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NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2024

# NALOXONE SAVES LIVES

## Naloxone Direct

Naloxone is now directly available to eligible agencies and providers via online ordering at no cost.



## **NJ Departments of Human Services and Education Make Overdose-Antidote Naloxone Accessible to All School Districts**

Department of Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman and Department of Education Acting Commissioner Kevin Dehmer announced that all New Jersey school districts can now obtain naloxone at no cost through Human Service's [Naloxone DIRECT program](#). This announcement coincided with First Lady Tammy Murphy's visit to Bayside High School in Virginia to participate in a bipartisan discussion on fentanyl awareness with First Lady of Virginia Suzanne Youngkin. During the visit, the First Ladies participated in an opioid overdose and naloxone education course and attended roundtable discussions with students, staff and parents.

"Every community in our state has felt the impact of the opioid epidemic. That is why we have prioritized a whole-of-government approach to put lifesaving tools and resources in reach for all New Jerseyans. From harm reduction to education initiatives, we are taking action to put an end to this public health crisis so that we can create a healthier New Jersey for generations to come," **said First Lady Tammy Murphy**. "We know that preparation is key and that having naloxone readily available can mean the difference between life and death. If providing our schools with this safe, fast-acting overdose reversal medication saves just one life, it will have been worth it. I thank Commissioner Adelman and Acting Commissioner Dehmer for their leadership on this important issue."

"Addiction doesn't discriminate and the heartbreaking reality is overdoses can happen in any setting. By supplying naloxone to schools, we are giving a second chance to those suffering from addiction who visit, work, or learn in a New Jersey school," **said Commissioner Adelman**. "We thank the Department of Education for their partnership in this important initiative. By

working together, we will continue to save lives of those impacted by the opioid crisis. We urge all school districts to contact their [County Office of Education](#) to obtain life-saving naloxone at no cost.”

“Naloxone is a safe, easy to use, fast-acting and effective nasal spray medication to reverse an opioid overdose and save someone’s life. If a student, staff member, or visitor experiences an opioid overdose on school grounds, having naloxone available allows for rapid intervention, which can be life-saving,” **said Human Services Deputy Commissioner for Health Services Valerie Mielke.** “Every minute counts when it comes to opioid overdose response and by having naloxone on hand at schools, we help to provide a safe and supportive school environment.”

“Our driving goal has always been to save lives and we are pleased to offer naloxone at no-cost to all schools throughout the state. It is critical that school personnel can access this life-saving tool whenever and wherever they may need it,” **said Human Services Assistant Commissioner Renee Burawski, who oversees Human Services’ [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#).** “Through this collaborative work, together we can continue to turn the tide in our efforts to combat the opioid epidemic.”

Read more [HERE](#).



**Division of  
Developmental  
Disabilities**

## NJ Human Services Awards Grants to Support Community-based Housing for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced that Human Services has awarded over \$3.4 million in grants to develop community-based housing to meet the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are transitioning out of nursing homes and other qualified institutions.

“This funding will provide highly-specialized support to meet the complex needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are transitioning out of nursing facilities, adding to the nearly 28,000 adults with IDD that Human Services serves in the community today,” **Commissioner Adelman said**. “Empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to transition from institutions to community living isn’t just a change in location—it’s about supporting their independence and their right to make their own choices. We look forward to working together with the selected community providers on this initiative.”

Grants were awarded to the following community-based service providers:

- [Allies, Inc](#), which was awarded \$960,000;
- [Arc of Morris](#), which was awarded \$720,000;
- [Arc of Somerset](#), which was awarded \$240,000;
- [Avidd Community Services of NJ Inc.](#), which was awarded \$480,000;
- [Heart to Heart](#), which was awarded \$540,000;
- [Hope Christian Services](#), which was awarded \$240,000; and
- [Merakey NJ Inc.](#), which was also awarded \$240,000.

“This initiative reflects our long-standing commitment to ensuring individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to community-based alternatives to institutional care,” **Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire said.** “We are continuing our goal of meeting the needs of all individuals and providing comprehensive and quality services, while helping individuals thrive in the communities in which they live. As always, we want to help individuals live independently and successfully.”

The housing is expected to serve 57 persons, providing each their own bedroom. Funding may be used in a variety of areas including fire suppression systems, accessibility modifications, accessible vehicles, furnishings, and staff training/development costs.

“Providing individuals and families with the choice to live outside of a nursing home or other institution is so very important,” [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) **Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried said.**

“This initiative marks another step forward in empowering persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination over their lives.” Read more [HERE](#).

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## **Governor Murphy Launches Garden State Community Outreach Campaign to Connect Residents with Cost Saving and Life Changing Programs**

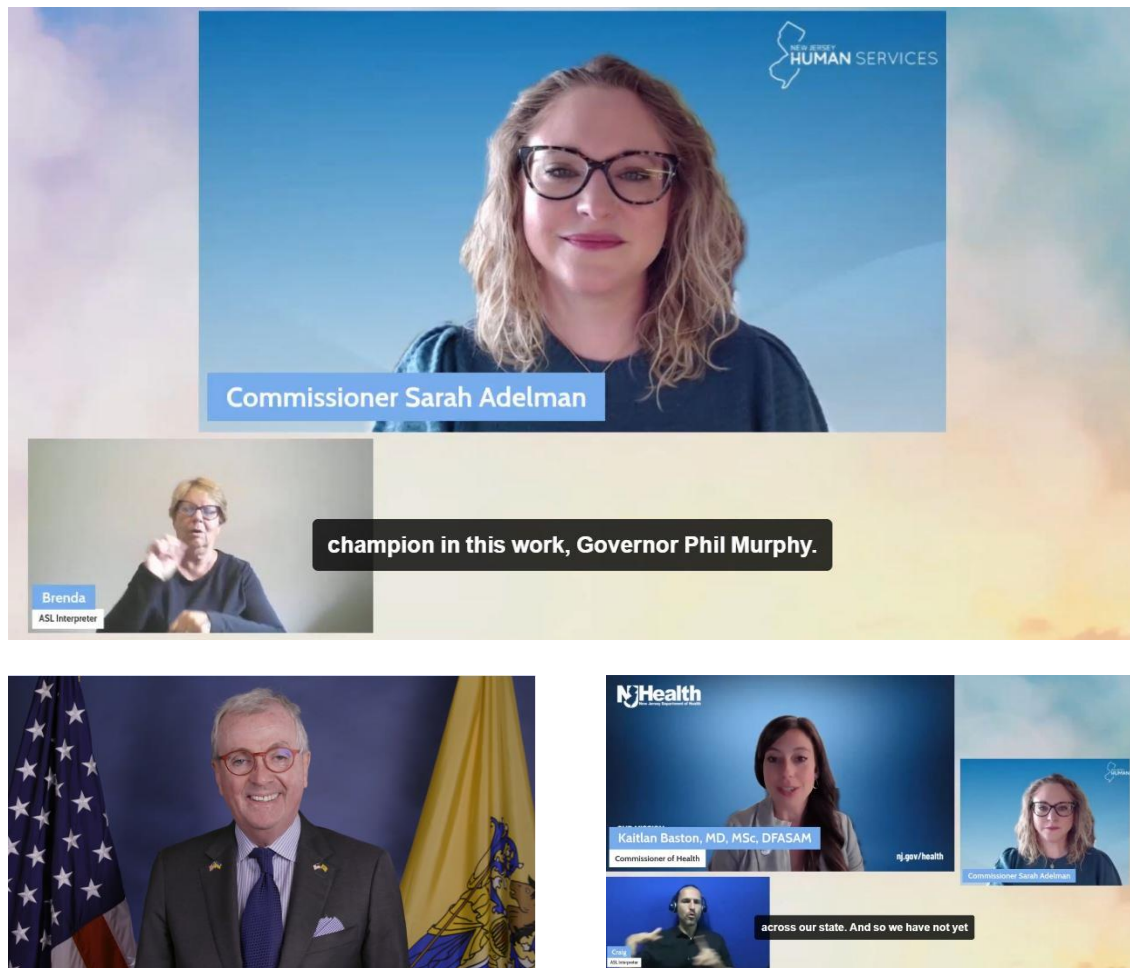
Governor Phil Murphy launched the Garden State Community Outreach to ensure eligible New Jerseyans and their families are aware of state resources available to help them thrive, many of which are relatively new, and provide assistance in applying for or accessing them.

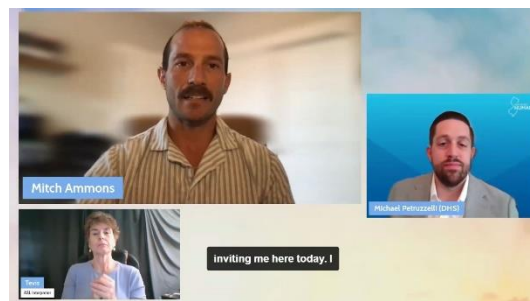
“From day one, my Administration has been committed to building a stronger New Jersey where every family has equal access to opportunities that will help them thrive. Whether it’s through affordable high-quality health care, access to nutritional food, assistance with utility payments, or historic levels of tax relief, we are leveraging these vital resources to build more resilient communities,” **Governor Murphy said.** “Amidst the hustle of daily life, Garden State Community Outreach is designed to help ensure that every family is not only aware of these programs, but understands how to access them.”



As part of the comprehensive awareness campaign, [a landing page has been created](#) to help residents identify which programs they are eligible for and apply for them.

Garden State Community Outreach also includes a team of canvassers conducting door-to-door outreach statewide and providing application assistance for a range of available resources. Visit [HERE](#) to learn more.





NJ Human Services' Annual Virtual Opioid Summit was held on September 18th. This year's theme was: **'Building Hope for the Future.'** The all-day conference featured panels, workshops and keynote speakers.





We collaborated with the [New Jersey Department of Transportation](#) to raise awareness and to offer a hand to those who need it the most through the new [9-8-8 Suicide Crisis Lifeline](#). Support is always available.

**Call or text 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](#)**

Click above to watch the message.

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[Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried joined “[Think Tank with Steve Adubato](#)” to discuss the [transition from school to adult life](#) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Click above to watch the episode.

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Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire, Assistant Commissioner of [Aging Services](#) Louise Rush, and Assistant Division Director Melissa Chalker spoke at the



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group at the [Rutgers Cooperative Extension](#) of Cape May County about the many programs and services the Department offers to help older residents maintain independence.

To learn more about senior services in NJ, visit [HERE](#).

For a comprehensive guide detailing the programs and services the Department offers visit [HERE](#).



Commissioner Sarah Adelman spoke at [SciTech Scity](#) at the [Liberty Science Center](#) to discuss the future of value-based care and digital health technology.



The [Division of Disability Services](#) joined [REV UP New Jersey](#) and the [Alliance Center for Independence](#) at the State House to celebrate the power of the disability vote and encourage people to register to vote.

To register to vote in New Jersey please visit the New Jersey Division of Elections [HERE](#).

For more info about the Division of Disability Services, visit [HERE](#).

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Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire was a guest at the [New Lisbon Developmental Center](#) as they held a Renaissance Fair for residents and their families on September 21st and 22nd.





The Division of Aging Services participated in the Bergen County Annual Senior Festival at Van Saun County Park in Paramus. DoAS staff handed out information about programs and services available to older New Jerseyans. To learn more, visit [HERE](#).

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[The Office of Emergency Management](#) delivered the Pathways to Preparedness Training to the senior community of Wellington Manor in Pennington. The training provides Disaster Preparedness information and was developed in coordination with the NJ Statewide Independent Living Council. If interested in receiving this training, please contact the Office of Emergency Management at 609-631-4363 or email [eocesf6@njsp.gov](mailto:eocesf6@njsp.gov).





Staff from the [Division of Aging Services](#) were out in the community at the [Cherry Hill Senior Festival](#). DoAS staffed a resource table and spoke to visitors about our multiple programs and services for older adults in New Jersey.



Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire provided remarks at the grand reopening of the Children's Aid and Family Services' Woodlea Community Home for adults with IDD in Ridgewood as they celebrate 125 years of service to the community. Kaylee was alongside



Shavonda Sumter, CEO of [Children's Aid and Family Services](#) and County Commissioners, including their Chairwoman Germaine Ortiz, Mary Amaroso, Tracy Silha Zur.



## Division of Disability Services Art Sale 🎨💰



The [Division of Disability Services](#) hosted an art sale featuring artwork created and sold by the clients of our [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#).

Art for sale included paintings, t-shirts, ceramic bowls and more. Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Staff Jonathan Chebra, Deputy Chief of Staff Justin Rodriguez, Executive Director of the [Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) Elizabeth Hill and other DHS executive staff visited the site.



[Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried spoke at a forum held by the [Steve Sweeney Center For Public Policy at Rowan University](#) on housing support options for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Visit [here](#) to learn more.

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**ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW EXPERIENCING  
VISION LOSS THAT AFFECTS THE ABILITY TO:**

*Read prescription bottles? Travel safely? Work?  
Maintain your home? Care for yourself and your family?*

**Join Us at Our Blindness Awareness Month 2024  
Community Outreach Fair**

**Thursday, October 10, 2024  
1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Cheesequake State Park  
Hooks Creek Lake Pavilion  
300 Gordon Rd., Matawan, NJ 07747**

A Day Full of Information, Resources, Exhibits, Demonstrations,  
Fun Activities, Food Trucks, Music, and MORE!



**For Further Information, email [AskCBVI@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:AskCBVI@dhs.nj.gov)  
or call 973-648-3333 or 1-877-685-8878 (toll-free).**



**State of New Jersey**  
Phil Murphy, Governor  
Tahesha L. Way, Lt. Governor



**Department of Human Services**  
Sarah Adelman, Commissioner



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Join us on October 10th for the [Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired's](#) Blindness Awareness Month Community Outreach Fair at Hooks Creek Lake Pavilion at [Cheesequake State Park](#). The event is free!

“We encourage blind, deafblind, and visually impaired individuals and their loved ones, especially those aged 55 and older experiencing some vision loss, to join us at our community outreach fair at Cheesequake State Park to learn about the wide range of services and programs available through the state,” **Commissioner Sarah Adelman said**. “This free event plays a crucial role in empowering blind and visually impaired individuals by providing valuable information, resources, and connections that enhance quality of life and foster greater independence.”


“This event will provide an opportunity for people who are blind, deafblind, or visually impaired and their family members to learn about the resources and services available to them. It will also allow older adults experiencing some level of vision loss to gain awareness on how to be proactive in maintaining their eye health and independence,” **Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire said**. “We look forward to seeing blind and visually impaired residents and their loved ones enjoy a day of empowerment, engagement, and fun.”

“Blindness Awareness Month is a time to recognize and support the crucial efforts being made throughout the state for the over 259,000 individuals living with blindness or severe vision loss,” **Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Executive Director Dr. Bernice Davis said**. “As we honor Blindness Awareness Month with this community outreach fair, it is important to note that


the work of CBVI is year-round and we are dedicated to ensuring blind, deafblind, and visually impaired individuals can fully participate in society.”


Information tables, resources, exhibits, food trucks and more will be available!

Additional Blindness Awareness flyers available [HERE](#).




## Governor's September Proclamations







**Recovery Month**



**Suicide Prevention Week**



**Direct Support Professionals Week**



**Falls Prevention Week**



Sunday, September 8th was the first annual 988 Day! 988 Day is a national initiative dedicated to raising awareness about the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and emphasizing the importance of mental health and suicide prevention. To learn more, visit [HERE](#).

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# — WORLD — **ALZHEIMER'S** — DAY —

*September 21*



World Alzheimer's Awareness Day was September 21st.

The [Division of Aging Services](#)' Alzheimer's Adult Day Services Program offers assistance, based on the income, toward attending one of the participating day services centers. For more information and to see eligibility, visit [HERE](#).

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# FALLS ARE PREVENTABLE!

Here are some things you can do to reduce your risk of falling:



## EXERCISE

Engage in regular physical activity, especially balance and strength-building activities.



## MEDICATION

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if medications you take, or alcohol consumption, increase your risk of falling.



## HOME SAFETY

Most falls happen in the home! Identify and correct falling, slipping, or tripping hazards.



## VISION/HEARING

Have regular vision and hearing checks.



Falls Prevention Awareness Week was September 23rd - 27th.

Check out our [Falls Prevention resource page](#) including a

Home Safety Checklist & Falls Prevention Links.

Share with someone who might be at risk for falling and injuring themselves.



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
**DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

## Are You Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Need Services?



- ▶ **Mental Health Videophone Helpline:**  
Call **973-870-0677**



- ▶ **Healthcare Resources:**  
Visit [nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/education/healthcare/](https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/education/healthcare/)



- ▶ **Information Regarding Sign Language Interpreters or Real-Time Captioning:**  
Visit [nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/caption/](https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/caption/)



- ▶ **Equipment Distribution Program:**  
Visit [nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/edp/](https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/edp/)



- ▶ **Hearing Aid Programs:**  
Visit [nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/hearingaid/](https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/hearingaid/)



- ▶ **Language Instruction Services, Ages 0-5:**  
Visit [nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/leveling/](https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/leveling/)



- ▶ **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Sensitivity Training:**  
Visit [nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/education/dst/](https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/education/dst/)

**For more information about our services, call 609-588-2648, 609-503-4862 vp, or email [ddhh.communications2@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:ddhh.communications2@dhs.nj.gov)**



State of New Jersey  
Phil Murphy, Governor | Tahesha L. Way, Lt. Governor



Department of Human Services  
Sarah Adelman, Commissioner

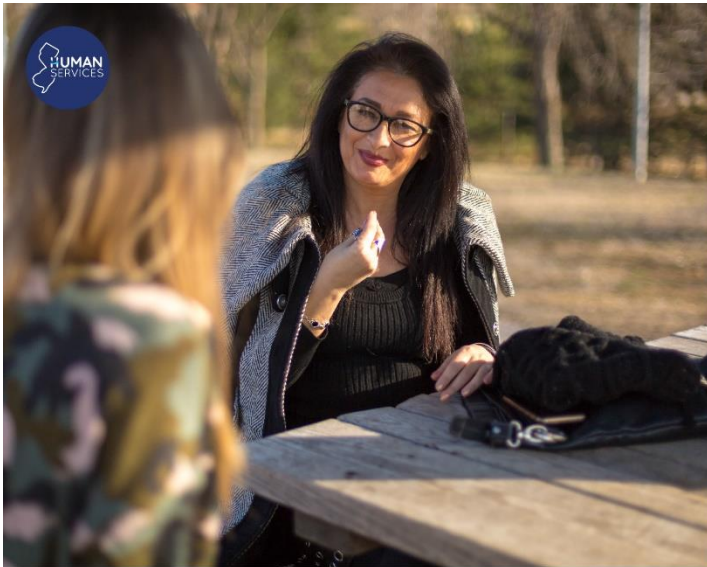


September is Deaf Awareness Month.

Are you deaf or hard of hearing and looking for services? The Division of the

Deaf and Hard of Hearing is here to help! Get linked to ASL interpreters,  
hearing aid programs,  
emotional support and more.

Check out our full list of resources [HERE](#).



International Day of Sign Languages was September 23rd. Early access to sign language and services is vital to the growth and development of a deaf individual. DDHH offers language acquisition services through an ASL Deaf Language Associate. Visit [HERE](#) to learn more about this program.

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• SEPTEMBER IS •

# SPINAL CORD INJURY

AWARENESS MONTH





September is Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month.

The Personal Assistance Service Program (PASP) through the [Division of Disability Services](#), supports individuals with physical disabilities so that they can remain active in their community after injury.

For more on this program, visit [HERE](#).



September is National Preparedness Month. NJ residents with disabilities or special needs should sign on to Register Ready to make sure responders can serve them in an emergency.

For more information on this program, visit [HERE](#).

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

FOLLOW US!

