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LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR NEW JERSEYANS DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

EDISON — The latest newsletter from Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) highlights some of the essential aspects of the various special programs designed to help poor and other New Jerseyans during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The bilingual publication, “Looking Out For Your Legal Rights,” is accessible online at www.lsnjlaw.org.

The newsletter notes that since the options for people facing mortgage payment or foreclosures on their homes or other problems are constantly in flux, it might be best for people to call the LSNJLAWSM Hotline at 1-888-576-5529 for the latest information.

There is a detailed explanation about the difference between federal backed mortgages and those privately owned, as well as how it is possible to obtain a temporary reprieve—known as forbearance—from eviction or foreclosure.

Another article notes that a recent federal change in the SNAP or food stamp program has increased benefits for all financially eligible household by 15 percent. It is possible this increase may continue in effect beyond this June. Further information is available by calling the LSNJLAWSM Hotline.

Another program, known as the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer or P-EBT, is in the process of being set up to help families buy groceries when their students, who normally qualify for free school lunches, are learning remotely from home.

There is a key article focusing on how landlords under the law cannot refuse to rent or discourage people from renting a facility because they plan to use a Covid-19 rent assistance payment or some other governmental help program as payment.

Among other articles is a piece detailing how victims of human trafficking may qualify for a form of immigration relief known as a “T Visa.” Under certain circumstances, it allows a

victim of sex or labor trafficking to remain in the country for up to four years. More about this program is available from the LSNJ PROTECT project at 1-844-576-5776.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of six independent non-profit corporations and has been providing free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people through offices in all 21 counties for more than 50 years. Since its inception, LSNJ has provided representation in more than 2.6 million cases.

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