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NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2025



Governor Murphy Holds Roundtable Discussion with Medicaid Recipients as Congress Debates Significant Cuts to Program

Governor Phil Murphy met with constituents whose lives would be negatively impacted by potential federal funding cuts to Medicaid.

Joined by Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Children and Families Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer, and Health Commissioner Dr. Kaitlan Baston, the Governor led a roundtable discussion at the Westfield Community Center with seven individuals who rely on [NJ FamilyCare](#) to access critical health coverage and services. They were also joined by the President and CEO of Children's Specialized Hospital, who spoke to the broad impact of Medicaid on those served by the hospital.

NJ FamilyCare provides comprehensive health care coverage to 1.8 million New Jerseyans, including children, working families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities. The roundtable discussion provided an opportunity to hear directly from those who would be most impacted by Medicaid cuts being discussed at the federal level.

The New Jersey Department of Human Services has [modeled](#) the impact of proposals put forward by Congressional leadership, and these potential changes to Medicaid could significantly reduce access to health insurance through eligibility changes or procedural barriers, affect provider pay in our health care sector that employs over 1 in 10 New Jerseyans, and diminish the range of covered benefits. The State could lose as much as \$10 billion in funding – and 700,000 working-age Medicaid enrollees are at risk of losing health insurance coverage.

“The proposed Medicaid cuts by Congressional leadership are deeply alarming and completely unacceptable. For families across New Jersey, Medicaid is a lifeline offering access to essential medical services and transformational community-based supports,” **Governor Murphy said**. “Nearly two million of our

family members and neighbors rely on federal health care programs like Medicaid. Beneficiaries are seniors, children, individuals with disabilities, and entire families whose access to health care is potentially at risk. My Administration has remained committed to supporting New Jerseyans who depend on Medicaid, and we are calling on all members of our Congressional delegation – on both sides of the aisle – to step up and do the same.”

“New Jersey's Medicaid program provides vital health coverage for nearly half of New Jersey's children and one-third of births, and provides essential services for working families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. These potential cuts would take this away from hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans,” **Commissioner Adelman said.** “I'm deeply grateful to the residents who shared their stories today, stories that powerfully illustrate the simple truth that draconian Medicaid cuts under consideration are not abstract. They will impact our friends, neighbors, and family members. They will disproportionately affect children, new mothers, seniors, people with mental illness, and people with disabilities, while undermining our state's public health infrastructure. We remain committed to doing everything possible to protect access to health care, but Congress must uphold their commitment to New Jersey families and protect this critical program.”

Read more [HERE](#).





Medicaid is...

Autism services, doula services, addiction treatment, dental care, doctor visits, eyeglasses, hospital care, lab tests, mental health care, personal care, prescriptions, preventative screenings, regular checkups, x-rays.

Please feel free to use these images in your advocacy and take a moment to share online what Medicaid means to you, your loved ones and those you serve.

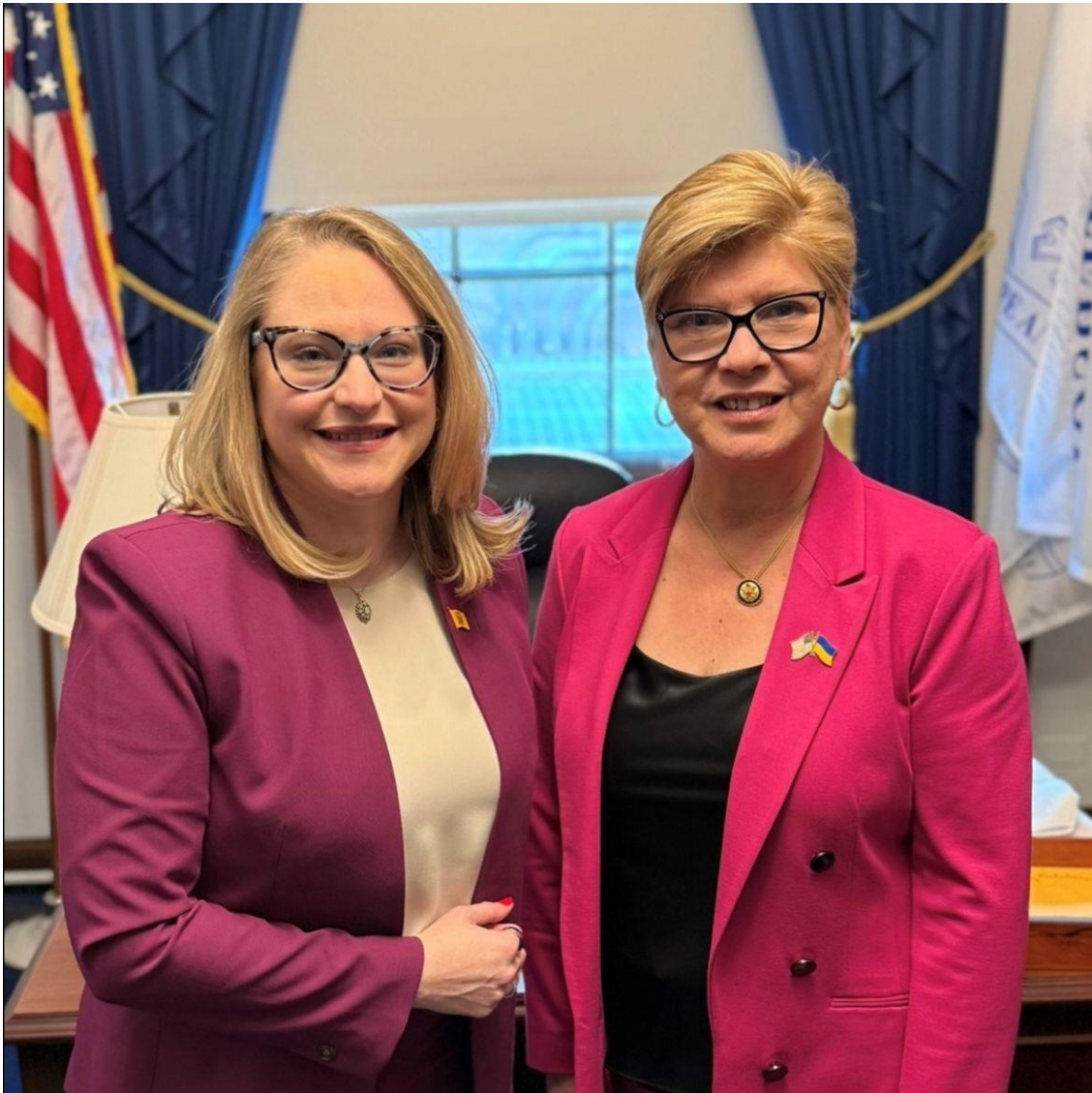
#MedicaidMatters #MedicaidSavesLives

Learn more at NJFamilycare.org



New Jersey's disability community held a powerful rally in Trenton to raise their voices to protect Medicaid. Human Services staff were proud to participate, including Commissioner Sarah Adelman who spoke to the crowd:

"Medicaid is a lifeline for 15 million Americans with disabilities. And 1.8 million New Jersey residents receive health care through Medicaid. I am able to take those facts to Congress to advocate for continued support, but facts are not enough. Congress needs to hear your stories and your voices. Your lived experiences make a difference."



U.S. Rep. Nellie Pou of New Jersey's 9th Congressional District welcomed Commissioner Sarah Adelman as her guest during President Trump's March 4 Joint Session.

Congresswoman Pou said she invited Commissioner Adelman to remind President Trump "of the devastating impact on the health care of countless Americans if his preferred policies are enacted."

"New Jersey gets almost \$10 billion annually to support Medicaid - that's 37% of all federal funding New Jersey receives," **U.S. Rep. Pou said.** "Republicans

want to slash that for more tax cuts for billionaires. I came to Congress to make life more affordable for New Jersey families. Republicans' plan does nothing to lower costs. I thank Commissioner Adelman for standing up for our state in the face of cruel Republican cuts and for her department's work to keep New Jerseyans healthy."

Human Services has [modeled](#) the impact of proposals put forward by Congressional leadership. These potential changes to Medicaid have significant potential effect on provider pay, eligibility and benefits.

Commissioner Adelman said she was honored to have been invited by Congresswoman Pou.

"I am deeply grateful for her unwavering commitment to protect healthcare for the 1.8 million residents who rely on New Jersey's Medicaid program,"

Commissioner Adelman said. "New Jersey's Medicaid program provides vital health coverage for nearly half of New Jersey's children and one-third of births, and provides essential services for working families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Reductions in federal funding would have devastating effects on these individuals. The loss of billions in funding would threaten access to necessary care, force hospitals and healthcare providers to shut their doors, and undermine the state's public health system. I am proud to stand alongside Congresswoman Pou and other members of the delegation in this effort to protect Medicaid and safeguard the health and wellbeing of all New Jerseyans."



Murphy Administration Awards \$10 Million to 43 Organizations for Housing Supports Provider Readiness Program

The [New Jersey Department of Community Affairs](#) and Department of Human Services awarded \$10.7 million in grant funding to 43 nonprofit organizations across the state through the [NJ FamilyCare](#) Housing Supports Provider Readiness Program.

"Stable housing is a critical social determinant of health," **Community Affairs Commissioner Jacquelyn A. Suárez said**. "This initiative represents an important step in New Jersey's comprehensive approach to addressing homelessness while improving health outcomes for our most vulnerable residents."

The grant program is part of a collaborative effort between Community Affairs' Office of Homelessness Prevention and Human Services' Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, which oversees Medicaid, to establish housing supports for [NJ FamilyCare](#) members experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness.

"People's basic needs are not siloed," **Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman said**. "Health and healthcare treatments are undermined when residents do not have stable housing. This program will create opportunities for organizations to deliver supportive housing services, which when combined with our affordable housing efforts, focuses on treating the needs of the whole person to improve outcomes, create healthier residents and stronger communities."

"By supporting community-based programs that offer housing-related services, we hope to promote our members' health and housing stability," [Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services](#) **Assistant Commissioner Gregory Woods said**.

"Health and housing are fundamentally interconnected—when people have stable housing, they are more likely to thrive."

Read more [HERE](#).

New Jersey Sues to Stop Trump Administration From Cutting Essential Public Health Funding

New Jersey joined 23 states and the District of Columbia in filing a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. for abruptly and illegally terminating nearly \$11 billion in critical public health grants to the states, including more than \$350 million in federal funding for New Jersey.

More than 300 contracts issued by the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) have been affected by these devastating cuts. The Department has issued notices to affected providers and agencies and will continue to be in touch as the situation evolves.

As part of the lawsuit, the states are seeking a temporary restraining order to stop the Trump Administration's cuts from taking effect.

"Instead of looking out for our health, the Trump Administration is putting us in harm's way," **Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin said.** "Cutting hundreds of millions of dollars isn't just illegal; it's also reckless. These damaging cuts will jeopardize services for people experiencing a mental health crisis or struggling with addiction, deprive patients at community health centers of the care they need, and make us more vulnerable to the spread of deadly infectious diseases. Stripping our state of \$350 million in Congressionally authorized funding violates the law, plain and simple. We are standing up for our residents and for public health with this lawsuit, and we will keep fighting to get this critical funding back."

Governor Phil Murphy decried the cuts on March 27.

“Recklessly terminating this funding demonstrates a complete and total disregard for the health and well-being of our friends, neighbors, and fellow Americans,”

Governor Murphy said. “And it will make it harder for our state to combat the deadly threat of fentanyl, which the Trump Administration has repeatedly claimed as a priority. We will do everything we can to restore this funding — including taking legal action — so we can keep the people of New Jersey safe and healthy.”

"This loss of funding will devastate vital mental health and addiction programs, jeopardizing services that support older adults with mental illness, provide life-saving teen mental health first aid, maintain the 988 crisis services, and support mobile recovery vans that connect individuals to treatment and aid in their recovery," **Commissioner Adelman said.** "These cuts will leave our most vulnerable populations without the lifelines they have come to rely upon and desperately need. Without these services, we risk losing lives to mental health and addiction crises that could otherwise have been prevented."

Read more [HERE](#).



Human Services Awards Grants to Implement Age-Friendly Community Enhancements

Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman today announced \$2.2 million in grants have been awarded to local governments and to community-based organizations to develop age-friendly initiatives and implement recommendations from the [New Jersey Age-Friendly Blueprint](#) to support the health and well-being of older New Jerseyans.

“Age-friendly” describes a global movement to make communities more welcoming and livable for people of all ages. [Released by the Department in May](#), the Age-Friendly Blueprint outlines age-friendly strategies and best practices to make New Jersey a place where people can live healthy lives, achieve financial security, be treated with respect, and have the ability to remain in their homes and fully engaged in their communities as they age.

“I am excited to see strategies from the Age-Friendly Blueprint being brought to life for the betterment of communities throughout the state. We all benefit from making

our communities more inclusive and livable for all residents, especially as we age. The initiatives and projects funded by these grants are hopefully only the beginning of communities working intentionally on improvements that will benefit residents at all stages of life,” **said Commissioner Adelman.**

“Everyone benefits from making communities more livable for people of all ages. I commend these organizations for identifying barriers and making improvements that will have a lasting impact. From expanding transportation services to funding home modifications and repairs to creating opportunities for people of all ages to connect, these initiatives will help build bridges, expand access to critical services, and make these communities better for all residents,” **said Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire.**

“We can all do our part to make the state more age-friendly. I encourage anyone interested in learning how to contribute to age-friendly efforts in the state to read the Blueprint and visit our [Age-Friendly webpage](#),” **said Division of Aging Services Assistant Commissioner Louise Rush.**

Read more [HERE](#).



New Jersey State Human Services Police Joins Premier Program to Safeguard New Jersey's Children

The [New Jersey State Human Services Police \(NJSHSP\)](#) is proud to announce its membership in the prestigious Missing Kids Readiness Program (MKRP), a groundbreaking initiative by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).

The program is designed to ensure that law enforcement agencies and 911 call centers are equipped with the necessary training, policies, and resources to respond effectively to missing, abducted, or sexually exploited children.

“Every second counts when a child is missing,” **Commissioner Sarah Adelman said.** “By joining the Missing Kids Readiness Program, we are reinforcing our commitment to the safety and well-being of New Jersey’s children. This partnership will enhance our ability to respond swiftly and comprehensively, ensuring that we have the necessary tools to protect our most vulnerable citizens.”

“This achievement represents a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to safeguard New Jersey's children,” **Police Director Timothy J. Gallagher**

said. “Our officers are now better equipped to handle these types of cases with the expertise and resources necessary to make a real difference. We are committed to providing the highest level of service to the families we serve.”

“Cases involving the safety of a child are among the most urgent,” **Chief of Police Brian Lee said.** “By ensuring our agency is prepared and trained to the highest standards, we can respond quickly and effectively when a child is at risk. This recognition is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our officers and staff, and our commitment to protecting the children of New Jersey.”

Read more [HERE](#).



Nearly 450 Home and Community-Based Workers Enrolled in Student Loan Redemption Program

Nearly 450 individuals are enrolled in the New Jersey student loan redemption program designed for healthcare, behavioral health, and social services professionals serving individuals in their homes and communities. These

professionals provide essential services to individuals with medical needs, mental health conditions, or disabilities.

Developed by the [Department of Human Services \(DHS\)](#) and the [Department of Children and Families \(DCF\)](#), and administered by the [Higher Education Student Assistance Authority \(HESAA\)](#), the initiative is part of New Jersey's ongoing effort to expand and strengthen its home and community-based services workforce.

The Home and Community-Based Services Provider Loan Redemption Program offers eligible workers up to \$50,000 in student loan relief in exchange for one year of service at an approved home- and community-based services provider agency or as a self-directed employee.

The program generated significant interest from 1,086 professionals who submitted applications for consideration. With \$17.5 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, 448 participants were approved to participate in the student loan redemption program. Among eligible individuals, participants were selected on a first-come, first-served basis.

"New Jersey's home and community-based services workforce plays a vital role in supporting our residents with the most need," **Commissioner Sarah Adelman said**. "Through this loan redemption program, we are investing in our dedicated professionals, helping them alleviate student debt while enhancing the care and services we provide to those with disabilities, mental health needs, and medical conditions. Through this loan redemption program and our broader workforce initiatives, we are creating a stronger, more sustainable home and community-based services workforce in New Jersey."

"We are thrilled to see such an enthusiastic response to this program," **Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire said**. "We are incredibly grateful for the dedication of professionals working in our State-funded programs and I hope this initiative enables them to continue serving in these fields for as long as possible."

“We are excited to support the behavioral health professionals who make a lasting impact on the lives of individuals impacted by mental illness and substance use disorders,” **Deputy Commissioner for Health Services Valerie Mielke** said. “This loan redemption program is a meaningful way to recognize their dedication and ensure they can continue providing essential services without the full financial burden of student debt.”

Read more [HERE](#).



“People with lived experience & passion are the biggest change makers,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman told this year’s class of Governor’s Fellows about her career path in health care policy as she answered questions about how the Fellows’ time in government can benefit New Jersey.



Commissioner Sarah Adelman joined business leaders at the [Chamber of Commerce Southern NJ](#) and spoke about the Governor's health and human services budget priorities and the impact proposed Medicaid cuts would have on health, healthcare providers, and businesses and their employees in southern New Jersey.

Commissioner Adelman is photographed with Christina Renna, CCSNJ President & CEO, and Ward Sanders, CCSNJ Health Issues Chair & President of the New Jersey Association of Health Plans.





Commissioner Sarah Adelman participated in Reach Out and Read and read to pediatric patients at Zufall Health.

Reach Out & Read and the clinicians at Zufall have provided thousands of developmentally appropriate books in multiple languages to New Jersey families at their child well visits. Reading from the earliest age helps ensure a healthy foundation and instills cognitive, social and emotional benefits.





As part of **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**, Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire, Deputy Commissioner for Operations/Chief of Staff Jonathan Chebra and Assistant Commissioner of the [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Jonathan Seifried thanked staff who support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.





Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire and [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried were honored to join [The ARC of Ocean](#) and Brick Mayor Lisa Crate to celebrate **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**.

Activities included a proclamation presentation, self-advocate Q&A, and a tour of the facility. For more information about the Division of Developmental Disabilities' services and programs, visit [HERE](#).

Slide Show
Slide
Timings
Show
Show Media Controls
Use presenter view
Set Up
Monitors

Kaylee McGuire Deputy Commissioner, DHS



Image: Deputy Commissioner Kaylee McGuire (Smiling woman with brown hair, wearing a white blouse and blue blazer who is standing next to the NJ State flag)

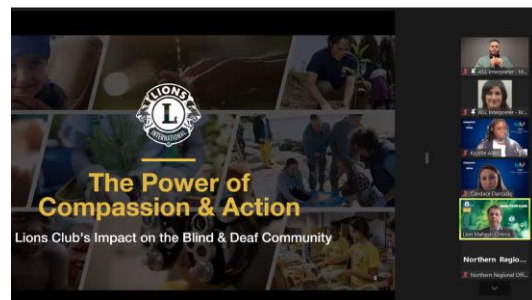
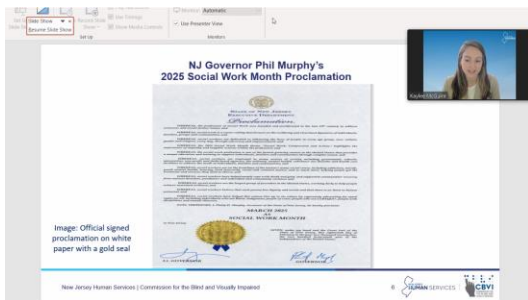
- Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services
- Former Senior Policy Advisor to Gov. Phil Murphy
- Former Health Policy Analyst – NJ State Assembly Offices
- 10+ Years Experience in Disability and Community Programs Leadership
- Committed to Making NJ More Inclusive and Age-Friendly



New Jersey Human Services | Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

5





In honor of **Social Work Month**, Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire presented a proclamation from Governor Phil Murphy during the [Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#)'s Social Work Awareness Month event titled "Social Work: Compassion + Action."



Human Services' [Office of Emergency Management](#) Director Joe Geleta addressed the [Red Cross](#) Disaster Training Institute on the value of our partnership in disaster response. Geleta received a recognition letter from Red Cross leadership on the value and long-standing collaboration between our two agencies.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:

Every person who lives in or visits New Jersey has rights regardless of their citizenship or immigration status.



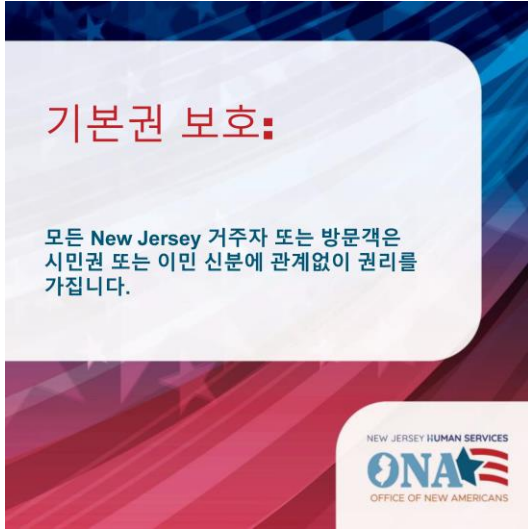
Understand your rights and responsibilities when interacting with immigration enforcement officers, primarily Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers. Learn more [HERE](#).

Conozca sus derechos y responsabilidades mientras interactúa con agentes del orden, principalmente ICE o agentes de la Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza de EE.UU.

CONOZCA SUS DERECHOS:

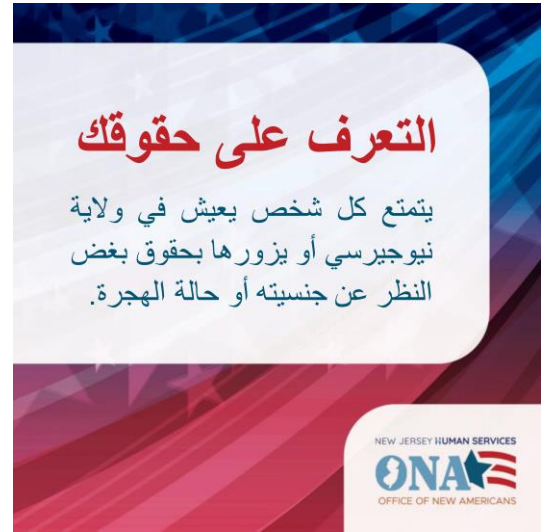
Cada persona que vive en New Jersey tiene derechos sin importar su estatus migratorio o ciudadanía.





이민국 법 집행 경관, 주로 이민세관단속국(Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE) 또는 미국 관세국경보호청(Customs and Border Protection, CBP) 공무원과 소통할 때 귀하의 권리와 책임을 이해하십시오.

أفهم حقوقك ومسؤولياتك عند التفاعل مع ضباط إنفاذ قوانين الهجرة، وفي المقام الأول ضباط إنفاذ قوانين الهجرة والجمارك (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE) أو الجمارك وحماية الحدود بالولايات المتحدة (Customs and Border Protection, CBP).





Konprann dwa ou yo ak responsablite ou yo lè w ap kominike avèk ajan imigrasyon yo, sitou ajan sèvis Imigrasyon ak Ladwàn (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE) oswa ajan Ladwàn Etazini ak Pwoteksyon Fwontyè (Customs and Border Protection, CBP).

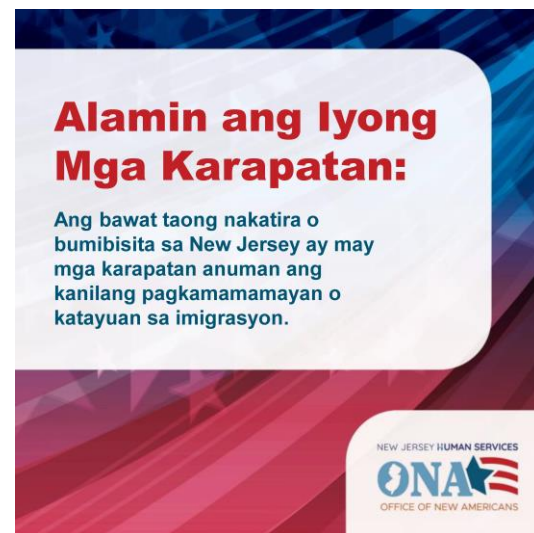
Entenda os seus direitos e responsabilidades ao interagir com agentes de imigração, principalmente agentes de Imigração e Alfândega (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE) ou Alfândega e Proteção de Fronteiras dos EUA (Customs and Border Protection, CBP).





Zrozum swoje prawa i obowiązki w kontakcie z funkcjonariuszami organów imigracyjnych, głównie funkcjonariuszami Urzędu Imigracyjnego i Celnego (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE) lub Urzędu Celnego i Ochrony Granic Stanów Zjednoczonych (Customs and Border Protection, CBP).

Unawain ang iyong mga karapatan at responsibilidad kapag nakikipag-ugnayan sa mga opisyal ng pagpapatupad ng imigrasyon, pangunahin sa mga opisyal ng Pagpapatupad ng Imigrasyon at Adwana (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE) o Proteksyon ng Adwana at Hangganan (Customs and Border Protection, CBP) ng U.S.



了解您的权利:

无论其公民身份或移民身份为何, 在 New Jersey 居住或访问的每个人都享有权利。



了解在与移民执法人员打交道时 (主要是移民和海关执法局 [Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE] 或美国海关和边境保护局 [Customs and Border Protection, CBP] 警官) , 您应有的权利和责任。

- ઇમિગ્રેશન એન્ફોર્સમેન્ટ અધિકારીઓ, મુખ્યત્વે ઇમિગ્રેશન અને કસ્ટમ્સ અમલીકરણ (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE) અથવા યુ.એસ. કસ્ટમ્સ અને બોર્ડર સુરક્ષા (Customs and Border Protection, CBP) અધિકારીઓ સાથે વાતચીત કરતી વખતે તમારા અધિકારો અને જવાબદારીઓને સમજો.

તમારા અધિકારો જાણો:

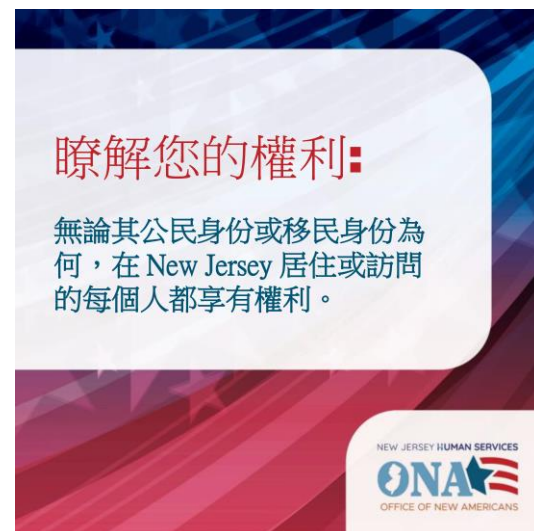
New Jerseyમાં રહેતી અથવા તેની મુલાકાત લેતી દરેક વ્યક્તિ તેમની નાગરિકતા અથવા ઇમિગ્રેશનની સ્થિતિને ધ્યાનમાં લીધા વિના પોતાના અધિકારો ધરાવે છે





Comprendre vos droits et vos responsabilités lorsque vous interagissez avec des agents chargés de l'application des lois sur l'immigration, notamment des agents du Service d'immigration et de douane des États-Unis (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE) ou du Service des douanes et de la protection des frontières des États-Unis (Customs and Border Protection, CBP).

瞭解在與移民執法人員打交道時（主要是移民和海關執法局 [Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE] 或美國海關和邊境保護局 [Customs and Border Protection, CBP] 官員），您應有的權利和責任。



**HIỂU RÕ CÁC QUYỀN
CỦA QUÝ VỊ:**

Tất cả những người sinh sống hoặc đến thăm New Jersey đều có một số quyền bất kể tình trạng công dân hoặc tình trạng nhập cư của họ là như thế nào.

NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES
ONA
OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS

Hiểu rõ các quyền và trách nhiệm của quý vị khi làm việc với các viên chức của cơ quan thực thi luật di trú, chủ yếu là các viên chức của Cơ quan Thực thi Luật Di trú và Hải quan (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE) hoặc Cơ quan Hải quan và Bảo vệ Biên giới Hoa Kỳ (Customs and Border Protection, CBP).

**Start a
Rewarding
Career**

NEW JERSEY
HUMAN SERVICES

Supported in part by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

JobsThatCare.NJ.gov

The direct care and service workforce is critical to individuals with disabilities and older adults. If interested in pursuing a rewarding career visit JobsThatCare.nj.gov to find jobs in your area and learn more.



Governor's March Proclamations





World Down Syndrome Day



Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



Social Work Month



Governor's March Proclamations



Problem Gambling Awareness Month



Senior Nutrition Month



Brain Injury Awareness Month



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025



Sarah Adelman
Commissioner



Kaylee McGuire
Deputy Commissioner
for Aging and
Disability Services



Valerie Mielke
Deputy Commissioner
for Health Services



Renee Burawski
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Mental Health
and Addiction Services



Johanna Calle
Director
Office of
New Americans



Dr. Bernice Davis
Executive Director
Commission for the Blind
and Visually Impaired



Lisa Gaffney
Director
Human Resources



Elizabeth Hill
Executive Director
Division of the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing



Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner
Division of
Family Development



Jacqueline Moskowitz
Director
Division of
Disability Services



Deborah Robinson
Director
Office of Program Integrity
and Accountability



Louise Rush
Assistant Commissioner
Division of
Aging Services

March 8th was
International Women's Day.
New Jersey Human Services
recognizes its women leaders
committed to providing supports
such as
child and health care, food
assistance and more.

Visit:

ChildcareNJ.gov NJChildsupport.org

NJFamilycare.org NJHelps.gov

NurtureNJ.NJ.gov



k-9 Logan



K-9
Appreciation Day



k-9 Hunter



k-9 Jupiter



k-9 Spike

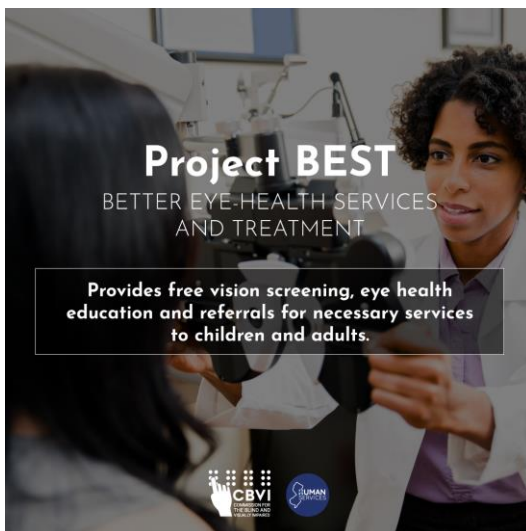


March 13th was **K-9 Appreciation Day!**

New Jersey Human Services is happy to highlight its [Human Services Police](#) K-9 Unit dogs who help our officers protect and serve the state's most vulnerable citizens.

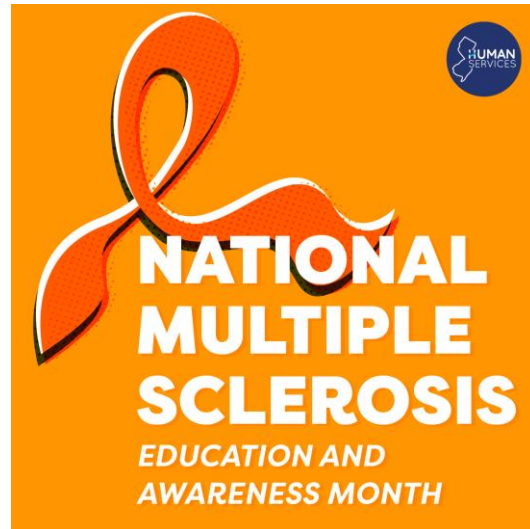
Many thanks to **Logan, Spike, Hunter and Jupiter** for their dedicated service!

March 1st was **International Wheelchair Day**. The [Division of Disability Services' Inclusive Healthy Communities \(IHC\) Grant program](#) helps communities across the state support the health & well-being of individuals with disabilities where they live, work, learn, and play. Learn more [HERE](#).



March was **Save Your Vision Month** and March 12th was **World Glaucoma Day**. The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired's [ProjectBEST program](#) works to save sight and restore vision whenever it is medically possible. Free eye screenings are happening across NJ at schools, medical centers, and other fixed sites. More information and screening locations [HERE](#).

March was **National Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month**. If you or someone you love has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, contact the [Division of Disability Services](#) at 1-888-285-3036 to learn more about services available through the Personal Assistance Services Program (PASP) or visit [HERE](#).



THE DDD RESOURCE TEAM PRESENTS THE 2ND ANNUAL:
CHOKING PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

National Choking Awareness Day is March 28, 2025

In-Person Trainings for Stakeholders

Two Sessions in March | 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Join Licensed Speech Pathologist staff for a comprehensive day of mealtime-related trainings at 5 Commerce Way, Hamilton, NJ. Live demonstrations on preparing modified diet textures and liquid consistencies will occur. Learn about resources available from our Choking Prevention Unit to assist in preventing choking incidents, including individualized consultations, tips, and trainings.

Please utilize the links below to register for live, in-person trainings. Space is limited.

- **Tuesday, March 11, 2025**
- **Thursday, March 27, 2025**

Trainings will include:

- Managing Dysphagia in the Community
- Diet Textures
- Liquid Consistencies
- Mealtime Risks of Regular Diets
- Mealtime Supervision



Virtual Workshops

Can't make it to a live-in-person training? No problem! There will also be virtual workshops throughout March. In addition to the topics above, additional trainings will include:

- Managing Dysphagia in the Community
- The Choking Risk of Regular Diets
- Mealtime Supervision
- Diet Textures
- Liquid Consistencies
- Mealtime Safety and Documentation
- Adaptive Mealtime Equipment
- Choking IRs & Choking Checklist Webinar
- Intro to Pica
- Prevention of Food Grabbing
- Gastronomy Tube Care
- Danielle's Law Refresher (including English and Spanish sessions)

Choking Round Table Discussion
(invite only)

Select Residential Providers and Support Coordination Agencies will be invited to join a group discussion to share experiences with the prevention of choking events. This interactive dialogue will allow attendees to share best practices regarding mealtime safety, discuss staffing needs and challenges, and explore the intersect between providers and SCAs.

Please see our website for a complete list of Choking Prevention Awareness Month events and registration links:
www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/individuals/healthsafety/

Contact ddd.resourceteam@dhs.nj.gov if you have additional questions.

The NJ Human Services' [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Resource Team was dedicated to **Choking Prevention Awareness Month** by highlighting choking risks and prevention for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, regardless of diet texture or consistency. Provider staff trainings were held in March. More information [HERE](#).

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