

New Jersey Department of Human Services **DHS**

Quick Reference Guide to Social Services and Housing Resources for the Department of Corrections

GENERAL

- Department of Human Services (www.state.nj.us/humanservices) is a website that provides a comprehensive list of all programs and services supported by the state.
- NJHelps.org (www.njhelps.org) is a one-stop website to screen individuals for eligibility to over 30 social service programs. Individuals can go in independently or with the assistance of a case-manager or constituent services staff member and apply for services such as Food Stamps, welfare assistance and NJ FamilyCare health insurance.
- NJ211.org (www.nj211.org) is an informational hotline that can be dialed from any phone and on online, searchable social service directory with 'chat' function.

ADDICTION SERVICES

- NJ Drug Hotline.org (www.njdrughotline.org) has helped people find alcohol or drug treatment programs, locate 12-step support meetings, or find the answers to questions concerning drugs and alcohol. Trained telephone counselors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to educate, assist or counsel individuals and families battling addictions. Calls are free and confidential.

CHILD CARE

- Child Care Resource and Referral Centers (<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/child/ccrr/index.html>) services include information and referral to help parents locate child care and to answer questions on types of child care, how to pay for care, and even how to become family day care and licensed child care providers.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (WFNJ/TANF) the state's welfare program, helps families with children get off welfare, secure employment, and become self-sufficient, through job training, education, and work activities; and may include supports such as temporary cash assistance, case management, child care, and transportation. *A 2010 law change allows WFNJ/TANF applicants/recipients to be eligible for WFNJ benefits whether or not they have been convicted of a drug offense, as long as other eligibility requirements are met. There are no longer any requirements to participate in a drug treatment program as a result of a drug offense conviction.*
- WFNJ/General Assistance (GA) offers cash and medical assistance to single individuals or childless couples to transition to jobs and take the first step toward self-sufficiency. *The 2010 law change did not change any of the current GA regulations regarding conviction of a drug offense. Under the law, any person convicted on or after August 22, 1996 of felony drug distribution will be permanently ineligible to receive cash assistance. Persons convicted of possession or use of a controlled substance on or after August 22, 1996 may be*



eligible for WFNJ/GA benefits, if the person enrolls in and actively participates in or completes a Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Addiction Services (DAS) licensed or approved Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program, and meets the provisions of the program.

- Emergency Assistance (EA) is a supportive service to meet the emergent needs of WFNJ recipients who are at risk of homelessness and/or are experiencing emergencies.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

- NJ Food Stamps (<http://www.njfoodstamps.com>) gives eligibility requirements and provides an application for food stamps, which are available to low-income households including families, couples without children, individuals, seniors, disabled persons, legal immigrant and victims of family violence. When you apply online, you also can choose to apply for welfare and/or Medicaid health insurance programs at the same time.
- End Hunger NJ.org (www.endhunger.org) helping individuals and families locate food assistance at pantries and soup kitchens. The site also provides nutritional advice and information about food safety.

HEALTH CARE

- NJ FamilyCare.org (www.njfamilycare.org) provides information and an application on low or no-cost health insurance for families 350% or below the federal poverty level.
- NJ HealthLink (<http://www.nj.gov/njhealthlink/>) provides information about health related services.

HOUSING

- The NJ Housing Resource Center (www.njhousing.gov) is an online tool for finding and listing affordable housing, helping people with disabilities find housing and finding housing information. Vacancies are updated bi-weekly.
- The Homelessness Prevention Program provides short term assistance to applicants meeting the program's eligibility guidelines. For renters facing eviction, go to www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/docs/hppcontacts.pdf. For homeowners facing foreclosure, go to www.nj.gov/foreclosremediation/ or call 1-888-989-5277.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Designated Psychiatric Screening/Crisis Centers (<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/MH-screeningcenters.html>) mental health screening centers and related hotlines.