

Legal Services of New Jersey
100 Metroplex Drive at Plainfield Avenue
P.O. Box 1357
Edison, New Jersey 08818-1357

Contact: Harvey Fisher
Office Phone: 732-529-8430
Cell Phone: 908-616-9941
Email: hfisher@lsnj.org

FOR RELEASE AT WILL

April 2022

LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR THE HOMELESS

EDISON — The latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) centers on emergency assistance available for poor people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The bilingual publication, “Looking Out For Your Legal Rights,” may be viewed online at www.lsnjlaw.org.

The key article in the newsletter notes that people who qualify for the state’s Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) help programs may be able to receive assistance with rent arrears, utility payments, shelter placement and other housing-related needs.

One example of such help is the state’s Temporary Rental Assistance (TRA) program, which provides payment for a part of the rent for a limited time. Essentially, recipients contribute 30 percent of their household income toward rent, with government picking up the remainder of the “fair market rent” for the area.

In most cases recipients of emergency assistance will need to provide proof they are in a housing emergency situation, and why it could not have been avoided.

Generally, emergency benefits are limited to 12 months over the recipient's lifetime, but extensions are possible from county welfare agencies. The article provides details about the application and hearing process, as well as appeals for reconsideration.

Help with seeking emergency assistance and related matters is available by calling the Legal Services of New Jersey's toll-free hotline at 1-888-576-5529.

Meanwhile, with National Crime Victims' Rights Week — April 24-30 — fast approaching, the newsletter also offers articles focusing on what people can do if their identity is stolen and the thief committed crimes in the name of the victim, or the thief used the swiped Social Security information to get a bogus tax refund.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of six independent nonprofit corporations and has been providing free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people through offices in all 21 counties for 55 years. Since its inception, LSNJ has provided representation in more than 2.7 million cases.

#####