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NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2023

## NJ FamilyCare Renewal Processing Update

The graphic is titled "NJ FAMILYCARE MEMBERS" in a colorful, stylized font. Below the title, there are two numbered instructions: "1 Make sure NJ FamilyCare has your mailing address" and "2 Respond to mail from NJ FamilyCare right away". Below these instructions, it says "For more information, call" followed by the phone number "1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711)". At the bottom of the graphic, there is an illustration of a red mailbox with a yellow flag and a brown envelope with a white card inside that has the NJ FamilyCare logo. The NJ FamilyCare logo is a stylized orange and blue shape with the letters "NJ" and the words "FAMILYCARE" below it.

**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)**

Following the expiration of special federal Medicaid rules that were in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, [NJ FamilyCare](#) is required to initiate renewals for all members between April 2023 and March 2024. These renewals will confirm whether members continue to meet program requirements, and are eligible to remain enrolled in Medicaid coverage. If not, they may be eligible for continued coverage through employer-sponsored insurance, Medicare or [GetCoveredNJ](#), the statewide health insurance marketplace.

NJ FamilyCare restarted Medicaid member eligibility processes in April for approximately 1/12th of our enrollees. Each month of the unwinding year, we will be reaching out to another 1/12th of our members to renew. Members should continue watching out for mail from NJ FamilyCare and should return their renewal packets as soon as possible, even if overdue.

In anticipation of this work, NJ FamilyCare has improved systems, expanded automated renewal, and deployed new outreach strategies to raise awareness.

Like many other states, though, we are finding that too high a percentage of members in early renewal groups have not yet responded in any way to their renewal package, indicating that they may not have seen or understood the mail that was sent to them. Due to these national trends, CMS is allowing states the option of delaying disenrollment under certain conditions.

To ensure that we are serving early renewal cohorts the best way possible, the Department of Human Services is enacting a 30-day eligibility extension to members who never responded and would have had their coverage terminated at the end of June. This gives us additional time to continue to reach out to individual households and raise awareness in the community through [County Boards of Social Services](#), Managed Care Organizations, Regional Health Hubs, and other important partners.

The Department also anticipates providing a single 30-day extension to each new renewal group in at least the first three months of the unwinding year. This will give us time to monitor and improve our outreach strategy, to ensure that we are making every effort to connect with members who never responded, and to evaluate the benefit of the extended deadlines.

This is a statewide effort and your organization can assist! Our website [StayCoveredNJ](#) includes videos, multi-lingual posters, and other resources to help get the word out. We also ask our community partners to continue to emphasize the importance of urgent response to any mail from NJ FamilyCare or the County Board of Social Services.

### [Renewal Data Report](#)





[Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services](#) Assistant Commissioner Jennifer Langer Jacobs joined [Trenton Mayor Reed Gusciora](#) and the [Trenton Health Team](#) to urge [NJ FamilyCare](#) members to call 1-800-701-0710 to update their contact information and ensure they get their renewal packet.

"We have an unprecedented level of effort underway to reach our members," Assistant Commissioner Langer Jacobs said.

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## **Human Services Awards \$3.25 Million in Additional Grants to Create Inclusive Healthy Communities**

# Inclusive Healthy Communities

NJ Division of Disability Services



Human Services awarded an additional 13 grants to help organizations across the state implement inclusive initiatives that support individuals with disabilities in the communities in which they live, work, learn, and play.

“The IHC Grant Program continues to invest in both innovative and evidenced-based ideas that promote healthier and more inclusive New Jersey communities,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “We are excited to support the 2023 grantees as they work to improve health outcomes and provide meaningful opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the places in which they live and work. We look forward to seeing these projects come to fruition and are proud to have the [Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy](#) at Rutgers University as a partner in this effort.”

“For more than two years, the IHC Grant Program has worked to create spaces that are accessible for all, not just individuals with disabilities,” Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire said. “These additional grants solidify Human Services’ drive to build changed environments where spaces that are accessible for all is seen as the new norm and is imbedded in the fabric of our state. Building inclusive communities is a holistic endeavor, which is why it is so important to continue this momentum and add more creative and innovative solutions in this impactful effort. The proposed work of the awardees does just this.”

“Individuals with disabilities often experience adverse socioeconomic outcomes and health disparities,” said Executive Director Peri L. Nearon, who directs the [Division of Disability Services](#) that oversees this initiative. “The IHC Grant Program has and will continue to address these challenges by encouraging inclusive policies, full community engagement and accessible environments that support and improve the health of people with disabilities. We believe that the effect of this ongoing work will impact generations to come and inspire others to create change.”

[Read more](#)



Human Services and Rutgers highlighted the IHC program during an annual event.

## Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council Listening Sessions



The [New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council](#) continued holding listening sessions in June, convening one on June 12 at Camden County College (above) and another on June 22 at Essex County College (below). The sessions are gathering public input on distributing opioid settlement funds.



## NEW JERSEY OPIOID RECOVERY AND REMEDATION FUND ADVISORY COUNCIL

# Listening Sessions

In addition to the input already received through the online portal, **The New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council is holding listening sessions** to gather public input on distributing opioid settlement funds. New Jersey will receive about \$1 billion over 18 years as part of a federal opioid settlement. The state will receive half of the funding, and the other half will be provided to participating county and local governments.



**THURSDAY, MAY 18 (7 P.M.)**

Virtual: Link will be sent after registering

**THURSDAY, JULY 20 (11 A.M. – 1 P.M.)**

Virtual: Link will be sent after registering



**MONDAY, MAY 22 (1 – 3 P.M.)**

*Central Jersey*  
Mercer County Community College  
Roma Bank Auditorium  
Conference Center  
1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor

**MONDAY, JUNE 12 (10 A.M. – NOON)**

*South Jersey*  
Camden County College (Blackwood)  
CIM Auditorium  
200 College Road, Blackwood

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22 (11 A.M. – 1 P.M.)**

*North Jersey*  
Essex County College  
Clara E. Dasher Student Center  
303 University Avenue, Newark

Register [here](#) for the July 20 virtual listening session.

## Making Child Care More Affordable



Commissioner Sarah Adelman joined "Think Tank with Steve Adubato" to discuss the Murphy Administration's work to make child care more affordable, provide food assistance and enhance mental health care. Watch [here](#).

## Recognizing Dr. Shin-Yi Lin



Dr. Shin-Yi Lin of the [Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services](#) was recognized by the Governor Murphy on social media for her work on maternal health policy as part of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Watch the video [here](#).

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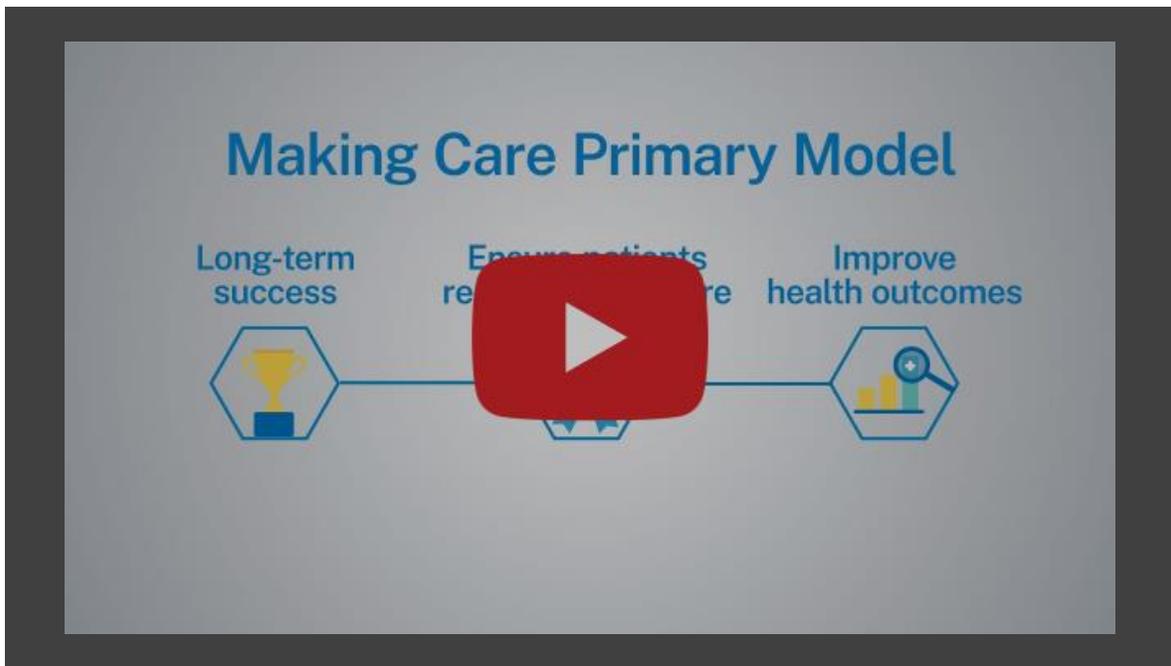
## **Congratulations to Assistant Commissioner Jennifer Langer Jacobs**



Congratulations to [Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services](#) Assistant Commissioner Jennifer Langer Jacobs, who received the Spirit of The Arc Award from [The Arc of New Jersey](#) for being a "true partner" who is "always responsive to the needs of those with IDD."

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## **New Jersey Included in Multi-State Initiative to Strengthen Primary Care**



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new primary care model – the Making Care Primary Model – will be tested in eight states, including New Jersey.

Access to high-quality primary care is associated with better health outcomes and equity for people and communities. The model seeks to improve care for patients by expanding and enhancing care management and care coordination, equipping primary care clinicians with tools to form partnerships with health care specialists, and leveraging community-based connections to address patients' health needs as well as their health-related social needs.

CMS will test this model in Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, and Washington.

“The goal of the Making Care Primary Model is to improve care for people with Medicaid and Medicare,” CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure said. “This model is one more pathway CMS is taking to improve access to care and quality of care, especially to those in rural areas and other underserved populations.”

[Read more](#)

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## World Refugee Day



Governor Murphy declared June 20 as World Refugee Day in New Jersey.

Human Services's [Office of New Americans](#) commemorated the day in partnership with New Jersey's Refugee Resettlement Agencies with an event featuring Commissioner Sarah Adelman; Deputy Commissioner for Social Services Elisa Neira; James Lenton, director of the New Jersey Office for Refugees; and testimonies from New Jersey refugees. The event included food, fun, and games.



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**Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

SEE  
STOP  
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.



APS.NJ.GOV



Elder Abuse Awareness Day is marked annually on June 15 to raise awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic impacts of elder abuse and neglect.

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

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**'Connection is the Antidote to Social Isolation'**



# 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)



As part of Loneliness Awareness Week from June 12-18th, Human Services promoted two key programs designed to increase connections to the community.

[GetSetUp](#), run through the [Division of Aging Services](#), is an interactive online learning community, that provides free, live virtual classes for New Jerseyans ages 60 and older.

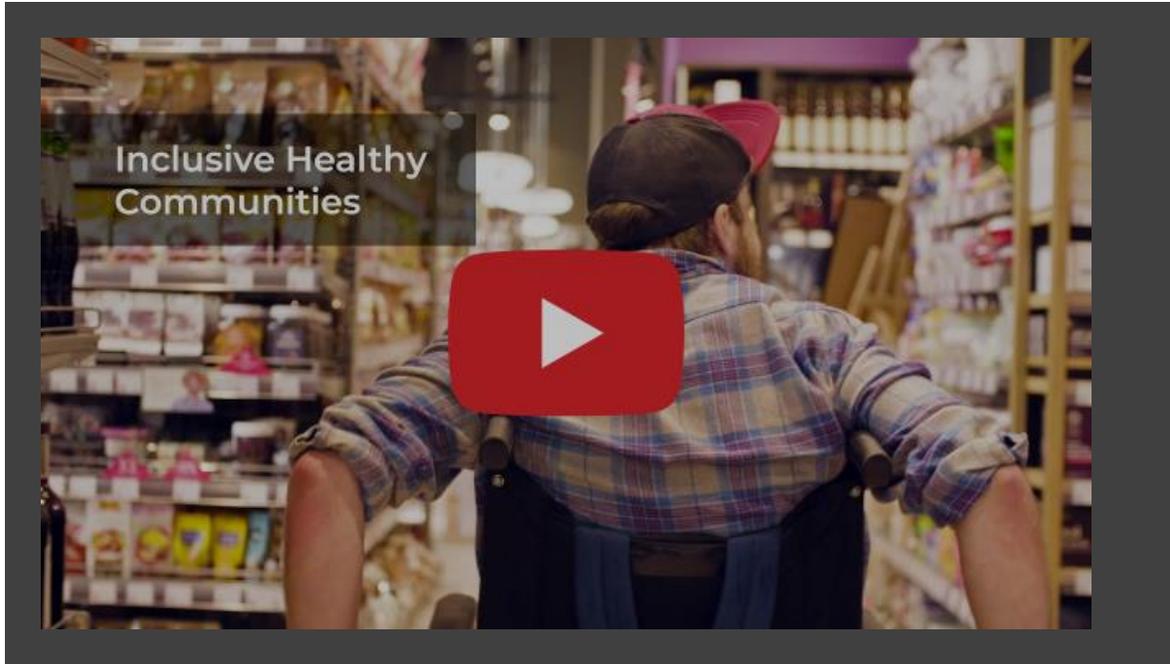
The [Inclusive Healthy Communities](#) program, run through the [Division of Disability Services](#), supports community organizations, municipalities, and counties throughout New Jersey to enhance accessibility, health, and equity.

And the [Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program](#) helps make phone and internet service more affordable for eligible individuals, making it easier to stay connected to family and friends

"[Connection is the antidote to social isolation](#)," stated Deputy Commissioner of Aging and

Disability Services Kaylee McGuire.

Click [here](#) to read Human Services' Social Isolation Study.





**Stay connected with the federal  
Lifeline program & the  
Affordable Connectivity Program**

**If you participate in Medicaid or SNAP, you qualify.  
Visit [digitalaccessforall.nj.gov](https://digitalaccessforall.nj.gov) for more information.**





Meanwhile Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire joined a discussion hosted by [New Jersey Advocates for Aging Well](#) on combating social isolation, making New Jersey more [affordable](#) for older adults, and making New Jersey more [age friendly](#). She was joined by advocate Jeannine LaRue and Assemblywomen Angela McKnight and Shanique Speight.

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## Promoting Services for Older Adults





Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire and [Division of Aging Services](#) staff stopped by the grand reopening of the Pfeiffer Community Center in Williamstown to share information about [services](#) for older adults and promote [NJSAVE](#). The event was hosted by Assemblyman Paul Moriarty and Mayor Greg Wolfe.



Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire also attended the [Annual Successful Aging Festival](#) held by the [Stockton Center for Successful Aging](#) and presented Governor Murphy's Older Americans Month [proclamation](#). About 300 people attended the event to learn about [resources](#) for older adults.



[Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services](#) Assistant Commissioner Jennifer Langer Jacobs, left, and Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire, middle, [spoke](#) at [LeadingAge New Jersey and Delaware](#)'s conference in Atlantic City about

Human Services' work to [improve the lives](#) of older adults. They were joined here by Theresa Edelstein of the [New Jersey Hospital Association](#).

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## Helen Keller Deafblind Awareness Week



The [Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) marked Helen Keller Deafblind Awareness Week by teaming with the [Deafblind Community Access Network of New Jersey](#) and [NJ Relay](#) for a "Taste of Technology for Deafblind" conference at the Joseph Kohn Training Center.

New communication technologies that deafblind individuals can use in work, home and everyday life were introduced through presentations, workshops, and hands-on demonstrations, while staff discussed services and programs such as [support service providers](#) and [ICanConnect](#).



## Human Services Awards Teens for Creativity in Celebrating the Bond between Families



Human Services honored 12 New Jersey high school and middle school students for their winning entries in the 2023 New Jersey Teen Media Contest, sponsored by the [Division of Family Development's](#) Office of [Child Support](#).

The contest, which celebrates the success of our state's youth, asked students across New Jersey to submit artistic or written portrayals about how their parents make everyday things special and what their family does to acknowledge small milestones and achievements. Teens

enter the annual contest individually or through their school, and winners' works are featured in Human Services' Child Support calendar published each year.

"Congratulations to the inspiring winners of our 2023 New Jersey Teen Media Contest!" Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. "I want to thank each of the teens who shared their artistic talents for this contest. I'm grateful that we get to partner with young artists year after year to raise awareness about the child support program and I encourage everyone to visit [www.NJTeenMedia.org](http://www.NJTeenMedia.org) to see the winning entries and appreciate the talent that New Jersey's youth has to offer."

"This contest showcases the talent of New Jersey's young artists, and highlights the impact a strong family support system has to help children thrive," Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Elisa Neira said. "Thank you to all the participants for all the work put into their art and written work and congratulations to this year's winners."

"The New Jersey Teen Media Contest helps us bring focus and attention to the important role of New Jersey's Child Support program," said Assistant Commissioner Natasha Johnson, who oversees the Division of Family Development. "The program's enduring slogan is 'Child Support. It's more than just money,' and we use the annual contest to encourage our youth to think about their family support system and the important role their parents serve in their everyday lives."

[Read more](#)

[View the winning entries](#)

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## National Children's Day



Human Services marked National Children's Day on June 11 by highlighting key services for children.

NJ FAMILY CARE | Cover All Kids



# NJ Covers All Kids!

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






**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.



**DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

Helping deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind children 0-5 receive language acquisition services in child care settings.



**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

Provides instruction, resources and other supportive services to eligible children, from birth to 21 years of age, and their families to ensure equal classroom participation.

**NJCBVI**  
NJ  
NJ  
NJ

**The Legal Representation for Children & Youth Program**

Providing free legal services to children and youth in immigration proceedings.

Call or text: 201-305-9217  
Email: [uacscreening@NJCIC.org](mailto:uacscreening@NJCIC.org)

**NJONA**  
NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS  
NJ  
NJ



## Are You Experiencing Homelessness and Need Child Care?

Call **1-800-332-9227** to get connected to your  
local child care resource and referral agency or visit  
[www.ChildCareNJ.gov](http://www.ChildCareNJ.gov) for information.



Hero.  
Nurturer.  
Boo-boo Fixer.  
Dad.



Parents have so many roles.

Whether you live with your children or not, support them in every way possible.  
Remember, child support is more than just money.

[njchildsupport.org](http://njchildsupport.org)

1.877.NJKids1

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## Autistic Pride Day



# AUTISTIC PRIDE DAY

—  
JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>



Autistic Pride Day is celebrated on June 18 annually to raise awareness and celebrate the uniqueness of individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

The day is characterized by the rainbow infinity symbol, which signifies the diversity of individuals with autism spectrum disorder and the many opportunities and differences within the autistic community.

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**Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month.**

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As part of June's Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month Human Services highlighted its Statewide Respite Care program that provides caregivers a temporary rest. Call 1-877-222-3737 or visit [here](#).

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## LGBTQI+ Pride Month

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[Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried joined [The Arc Mercer](#) for a Pride Month flag raising ceremony and received the organization's 2023 Advocate Award for being "a fierce advocate for equality and inclusion."

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## **Introduction to Self-Directed Services**

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## DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities helps New Jersey adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities live more independently.

The [Division of Developmental Disabilities'](#) Office of Education on Self-Directed Services ([OESDS](#)) is hosting a Virtual Lunch-and-Learn entitled "Introduction to Self-Directed Services" for Thursday, July 20 from noon to 1:30 pm.

If interested, please register here: [OESDS Webinar: Introduction to Self-Directed Services - 7/20/23 - Registration](#).

The [OESDS webpage](#) also lists upcoming self-direction networking sessions and currently available educational webinars, along with registration instructions.

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## New Lisbon Developmental Center

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Residents, families and staff at [New Lisbon Developmental Center](#) marked the nice weather with a luau featuring a dance floor, tiki bars and games. They were joined by Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Aging Services Kaylee McGuire and [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried.

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## Woodbine Developmental Center Carnival

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The [Woodbine Developmental Center](#) proved to be a fun event for residents, featuring music and support from the [Cape May County Library](#).

"This event demonstrates how our team at Woodbine goes above and beyond to provide enriching activities for residents, families, and staff," Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire [stated](#). "I was thrilled to join in the fun and spend time with residents and their families."

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## Green Brook Regional Center



[Green Brook Regional Center](#) hosted food trucks for a fun day for residents and staff.

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## Human Services Police Honors Veterans





In honor of the sacrifices made by veterans, [Human Services Police](#) provided breakfast to residents of [Veterans Haven South](#) on Memorial Day.

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## Welcome New Human Services Police Officers



[Human Services Police](#) attended the Morris County Police Academy's recent graduation to support the graduates of the 100<sup>th</sup> Basic Police Training Class.

Congratulations to the four graduate Human Services Police Officers:

- Police Officer Javier Castro
  - Police Officer Jonathan Diaz
  - Police Officer Trina Lee
-

- Police Officer Nicholas McWilliams



Meanwhile, Officers Devin Gwinn, Robert Mauer and Anthony Torres were joined by members of the [Human Services Police](#) as they graduated from the Camden County 84th Basic Police Recruit Class. During the ceremony, Officer Gwinn received the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course Award.

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## Pathways to Preparedness

Human Services' [Office of Emergency Management](#) in coordination with the [New Jersey Statewide Independent Living Council](#) and Project Freedom of Mercer County conducted an inaugural Pathways to Preparedness [training](#) with members of Project Freedom in Hamilton.

The training focuses on disaster preparedness for individuals with disabilities and those with access and functional needs. DHS OEM Director Joseph Geleta said the hope is the training will become a national model.

Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Aging Services Kaylee McGuire provided opening comments for the training.

Download the Pathways to Preparedness guide [here](#).

Agencies and groups supporting those with disabilities, access and functional needs should contact the Office of Emergency Management to schedule a training session by emailing [EOCESF6@njsp.gov](mailto:EOCESF6@njsp.gov) or calling 609-631-4363.

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## PATHWAYS TO PREPAREDNESS TRAINING IS HERE!!!

Developed in coordination with the NJ Statewide Independent Living Council and the NJ Department of Human Services, this training is designed to help anyone prepare for a disaster, but it is specifically targeted for people with access and functional needs, including those with disabilities and caregivers. The training is based upon two important themes:

- Each individual must take responsibility for their own personal and family preparedness.
- Individuals have varying needs, abilities and resources and there is no one-size-fits-all disaster plan.
- Most decisions on how to prepare for and respond to disasters are made at the local level.



A Guide to Personal Preparedness for Individuals with Disabilities, Including Those with Access and Functional Needs

### NEW JERSEY PATHWAYS TO PREPAREDNESS

NJSILC.ORG

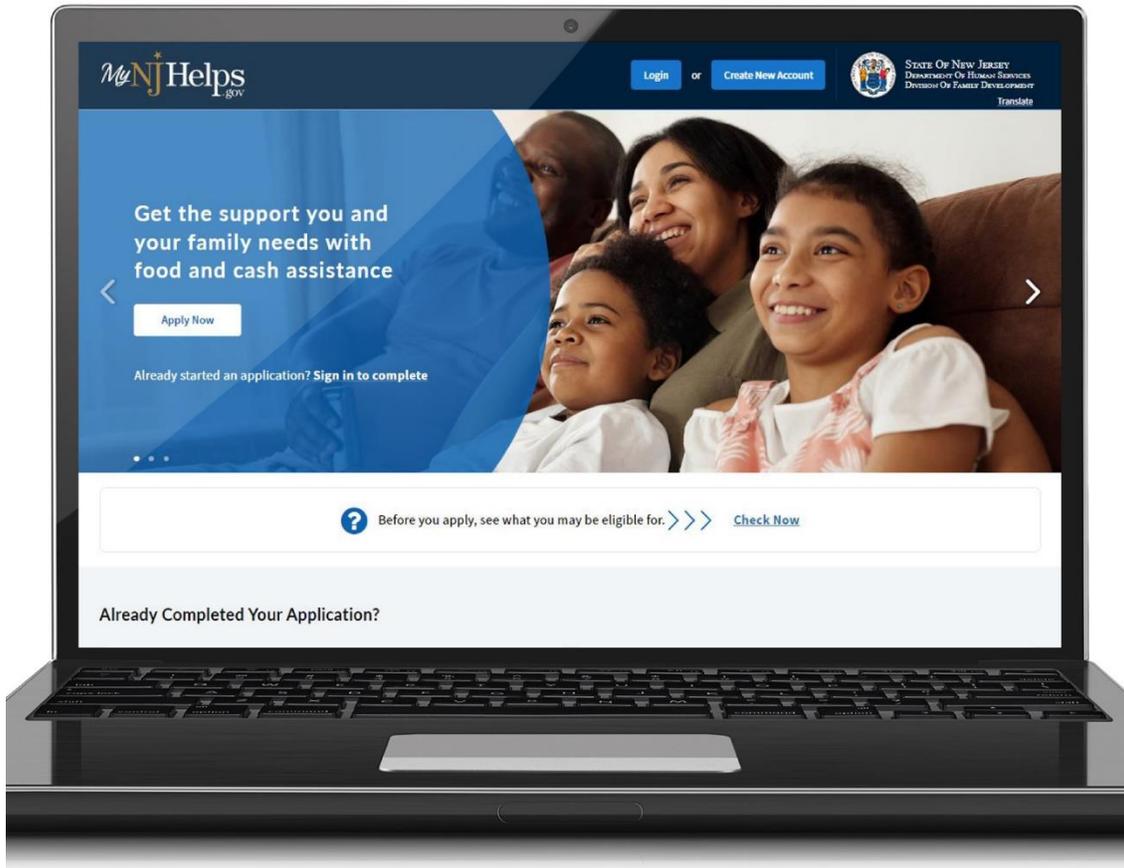
2018



Participants of the training will receive all necessary training material as well as other items to assist them with their disaster preparedness efforts. Agencies and groups supporting those with disabilities, access and functional needs should contact the NJ Department of Human Services Office of Emergency Management to schedule a training session by emailing [EOCESF6@njsp.gov](mailto:EOCESF6@njsp.gov) or calling 609-631-4363



SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS





## NJ WorkAbility Has Expanded to More Individuals

NJ WorkAbility offers full NJ FamilyCare coverage to working individuals with disabilities.

### **New changes:**

- Eligible age 16+
- Spousal income no longer counts toward eligibility
- No asset thresholds
- A year of coverage if you lose your job through no fault of your own



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

FOLLOW US!





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