

Legal Services of New Jersey
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FOR RELEASE AT WILL

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**ON THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF:
NEW JERSEY’S SAFETY NET SERVICES CAN BE LIFE-SAVING**

EDISON — As hundreds of thousands of low-income New Jerseyans stare down the threat of hunger, the latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) centers on the major safety net programs that have served people in poverty for years in the Garden State.

The debate over federal funding and the distribution of food stamps to more than 800,000 residents under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for November remains, at least temporarily, in flux. For now, Legal Services, like other organizations, has been providing SNAP recipients with advice on various locations for food pantries and similar food bank places.

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

The State’s public assistance programs are designed to support individuals and families with low incomes in meeting basic needs. Eligible recipients can receive help with food, cash and other necessities. Eligibility varies for programs but typically depends on income, household size, expenses, immigration status other factors.

As previously noted, the SNAP program provides monthly benefits for allowed grocery purchases.

Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) covers three programs known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance (GA) and Emergency Assistance (EA).

TANF provides cash and support services for low-income families with dependent children, while GA offers the same for low-income single adults or couples without dependent children. The EA program provides short-term support to TANF and GA qualifiers experiencing

housing emergencies or at risk of homelessness. It can help with rent, mortgage, utility payments, motel or shelter costs, and more.

It is recommended the best way to apply for NJ SNAP and WFNJ is to go online at www.mynjhelps.gov. Applications must be accepted the same day they are submitted.

The following food banks can direct low-income New Jerseyans to local food pantries:

- Fulfill in Neptune at www.fulfillnj.org
- NORWESCAP in Phillipsburg at www.norwescap.org
- Mercer Street Friends in Ewing at www.mercerstreetfriends.org
- Food Bank of South Jersey in Pennsauken at www.foodbanksj.org
- Community Food Bank of New Jersey in Hillside at www.cfbnj.org
- Community Food bank of New Jersey in Egg Harbor Township at www.cfbnj.org

The November newsletter also includes an article recalling the 2012 devastation of superstorm Sandy and advice for how to better prepare for such catastrophes. Another article explores the problems people face when unapproved intimate photos of them are made public, especially in revenge-like situations.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, provides free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people.