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NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2025



Human Services to Offer Limited Reopening of the Child Care Assistance Program Application in December

Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced that the Department will start the process of reopening the [Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\)](#) for a limited number of slots, with the goal of allowing applications for new children in January. Reopening the application will extend this vital assistance to 75,000 children.

The opportunity to apply will be first issued to families who fall into the program's priority groups and who complete a registration form starting in December. The limited number of available slots will be offered to priority groups (in accordance with state regulation) that include families with children experiencing homelessness, children with special needs, and children from households with very low incomes. Due to the limited funding available, not all applicants who fall into a priority group and who are invited to apply may be granted assistance.

"For most New Jersey families, child care isn't a luxury, it's a necessity. The child care assistance program is a vital economic lifeline that helps pay for high quality early childhood education and allows parents to continue their careers. That is why reopening applications to maximize utilization for this program is so important. We encourage families to complete the registration form as soon as it becomes available," **Commissioner Adelman said.**

"Child care is an essential expense that families cannot avoid, and we recognize the strain that it can place on household budgets. By prioritizing the most vulnerable, we are ensuring that assistance reaches those who need it most, providing relief to families working hard to manage their expenses," **Deputy Commissioner for Social Services Michael J. Wilson said.**

CCAP helps income-eligible parents who are working, in school, or in job training to pay for child care. The program stopped accepting new applications as of August 1, 2025, due to limited funding. The pause in applications affected

only new enrollees; children who were already enrolled and being served by the program continue to receive assistance.

“We encourage families to review their eligibility on our website and sign up to be notified when the registration form will be available. Families can also find information about their local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies, which are available to all New Jersey families and can refer those who are not CCAP-eligible to affordable child care services,” **Division of Family Development Assistant Commissioner Natasha Johnson** said.

Read more [HERE](#).



UPDATE

With the end of the federal shutdown, the Murphy Administration does not expect any upcoming disruptions in the availability of SNAP benefits.

New Jersey issued full November 2025 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to eligible households on the morning of Friday, November 7. SNAP recipients are encouraged to check their Families First EBT cards at **NJFamiliesFirst.com** or by calling **(800) 997-3333** to confirm their balances.



New Jersey Human Services issued full November Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ([SNAP](#)) benefits on Friday, November 7, five days before the federal government shutdown ended. The Department acted quickly after Rhode Island U.S. District Judge John J. McConnell Jr. directed the federal government to provide full November SNAP benefits.

“We acted immediately in accordance with Judge McConnell’s ruling to ensure these delayed benefits were available as soon as possible,” **Commissioner Sarah Adelman said**. “This unprecedented delay left hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans without food for their families. While it shouldn’t have come to this, I was grateful for the court’s intervention requiring the federal government to reopen this necessary food assistance.”

Despite subsequent conflicting court rulings and ongoing discussions in Congress, New Jersey SNAP consumers were able to use their benefits without disruption.

The federal government shutdown finally ended on Nov. 12, and the Murphy Administration does not expect any upcoming disruptions in the availability of SNAP benefits.

“I am deeply grateful to our government partners, schools, nonprofits, food banks and thousands of volunteers,” **Commissioner Adelman said** of the effort across New Jersey to provide resources and assistance during the shutdown. “The incredible outpouring of support is a clear demonstration of the Jersey Spirit – we take care of each other. But make no mistake - there will be a lasting impact for many families, as well as our food banks and pantries. Our spirit of generosity is still needed.”

Governor Murphy declared a State of Emergency due to the then-suspension of SNAP benefits on Oct. 31, and other state agencies offered assistance in November.

The [Department of Agriculture](#) gave food banks \$4 million to support the purchase of New Jersey grown products, the [New Jersey Economic Development](#)

[Authority](#) provided \$900,000 to support food banks, and Governor Murphy [deployed](#) the National Guard to support food banks. The [Department of Children and Families](#) provided assistance to former foster youth affected by the shutdown. The [Office of the Attorney General](#) took legal actions to protect New Jersey consumers.

“Access to nutritious food is fundamental to every person’s health, dignity, and well-being, and we will always act decisively to protect and support those who depend on these vital programs,” **Commissioner Adelman said.**

As always, SNAP recipients can check their Families First EBT cards at NJFamiliesFirst.com or by calling (800) 997-3333 to confirm their balances.

Meanwhile, food pantries and community kitchens can be found via NJ 2-1-1 [here](#).



The [Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)'s American Sign Language update regarding full November SNAP benefits.

👂 Visit njsnap.gov for more information.





Amid the federal government shutdown, Commissioner Sarah Adelman joined [Mercer Street Friends](#), [Fulfill NJ](#), and the [Community Food Bank of New Jersey](#), and [Fulfill](#) to help with food distributions. Deputy Commissioner for Social Services Michael J. Wilson and Deputy Chief of Staff Jade Bechelli joined the [Food Bank of South Jersey](#) and the [Camden County Government Board of Commissioners](#) for a food distribution at [Camden County College](#)'s Blackwood campus.



NJ Human Services' Central Office, [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#), [Human Services Police](#), [Office of Program Integrity and Accountability](#), [Office of New Americans](#) and [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) held a drive collecting food and supplies for [Interfaith Rise](#), which supports refugee families in New Jersey.

As the holiday season approaches, Human Services teams across all divisions have begun running various drives to support multiple organizations across New Jersey.



WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY

Menstrual Hygiene & Diaper Benefit Program



Human Services Report Highlights Impact of State Support to Help Families Afford Diapers and Hygiene Products

Human Services announced new research shows eligible families found the Work First New Jersey Menstrual Hygiene and Diaper Benefit Pilot Program helpful to afford these products, even as they indicated the benefit could be improved by extending eligible age groups and increasing funding levels. Over the course of the pilot program, which launched in January and ended in October, more than 18,000 residents used these novel benefits to purchase diapers and hygiene products.

"There is a real and persistent need in our communities for support in meeting basic necessities, and every family deserves the dignity of having their essential hygiene needs met," **said First Lady Tammy Murphy.** "This pilot program demonstrated that even a modest benefit for menstrual products and diapers can ease financial stress and offer meaningful support to New Jersey families."

“Diapers and feminine hygiene products are not luxury items – they are basic necessities essential to the health of women and babies. We thank Majority Leader Ruiz, her colleagues in the Legislature, and Governor Murphy for authorizing this pilot program,” **said Commissioner Sarah Adelman.** “At the conclusion of this pilot program, study results show that, while modest, the benefits made a meaningful difference in addressing affordability challenges New Jersey families face. It also highlights the ongoing need to support families who are struggling to afford basic necessities amid the rising cost of living.”

“The positive outcomes of the pilot and the responses we received demonstrate that the need for assistance to cover basic expenses remains high for many families in New Jersey. As living costs continue to rise, financial pressure is mounting, forcing some to make difficult decisions, like cutting back on meals to afford diapers. This is not sustainable without more to support these families,” **said Deputy Commissioner for Social Services Michael J. Wilson.**

“Diapers alone can cost a family about \$100 a month. This is a recurring expense that cannot be budgeted away. As one participant put it, many families have to rely on every penny to survive, which is disheartening. I encourage individuals and families who may be struggling financially and could benefit from our assistance programs to visit our [website](#),” **said Division of Family Development Assistant Commissioner Natasha Johnson.**

Learn more [HERE](#).



Human Services Virtual Budget Listening Session

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 | 1 p.m.

All are welcome to offer verbal or written testimony to inform the Department of Human Services budget for 2026-27.

To accommodate as many speakers as possible, verbal testimony is limited to 3 minutes.

Sign language and captioning will be provided. Please note any other accommodation requests when signing up.

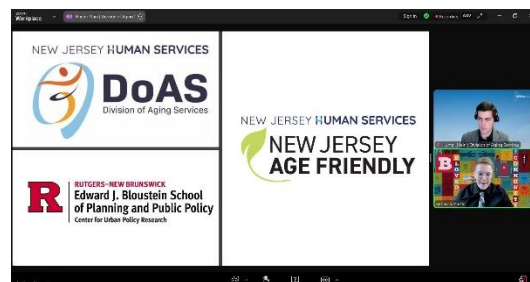
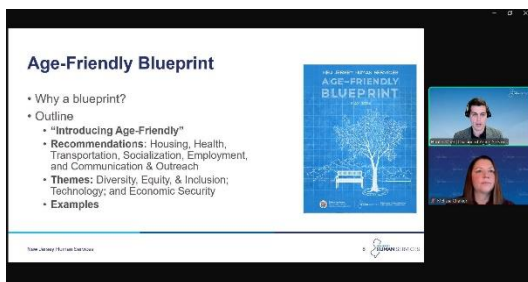
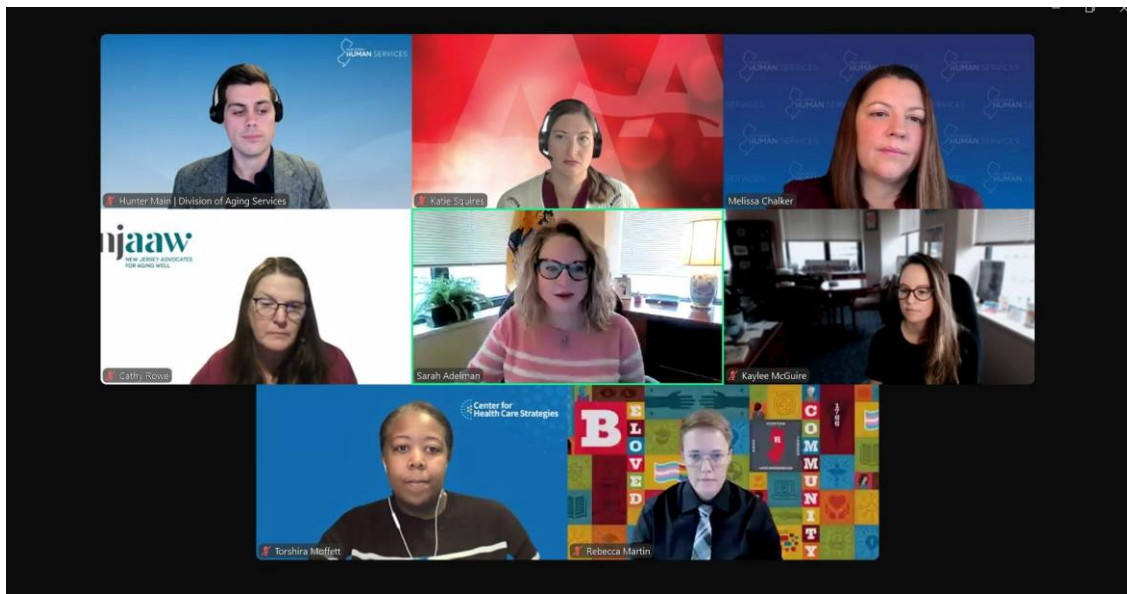
The **NJ Human Services Virtual Budget Listening Session** for 2026-27 is December 2nd at 1 p.m.

If you are interested in testifying, visit [HERE](#).

Written testimony encouraged.



Commissioner Sarah Adelman joined [BioNJ](#) CEO Debbie Hart and Erika Kerber, Esq., to discuss how New Jersey Human Services and its Medicaid program, [NJ FamilyCare](#), are implementing and preparing for the impacts of HR1. This was part of the [BioNJ Patient Advocacy Summit](#).



Human Services celebrated [NJ's Age-Friendly](#) efforts and successes. The virtual event featured welcoming remarks by Commissioner Sarah Adelman, highlights from age-friendly grantees, and a panel discussion on how leaders and community partners can continue building on this important work.



Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services
Kaylee McGuire joined the [The Arc of New Jersey](#) and the [Arc of Somerset County](#)
at their transition achievement center at [Raritan Valley Community College](#) to
highlight Family Caregiver Month.



In honor of **Veterans Day**, Southern Region [NJ Department of Human Services](#) [police](#) personnel continued their tradition of preparing breakfast for the veterans residing at [Veterans Haven South](#).



[Human Services Police](#) central region officers hosted Pancakes with POPO at the Trenton [New Jersey Department of Children and Families](#) Regional School.

This is a homegrown community policing event where HSP helped both prepare and share a pancake breakfast with DCF Regional School students.



Congratulations to [NJ Human Services Police](#) Officer Shamel Kozrosh and Officer Andrew Nebbia who successfully completed the Morris County Police Academy. Officer Kozrosh and Officer Nebbia will be assigned to our Northern Region Command. Welcome to the Human Services Police Force!



Human Services' [Divisions of Disability Services](#),
[Mental Health and Addiction Services](#), [Family Development](#) and

Deaf and Hard of Hearing joined together to walk at Quakerbridge Plaza to highlight **Diabetes Awareness**.



Governor's November Proclamations



Family Caregivers Month



Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias Awareness Month



November 23rd – 26th was **Hunger And Homelessness Awareness Week.**

To highlight, we revisit this behind-the-scenes look at the [Food Bank of South Jersey](#) and an interview with President and CEO Fred Wasiak who discusses their amazing work to fight food insecurity in South Jersey.

New Jersey also [highlighted](#) its many efforts addressing homelessness and food security.

"During Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, we reaffirm that access to food and housing is essential to every person's health, safety, and dignity," Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. "At Human Services, our mission is grounded in the belief that stability begins with meeting these most basic needs. Whether through nutrition assistance, emergency housing supports, or other needed human services we act with

compassion, urgency, and accountability to ensure individuals and families can move forward with security and hope.”



November 16th was
**National Information and Referral
Services Day.**

Nationally Certified Information and Referral Specialists are available during regular business hours to provide information and assist with navigating state and county services available to individuals with disabilities.

Learn more [HERE](#).

November was **Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month**. All people with diabetes are at risk for vision loss and blindness from diabetic eye disease which often has no early symptoms.

For information about the [Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired's](#) programs and services, visit [HERE](#).



November was **Family Caregivers Month**. A time to recognize and honor family caregivers across New Jersey and draw attention to the many challenges facing family caregivers. For helpful caregiver information, visit the [Division of Aging Services'](#) Caregiver Resources page [HERE](#).

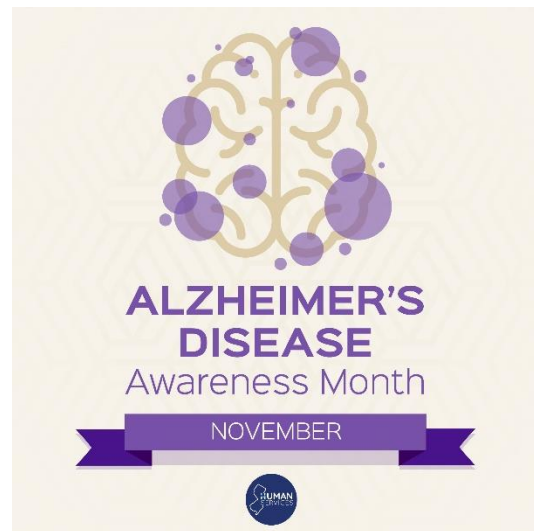
In honor of **Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month**,

we were happy to highlight the

[Division of Aging Services'](#)
[Statewide Respite Care Program.](#)

Respite care provides caregivers a temporary rest from caregiving.

Call **1-877-222-3737** or visit our website [HERE.](#)



On **Veteran's Day** Human Services honored all those men and women who serve and have served for their bravery and service to our country.

If you want to talk to someone who understands your life experiences and challenges, New Jersey [Vet2Vet](#) is a 24/7 helpline from the [Department of Military and Veterans Affairs](#) and [Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care](#).

The helpline features peer counseling for veterans, members of the Air/Army National Guard, and family members.

Call **1-866-838-7654 (1-866-VETS-NJ-4)** and speak to someone who understands and can help. Reach out for free, confidential support.

HAPPY Thanksgiving

FROM NJ HUMAN SERVICES



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

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