



Biden-Harris Administration Visits New Jersey to Highlight Mobile Medication-Assisted Treatment



Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman joined Regina LaBelle, Acting Director of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and Tom Coderre, Acting Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), to tour the mobile methadone bus operated jointly by Human Services, the Atlantic County Jail and the John Brooks Recovery Center.

They also participated in a roundtable at John Brooks Recovery Center with providers and partners, as well as graduates of the treatment program.

The June 28 visit highlighted a new Drug Enforcement Administration [rule](#), effective July 28, to streamline registration requirements for opioid treatment programs that want to include a mobile component.

“We’re very excited by the DEA’s announcement because here in New Jersey we know this works,” Acting Commissioner Adelman said. “The mobile medication-assisted treatment van run jointly by New Jersey Human Services, Atlantic County and the John Brooks Recovery Center serves individuals both during and after incarceration, saving lives and leading to decreased recidivism. Medication-assisted treatment works, and treatment is often most effective when it is brought directly to the people who need it. With this new rule removing a critical barrier to treatment for individuals with substance use disorder, we look forward to seeing mobile treatment programs expand across New Jersey and the country.”

[Read more](#)

Governor Murphy Signs Legislative Package to Address New Jersey's Opioid Epidemic



Reaffirming his commitment to end New Jersey's opioid epidemic, Governor Phil Murphy recently signed a comprehensive legislative package into law to address the state's opioid crisis through overdose prevention and recovery resilience. The six bills focus on overdose prevention by expanding low-barrier access to naloxone and bridges to medication assisted treatment; strengthens public health data; and builds resiliency among children and families impacted by the opioid crisis.

"Governor Murphy and the Legislature are committed to saving lives by reaching those in need and removing barriers to treatment, and that includes making life-saving opioid antidotes as accessible as possible," Acting Commissioner Adelman said. "We've worked to get the opioid overdose antidote naloxone into as many hands as possible, distributing 62,000 free doses to residents at more than 300 pharmacies and giving more than 70,000 free naloxone doses to police, EMS, homeless shelters, libraries, reentry organizations and county mobile outreach units. Naloxone saves lives, and these new laws will help reinforce these efforts to get it into as many hands as possible in as many ways as possible."

Before the bill signing, Acting Commissioner Adelman and Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke toured the Prevention Resource Network's Harm Reduction Center in Asbury Park.

[Read more](#)



As always, [844-ReachNJ](https://www.844reachnj.org/) is our 24-hour-a-day, 7 day-a-week addiction help line where people who have Substance Use Disorder - or their friends and family - can get immediate assistance and support from live, New Jersey-based, trained addiction counselors. Don't hesitate to call.

NJ Human Services Announces Increased Hearing Aid Assistance & Enhanced Deaf and Hard of Hearing Equipment Distribution

DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM
Providing specialized telecommunications and home safety equipment to New Jersey residents with low incomes.

GOVERNOR MURPHY'S BUDGET INCREASED REIMBURSEMENT FOR HEARING AID PURCHASES

Individuals can now be **reimbursed up to \$1,000 for hearing aid costs**, \$500 per hearing aid, per calendar year.

Acting Commissioner Adelman announced that the Department under the new state budget signed by Governor Murphy increases hearing aid assistance and enhances the equipment distribution program for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

The new investments make it possible to boost the Hearing Aid Assistance to the Aged and Disabled ([HAAAD](#)) program and the [Equipment Distribution Program](#), both of which are offered by Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH).

"These enhanced services provide critical supports to deaf and hard of hearing individuals," Acting Commissioner Adelman said. "The new state budget approved by the Legislature and signed by Governor Murphy continues to strengthen services and programs to deaf and hard hearing New Jerseyans by expanding access to services and increasing supports for individuals with hearing loss."

"The new state budget enhances two critical deaf and hard of hearing services that will make a meaningful impact in the lives of New Jerseyans living with hearing loss," Deputy Commissioner Elisa Neira said. "Increasing hearing aid reimbursements will put dollars back into the pockets of individuals paying for hearing aids out of pocket and expanding the equipment distribution program will ensure that more individuals have access to life saving adaptive equipment."

"Too many members of our deaf and hard of hearing community struggle to afford hearing aids and devices that are vital to their quality of life," Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Executive Director Elizabeth Hill said. "The additional funding ensures that those in need receive critical supports and services that allows them to live independent and empowering lives."

[Read more](#)

Human Services Delivers Extra July Food Assistance Benefits to 435,000 Households



The 435,000 New Jersey households who receive food assistance through the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP) received \$76.9 million in total extra benefits in July. Human Services has been providing NJ SNAP households with maximum benefits since March 2020 when the pandemic began.

Under a change implemented in April by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), New Jersey households that had already been receiving the maximum available SNAP benefit are now also eligible for the temporary extra assistance. A 15 percent increase in SNAP benefits also remains in effect through September.

Human Services has now distributed \$846.2 million in supplemental monthly SNAP payments to households since March 2020.

[Learn more about NJSNAP](#)

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Appropriating \$100 Million for Child Care Provider and Workforce Assistance



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** to learn more.

Governor Phil Murphy on July 1 signed legislation appropriating \$100 million in American Rescue Plan funds to support child care providers and the child care workforce through a number of initiatives, including providing

grants for facilities improvements, business technical assistance, workforce development supports, and a study of the child care landscape in the state.

The Department of Community Affairs will make \$15.5 million available to the Department of Children and Families (DCF), \$54.5 million available to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA), and \$30 million available to the Department of Human Services (DHS).

“Safe, affordable and reliable child care in New Jersey is vital to our economy and for working families throughout our state, especially working moms who have been disproportionately affected during the pandemic,” Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “New Jersey’s child care providers were on the front lines during the pandemic, and the Murphy Administration has been committed to supporting them even before the pandemic. This funding will bolster our efforts, and make clear once again that we consider child care providers to be critical to the success of our state.”

Primary sponsors include Senators Shirley K. Turner and M. Teresa Ruiz, and Assemblymembers Lisa Swain, Andrew Zwicker, Vincent Mazzeo, Joanne Downey, Roy Freiman, Gabriela M. Mosquera, Shanique Speight, and Speaker Craig J. Coughlin.

[Read more](#)

NJ Human Services Announces College Scholarships for Four Blind & Visually Impaired Students



Highlighting the achievements of people who are blind and visually impaired, the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) has announced college scholarships for four students during an event hosted in partnership with the Trenton Thunder minor league baseball organization.

The four students were awarded scholarships and the virtual ceremony was held in partnership with the Trenton Thunder to highlight blind, deaf-blind and visually impaired awareness.

“Being blind, deaf-blind or visually impaired should never hold an individual back from accomplishing their dreams – and these students are examples of that for all New Jersey,” Acting Commissioner Adelman said. “We are so proud of their achievements and look forward to this next generation helping create an even better New Jersey in the years ahead.”

“It’s exciting to honor these students and celebrate them and their accomplishments,” Human Services Deputy Commissioner Neira said. “I look forward to their continued success, and seeing how they use their tremendous talents to help shape a more inclusive and diverse New Jersey.”

“These students have a bright future ahead of them and are destined for great accomplishments,” CBVI Executive Director Dr. Bernice Davis said. “I’m thrilled to announce these scholarships and look forward to their continued success.”

[Read more](#)

World Refugee Day



Human Services [marked](#) World Refugee Day on June 22 by joining the International Rescue Committee and New Jersey resettlement agencies to discuss how New Jersey through Human Services is working to strengthen programs and services to ensure that refugees are welcomed and achieving their full potential as they contribute back to their respective communities. New Jersey is committed to keeping the state a beacon of hope to the world.

Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Helen Keller was one of the most accomplished, respected and renowned Americans who was deafblind; and

WHEREAS, more than 2.8 million people living in the United States have a combined loss of vision and hearing and may be considered deafblind; and

WHEREAS, approximately 75,000 New Jersey residents have such a combined loss of vision and hearing; and

WHEREAS, today, people who are deafblind are attending college, joining in social activities, managing their everyday lives, and actively participating in their communities through employment, civic engagement and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate and necessary to publicize the accomplishments, abilities and potential of our fellow citizens who are deafblind or have severe vision and hearing loss and to recognize Helen Keller as a guiding example of courage, hope, determination, ability and achievement for other individuals who are deafblind, as well as the larger community; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey supports the full participation of all deafblind Americans in society, which maximizes their opportunities for an empowered, productive life in the community of their choice;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

JUNE 27 THROUGH JULY 3, 2021

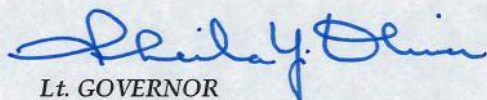
AS

HELEN KELLER DEAFBLIND AWARENESS WEEK

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this tenth day of June in the year two thousand twenty-one, the two hundred forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States.


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR

Governor Murphy [proclaimed](#) June 27 to July 3 to be Helen Keller, Deaf-Blind Awareness Week. Helen Keller was one of the first deaf-blind Americans to break the mold and prove that no disability can prevent a person from living their best life.

Despite being deaf-blind, she went on to become an author, a lecturer, and the first deaf-blind recipient of a Bachelor of Arts degree. Then, in 1908, it was 27-year-old Helen Keller who visited New Jersey and gave testimony to the state Legislature that resulted in the establishment of the New Jersey Commission for the Blind in 1910.

[Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#)
[Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)

SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

Register Ready



It's always a good time to think about Register Ready, New Jersey's voluntary special needs registry for disasters that allows residents with disabilities or access and functional needs - along with their families, friends, caregivers and associates - to provide information to emergency response agencies so they can better plan to serve them in a disaster or other emergency. The information is confidential and will not be available to the public. It will be held securely and only used for emergency response and planning. Learn more [here](#).

Child Care for those Experiencing Homelessness

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
for information.



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

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