ensuring New Jersey’s diverse outdoor areas are accessible and inclusive for all, including our coastal treasures,” Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette said. “DEP is proud to partner with DHS on this important initiative to help ensure every visitor can enjoy our coastal areas without impediment.”

Through this collaboration, DEP’s Coastal Management Program will provide additional funding to Human Services’ [Division of Disability Services](#)’ (DDS) Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant Program (IHC) to enhance the ongoing work of three current IHC awardees. The following nonprofit organizations were each selected to receive an additional \$30,000:

**Family Resource Network, Inc.** will expand upon a previous IHC grant to develop a tool that can be used to assess the accessibility of coastal resources for recreational purposes to people with disabilities.

**Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Inc.** will build upon a previous IHC grant to focus on increasing accessibility and inclusivity in the enjoyment of natural places in the coastal zone, especially the coastal portions of the Pinelands National Reserve.

**Allies in Caring, Inc.** will expand upon a previous IHC grant to advise Family Resource Network and Pinelands Preservation Alliance on their efforts to enhance access to coastal resources for people with disabilities for recreational purposes.

“From making existing nature trails more accessible for people with mobility challenges to developing a monitoring tool to assess disability access in coastal locations, these programs will enhance equitable

access to natural areas for New Jerseyans with disabilities,” Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire said.

“Through this collaboration with the NJDEP, we are continuing to help communities create inclusive community resources and practices so that all New Jerseyans can achieve better health outcomes,” DDS Executive Director Peri L. Nearon said. “It is important to create environments that are accessible for individuals with disabilities through both land and sea and these grants bring this vision to reality.”

[Read more](#)

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## 2022 Culture of Health Conference





Commissioner Adelman, far right, joined, left to right, Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver, Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli, Newark Mayor Ras Baraaka, and Dr. Chris Parnell for the 10th Annual Building a Culture of Health in NJ Conference. where they discussed their experience of leading during the pandemic.

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## Commissioner Adelman Honored



Commissioner Adelman is honored with the [New Jersey Psychiatric Association's](#) Public Service Award for her tremendous commitment to mental health care and Human Services' implementation of psychiatrist workforce development programs.

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## Supportive Housing





Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Lisa Asare joined the Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey at its annual conference to discuss Human Services' work to boost supportive housing rental subsidies, and to help honor advocates. She's was joined by SHANJ Board of Trustees Chairman James Marhold, right, and SHANJ Executive Director Diane Riley, middle.

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## Supporting Older Adults



Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services McGuire joined [Assemblywoman Angela V. McKnight](#), Andy Aronsohn of the [Health Care Association of New Jersey](#) and Theresa Edelstein of the [New Jersey Hospital Association](#) for a panel discussion on supporting older adults hosted by Robert Hoch of Complete Care Management at the recent Mind The Gap: Best Practices in Health Care Collaboration conference.

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## HSP Honors Veterans













The Human Services Police on Veterans Day continued their tradition of providing breakfast to Veterans Haven residents on Veterans day. Along with their family members, they served breakfast to about 50 veterans at Veterans Haven South. Special thanks to Officer Armond Viola, who organized the event, and PBA Local 113, which helped secure the food. The Human Services Police, their families and the veterans look forward to this event every year!

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## **Honors for Hurricane Fiona Response Deployment**



Emergency Planner Colleen Ekey is honored by Emergency Management Director Joseph Geleta for her exemplary service during her recent deployment to Puerto Rico as part of the state's Hurricane Fiona response. Ms. Ekey was deployed from Sept. 22 to Oct. 9 and worked on shelter, food assistance, infrastructure and disaster recovery center operations to help the people of Puerto Rico recover.

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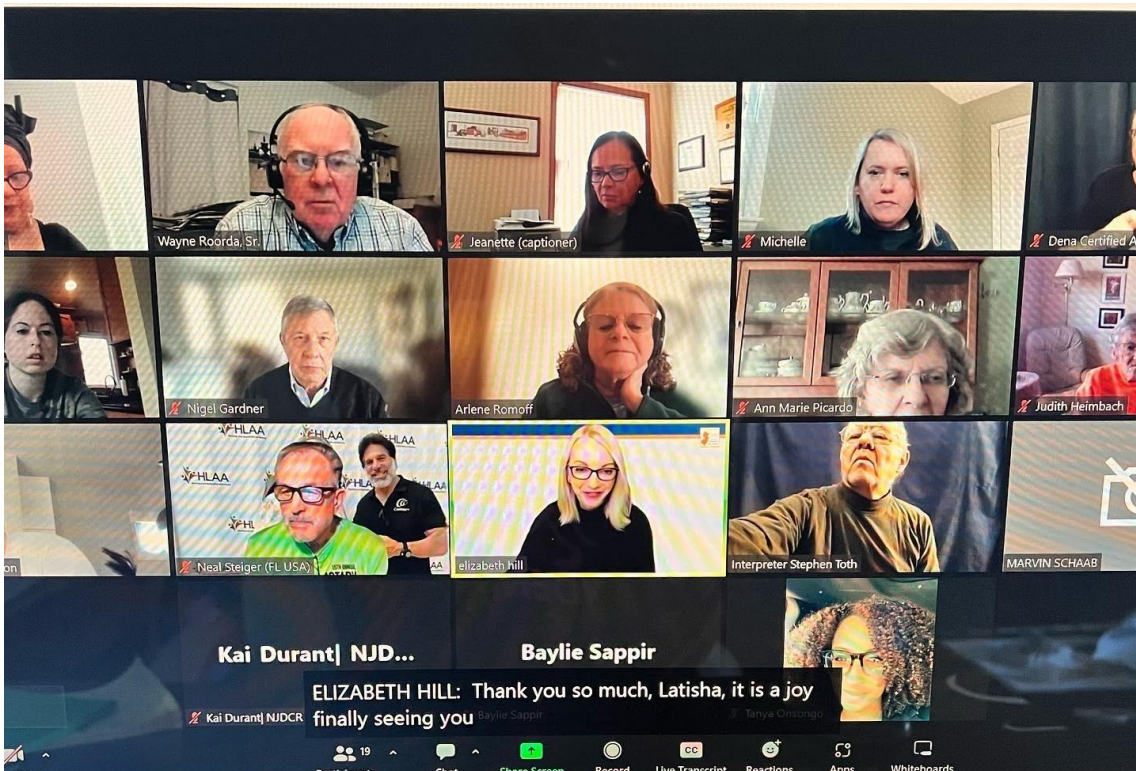
## **Opioid Settlement Update at the League**



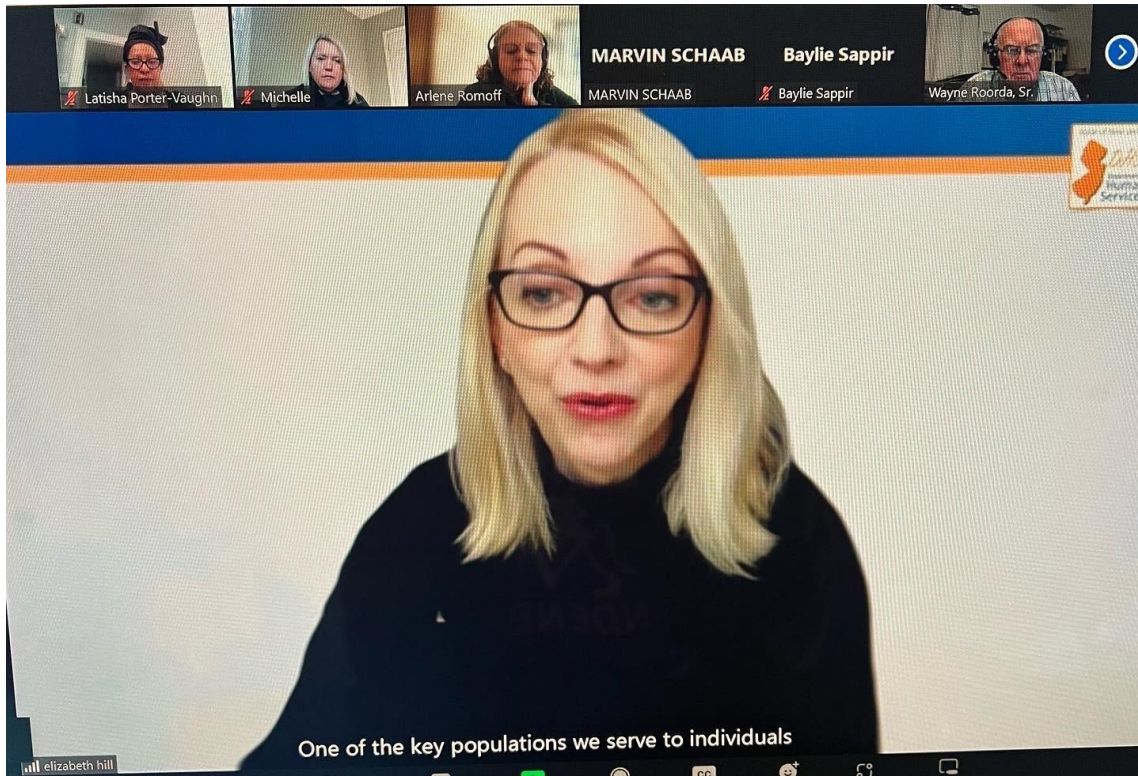


Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke updated municipal officials at the annual League of Municipalities convention on the [\\$641 million](#) in opioid manufacturer settlement funds that will fund state and local programs focused on treatment, prevention and other strategies.

## Hearing Loss Association of America-New Jersey Annual Meeting







Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Executive Director Elizabeth Hill spoke at the 2022 Hearing Loss Association of America-NJ Annual Meeting about the Division's many efforts, including [equipment distribution](#), [language access](#) and [grants](#) provided to counties to improve communication and language access to services for deaf and hard of hearing residents.

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## Family Caregivers Appreciation



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

WHEREAS, for New Jerseyans to express their respect and appreciation to family members who have cared for and supported them throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the dedicated work of family caregivers - individuals who have provided support to loved ones who have disabilities, are chronically ill or elderly and have received no compensation for their efforts; and

WHEREAS, there are roughly 53 million family and informal caregivers in the United States according to a survey by the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP, with over 1.75 million in New Jersey alone; and

WHEREAS, family caregivers assist in preventing and delaying costly institutional care for people with disabilities, the aging, chronic illness and mental health issues in our State and have increased the quality of life for these residents; and

WHEREAS, caring for a person with a disability, someone who is chronically ill or an older family member at home can be an enormously strenuous and stressful undertaking for both the caregiver and the family member receiving the care; and

WHEREAS, our communities must be made aware of the commitment of New Jersey's caregivers, so that they receive the tools and services they need to continue providing exemplary care to our most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Caregiver Task Force, established pursuant to legislation enacted in 2018, has completed its mission to determine the availability of caregiver support services in the State and will provide recommendations for the improvement and expansion of such services;

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

NOVEMBER 2022  
AS  
FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

in New Jersey.



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

Lt. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR



Governor Murphy declared November 2022 as Family Caregivers Month.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Sarah Adelman [recognized](#) family caregivers for the vital service they provide in caring for loved ones who are elderly, disabled or chronically ill, and highlighted supports and services available from the Department to support them.

“While a labor of love for many, this work can take a toll emotionally, physically and financially of those who provide day-to-day care,” Commissioner Adelman said. “Human Services has programs and services available to family caregivers that can help ease some of the pressure. I encourage family caregivers in need of support to visit our [Division of Aging Services website](#), or contact their local Area Agency on Aging for more information about programs and services available to them and the people that they care for.” “We are grateful for family caregivers who dedicate time and effort—often at their own expense—to care for loved ones,” Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire said. “The day-to-day care that they provide allows their loved ones to remain in their homes and their communities, and they deserve not only our gratitude, but our support.”

The Murphy Administration is committed to supporting caregivers and improving programs that can help. In 2018, Acting Governor Sheila Oliver signed a law creating the [New Jersey Caregiver Task Force](#) to evaluate support services that are available to caregivers, and provide recommendations for the improvement and expansion of such services.

The Task Force was comprised largely of representatives from non-profits organizations and relevant stakeholders working to gather information and present recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. The Task Force surveyed New Jersey family caregivers, held family caregiver testimonial sessions and recovered current state data and resources to compile its [final report](#) which is now public.

“At the Division of Developmental Disabilities, we prioritize a person- and family-centered approach to caregiving that allows individuals in need of care to remain in their homes and communities, but we understand this is demanding work,” said Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried, who leads the [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) and below presented the Governor’s proclamation to [The Arc of New Jersey](#) at a celebration at [The Arc, Ocean County Chapter](#). “Caregivers of adult individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in need of support can call our new [MOM2MOM NJ Adult](#) help line. We also have options for uncompensated caregivers to get paid through the division’s [Self-Directed Services/Self-Direction](#) program.”

“Family caregivers play a critical role in the lives of loved ones who require assistance and provide an essential service that often amounts to a part-time job,” said Division of Aging Services Director Louise Rush, who served as Human Services’ designee on the New Jersey Caregiver Task Force. “The [Division of Aging Services](#) has programs available to help relieve some of the stress that comes with this responsibility. With over a million caregivers in the state, we hope more people will take advantage of these programs and share this information.”

[Read more](#)



**National Federation of the Blind Convention**





Deputy Commissioner Neira spoke to the [National Federation of the Blind New Jersey](#)'s annual convention and [thanked](#) them, including President Linda Melendez, for their partnership in supporting blind, deaf-blind and visually impaired New Jerseyans.

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## **Governor Murphy Highlights Ongoing Efforts to Strengthen Food Security in New Jersey**



Governor Phil Murphy [joined](#) members of his Administration, government officials, and advocates to highlight ongoing efforts to address food insecurity on behalf of families throughout New Jersey as part of the Governor's commitment to making life more affordable for residents.

Efforts to strengthen food security include the enactment of legislation, inclusion of funding in the State budget, and the creation of a first-in-the-nation Office of the Food Security Advocate.

From its outset, the Murphy Administration has secured historic increases in funding for New Jersey food banks, including an additional \$65 million in Fiscal Year 2023 (FY2023). A total of \$85 million was dedicated in the FY2023 budget to support the critical work of New Jersey's six largest food banks.

"The holiday season is a poignant reminder of the many New Jersey families struggling to put food on the table every day," Governor Murphy said. "As my Administration continues to pursue ways in which we can make life more affordable on behalf of New Jersey families, combating food insecurity will remain a critical part of those efforts. Alongside dedicated community and legislative partners, including food security champion Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, my Administration remains committed to working to strengthen food security to ensure that no one in our state goes hungry."

"The Murphy Administration has made significant investments to fight hunger and support families facing food insecurity," Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. "Human Services has delivered more than \$3 billion in additional food assistance to [SNAP](#) households since the height of the pandemic. We have also enhanced access to nutritious food by allowing [online](#) SNAP grocery shopping, made it easier for individuals to manage their benefits through the [ConnectEBT](#) mobile app, and have increased SNAP outreach and [application assistance](#) in the community. Yet there is still more work to be done, and with our partners across government, in the legislature and in the community, we will continue the fight to ensure all families in New Jersey have access to healthy foods."

[Read more](#)

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## Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month



# ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Awareness Month

NOVEMBER



November is Alzheimer's Diseases Awareness Month. As a reminder, the Division of Aging Services' respite care program can provide caregivers a temporary rest. Call 1-877-222-3737 or visit [here](#).

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**Naloxone Distribution**





Human Services' Nelson Troche, left, and Asa Yi, right, helped distribute free life-saving naloxone during the National Conference on EMS in Atlantic City. Human Services gives first responders, harm reduction agencies and others the chance to request direct shipments of naloxone, anytime they need it, at no charge. Register and submit requests [here](#)

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## Commissioners Adelman & Persichilli Encourage People Who Smoke to Get Help Quitting



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## HELPING YOU QUIT SMOKING

Prior authorization not  
required for smoking  
cessation medication



Commissioner Adelman and Health Commissioner Persichilli marked the [Great American Smokeout](#) on Nov. 17 by encouraging people who smoke to reach out to their healthcare provider and take advantage of state services for help quitting.

New Jersey's Medicaid program – [NJ FamilyCare](#) – does not require individuals to get prior approval from their health plan before they obtain tobacco cessation medications, and the plans cover all major tobacco treatment medications and services.

“Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death and disease in New Jersey, leading to chronic lung disease, heart disease, stroke and cancer,” Commissioner Adelman said. “Tobacco use kills 11,800 New Jerseyans each year, but today is a great time to take the first step toward a healthier lifestyle. Healthcare providers and NJ FamilyCare can help New Jerseyans take this step every day of the year. We are here to help.”

“The Department of Health has worked collaboratively with the Department of Human Services to streamline policies related to accessing tobacco cessation resources and has also funded awareness campaigns to alert New Jersey residents of services covered by NJ FamilyCare,” Commissioner Persichilli

said. “While the use of traditional cigarettes has declined in recent years, the introduction of electronic nicotine delivery systems, most commonly known as e-cigarettes, has been on a steep incline, particularly among our young residents. These e-cigarettes are just as addictive as traditional cigarettes are, and the many tobacco cessation services and products that NJ FamilyCare covers are also applicable to users of e-cigarettes. The [New Jersey Quitline](#) and the [11 Quit Centers](#) located throughout the state are funded through the [Department of Health’s Office of Tobacco Control and Prevention](#).”

Commissioner Adelman also noted that the Department’s Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services has implemented a program to help individuals with mental health and addiction concerns get smoking cessation treatment. The Division has been urging behavioral health programs to engage clients and refer them into smoking cessation treatment with a Quit Center for counseling and medication, including free nicotine replacement treatment, if they qualify.

[Read more](#)

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## 2022 Budget Listening Session





NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT  
OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Virtual Budget  
Listening Session**

Human Services held its annual budget listening session on Nov. 3. Watch [here](#).

**SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS**



DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
**SENSITIVITY TRAINING**

*Providing education so deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind individuals have equal access to services.*



## Information & Referral Services

*Provides information and resources to individuals with disabilities and their families, as well as helps them navigate and connect to other available services.*



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**NJ SNAP - ENGLISH / SPANISH**  
**NJ FAMILYCARE - ENGLISH / SPANISH**  
**NJHELPS - ENGLISH / SPANISH**

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