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**LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON FEDERAL CHANGES THAT
MAKE IT HARDER FOR IMMIGRANTS TO QUALIFY FOR FOOD STAMPS**

EDISON — The current newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) advises many immigrants in the state that continuing to receive SNAP benefits may no longer be likely.

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

In addition to pinpointing the crucial qualifying changes for immigrants in the long-standing food stamp program, the publication highlights labor law protections for farmworkers.

Congress last year enacted a mega funding law—H.R. 1 and related legislation—that, in part, narrowed the status qualifications immigrants needed to get SNAP. In the past, immigrants were eligible to apply if they met one of 15 categories. The new law scaled back those categories to just four: U.S. citizens and nationals; Lawful Permanent Residents/Green Card holders; Cuban and Haitian entrants; and those residing in the U. S. under what’s known as the Compact of Free Association.

Some immigrants are subject to a five-year waiting period before they can apply for SNAP, but there are some significant exemptions. Full details of the exemptions are detailed in the newsletter, along with additional resources.

H.R. 1, often referred to by supporters as “One Big Beautiful Bill,” was enacted last July 4, and embraces many changes for government tax and spending plans, and social assistance programs. The changes to SNAP were effective immediately, while Medicaid changes are expected near the end of this year or early next.

The publication’s other main article focuses on workers’ rights in general and, more specifically, those relating to farmworkers. It covers subjects pertaining to housing facilities;

health and safety factors, such as the availability of nearby bathroom and hot and cold-water facilities; pesticide controls; work injury precautions; travel expenses; and more.

Farmworkers are told, “Sometimes your employer or others may tell you information about the law that is not true or tell you, improperly, not to tell health providers that your injury is work-related. To make sure that your employer is not breaking the law, it is important that you understand your legal rights in the field.”

Farmworkers also are warned to be aware of so-called “notarios” who offer to sell legal advice even though they are not lawyers.

For assistance, LSNJ’s Workers’ Legal Rights Project is available at www.lsnjlawhotline.org or 1-888-576-5529.

The article explores the major aspects of child support regulations, including what steps a parent can take in seeking an end to support when the child no longer is in the “sphere of influence” of the parent. In most cases that is when the child reaches the age of 18, is no longer in school, has no plans to attend college, and is not disabled. The potential for such “emancipation” is particularly strongest if the child has moved out of the custodial parent’s home and is working.

It is noted that a 2025 law eliminated almost all foster care situations from child care. Further, as explained, there are different specific procedures—a court “motion” or “application”—to modify child support decisions.

New Jersey law spells out the circumstances in which child support ends automatically: when the child dies, marries, enters the military, or reaches the age of 19 unless an exception applies. Other topics and questions dealt with in the article include:

- How to request continued support after the age of 19
- Exceptions allowing support to continue past the age of 19 and 23
- What if child support is still owed when the support order terminates?
- What if the support order includes more than one child?

Also included in the publication is an article explaining that a person convicted of a serious sex or labor trafficking crime could have the offense vacated if it occurred as a result of being the victim of the trafficking.

Another piece reminds people between 18 and 64 to check to see if they come under new federal time limits and work requirements for receiving SNAP benefits.

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