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NEWSLETTER | November 2023

**NJ Human Services & The Boggs Center on
Developmental Disabilities Launch [Jobs That
Care New Jersey](#) to Highlight Direct Care Job
Opportunities**



New Jersey Human Services and [The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities](#) have launched the Jobs that Care New Jersey website highlighting the availability of jobs providing direct supports for individuals with disabilities and older adults.

People can search the new site to find jobs as:

- Direct support professionals who support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to participate in home and community life while promoting well-being; and
- Certified home health aides who assist adults ages 60 and older, and children and adults with disabilities or chronic medical conditions, to live in their homes by supporting daily activities.

As the website evolves, additional jobs in the direct support and service workforce will be added. Human Services has also awarded funding to an advertising firm to design a promotional campaign in the coming months to highlight the website and recruit direct care workers to the home and community-based care field.

“Bolstering our caregiving workforce has long been one of my top priorities, and while we have invested in these critical jobs through wage increases and supports, we’ve now made it easier to connect jobseekers to these essential job opportunities,” Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “I encourage anyone interested in pursuing a rewarding career in the care economy to please visit this new site to learn more and find jobs in your area. This work makes a real and meaningful difference in people’s lives. Please take a look and learn more about these jobs that care.”

“It is the relationship between direct support professionals and people with disabilities that makes a crucial difference for the well-being and thriving of the person using services, and the satisfaction direct support professionals gain from making a difference in someone’s life,” Boggs Center Executive Director Deborah Spitalnik, PhD, said.

“These are essential jobs to support individuals with disabilities and older adults to live healthy and engaging lives in communities across our state,” Human Services Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire said. “Whether it’s helping with personal needs, health and home care or community activities, workers in these careers truly matter. They support our friends, our family, our neighbors. They change lives.”

The website includes explanations about direct support professionals and certified home health aides, including videos of actual direct support professionals and the individuals they support. It also includes links to job listings, and information for employers.

“Direct support professionals and certified home health aides have fulfilling jobs that enhance the lives of others,” said Human Services [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried. “These jobs are vital and anyone interested should visit this new site.”

“This workforce is critical to the lives of so many individuals,” [Division of Aging Services](#) Assistant Commissioner Louise Rush said. “The demand for these jobs is growing fast and will continue to increase in years to come, so please don’t hesitate to visit the site to learn more.”

“The direct support workforce plays a critical role in assisting people with disabilities to live healthy, active, and valued lives in our communities,” Boggs Center Associate Director Colleen McLaughlin. “The Boggs Center is grateful to the Department’s commitment to the recruitment, retention, and recognition of this essential workforce. We are excited to have partnered on this important initiative, and we look forward to job-seekers using the website to learn about and find career opportunities in the field.”

[Learn more](#)

2023 NJ Human Services Budget Listening Session



Caregiver Appreciation

Caregiver Resources



Human Services marked November's Family Caregivers Month - and the November 13th Caregiver Appreciation Day - by highlighting caregiver resources available [here](#) through the [Division of Aging Services](#).

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire and [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried, below, celebrated Family Caregivers Month by visiting [The Arc of Monmouth](#) to recognize the contributions of family caregivers and present a proclamation from Governor Murphy.



Improving Maternal and Infant Health

Nurture NJ

is committed to reducing infant and maternal mortality and morbidity and ensuring equitable maternal and infant care among women and children of all races and ethnicities.

Vision: To become the safest and most equitable state in the nation to deliver and raise a baby

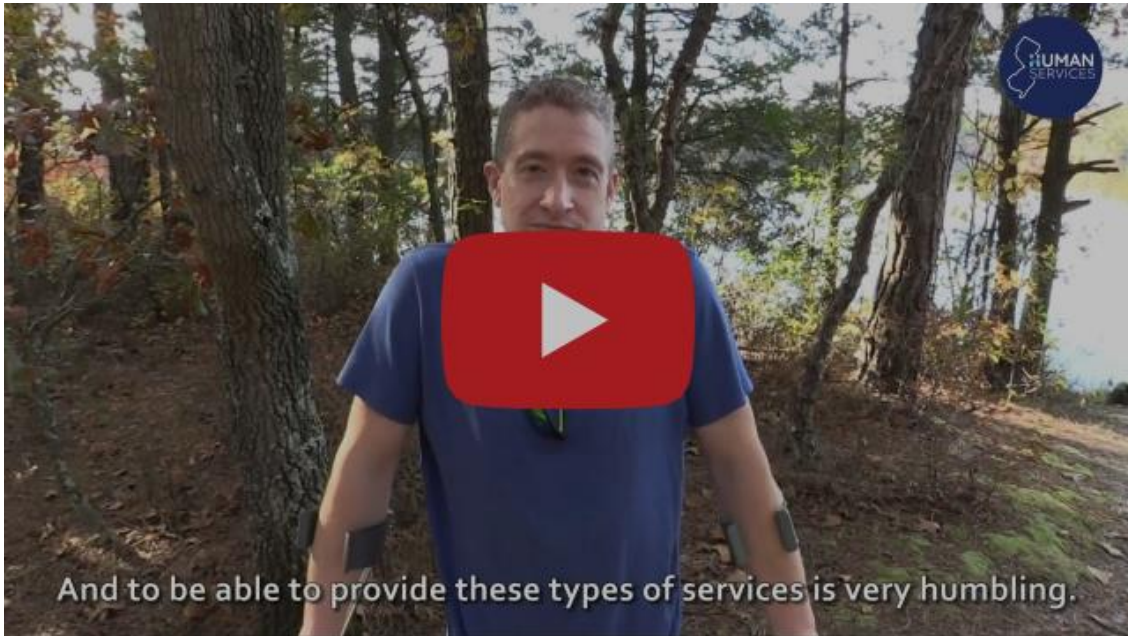




Deputy Commissioner for Health Services Lisa Asare spoke at this year's Title V Maternal and Child Health Federal-State Partnership Meeting about New Jersey's efforts to improve maternal and child health and health equity through traditional and non-traditional partnerships.

Deputy Commissioner Asare highlighted First Lady Tammy Murphy's [Nurture NJ](#) initiative and interdepartmental collaborations.

Combating Social Isolation



And to be able to provide these types of services is very humbling.

Human Services shares a glimpse inside the walking tour of Atsion Recreation Area, highlighting the successful implementation with the [Pinelands Preservation Alliance](#) of the [Division of Disability Services'](#) [Inclusive Healthy Communities](#) grant funding.

(DESCRIPTION) Logo, New Jersey Department of Human Services On a fall day, the speaker and others ride electric wheelchairs on a forest trail beside a lake. Jessica Lax, Disability Rights New Jersey.

(SPEECH) The world usually isn't made for people with disabilities first. People with disabilities are usually an afterthought. It is nice for the disability community at large to feel included and actually be included. We are here today to celebrate one of our inaugural grantees, Pinelands Preservation Alliance. They have been working to make places such as Atsion and other places in the Pinelands more accessible to people with disabilities. And we're just really excited to showcase their work.

(DESCRIPTION) Carleton Montgomery, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

(SPEECH) Well, we're here today at Atsion recreation area, which is a terrific place to come and visit for anybody. There's a beautiful lake where you can paddle. And there's an excellent trail system. Particularly the red and the blue trail here are designed and maintained for accessibility. So they work quite well with wheelchairs or people who use a walker or who are perhaps less steady on their feet. With the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, I'm the Access Nature Disability Advocate. The

work that we've been able to accomplish with the improving trails, enhancing trails to make them more inclusive and accessible, working on making kayaking programs and activities more inclusive, it's important work because this is public land, so everybody has investment in this land here. And just to be able to provide these types of services is very humbling.

(DESCRIPTION) Sarah Adelman, Commissioner, NJ Human Services

(SPEECH) 20% of our residents have a disability, so without question, we need to be prioritizing equity and access. We want to make sure that our public places, our parks, our natural resources across the state are available for everyone to enjoy.

(DESCRIPTION) Octavio Maldonado signs in ASL while an interpreter speaks.

(SPEECH) But it was really nice for me as a deaf person to be able to walk next to somebody, maintain eye contact, and communicate with them. You're out here actually doing what you're supposed to be doing. You're not worried about the trees hitting you, you're not worried about the roots and the stumps. And you can really focus on enjoying the nature and your friendship or who you're walking with. And I just love this accessibility, it's so great.

(DESCRIPTION) He follows the group on the trail, conversing in ASL with a woman that walks next to him.

Language First



[Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) Executive Director Elizabeth Hill, right, joined up with the [Campaign for Language & Literacy Excellence](#) at the [Language First](#) annual conference.

The Language First Conference is a chance for speech-language pathologists, teachers of the deaf, educational interpreters, educational audiologists, American Sign Language (ASL) specialists, and other professionals who utilize an ASL-English bilingual approach to gather and learn best practices for working with Deaf and hard of hearing children.

Aging Services Outreach

Learn how to Protect Yourself and how to report
CFR changes.
Important updates for 2023
Learn about what's new for Medicare and
changes as a result of the Inflation Reduction
Act.
*Senior Transportation of Knowledge
Involving residents 60 years of age and older
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NJ SAVE DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES

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- Financial Literacy
- Health & Wellness
- History
- Language
- Math
- Music
- Reading
- Science
- Self-Defense
- Travel
- Writing





The [Division of Aging Services](#) joined a Woodbridge conference on prescription and Medicare savings and fraud alerts, hosted by the Woodbridge Township Division on Aging at Maple Tree Senior Center. Aging Services staff delivered presentations on [SHIP](#) and [NJSave](#).

Assistant Commissioner Mielke Honored



[Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke was honored by [Integrity House](#) with its Excellence in Public Service Award in recognition of her commitment to supporting mental health and addiction services in New Jersey.

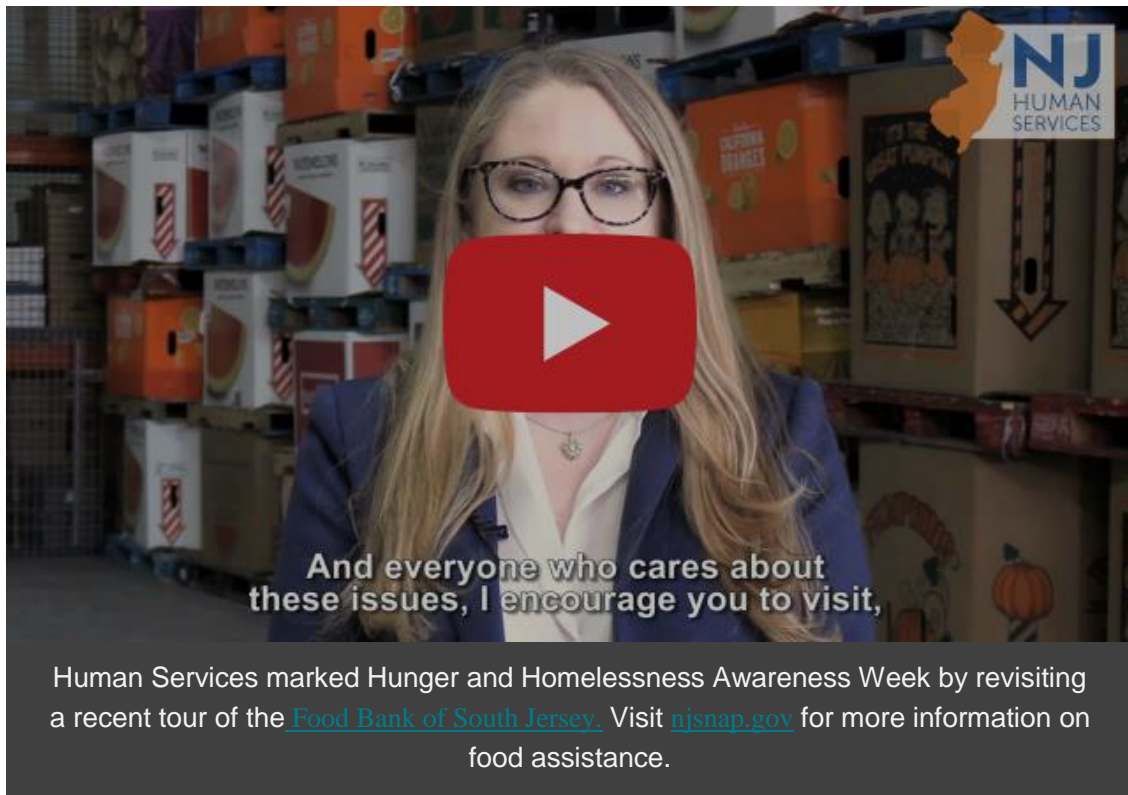
Mitzvah Day



Commissioner Sarah Adelman joined the [Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey](#) for its 26th annual Mitzvah Day. The commissioner joined more than 150 young volunteers from Bergen, Passaic and Hudson counties.

"In difficult times, acts of service for others not only builds and restores communities, it improves individual mental health and wellbeing," Commissioner Adelman stated.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

A video thumbnail featuring Commissioner Sarah Adelman, a woman with long blonde hair and glasses, wearing a blue blazer over a white shirt. She is standing in a food bank aisle, surrounded by stacks of boxes, including one labeled 'WATERMELON'. A large red play button is centered over the video. In the top right corner, there is a logo for 'NJ HUMAN SERVICES' with an orange outline of the state of New Jersey. At the bottom of the video frame, there is a dark grey bar with white text.

And everyone who cares about these issues, I encourage you to visit,

Human Services marked Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week by revisiting a recent tour of the [Food Bank of South Jersey](#). Visit njsnap.gov for more information on food assistance.

National Info and Referral Day



Information & Referral Services

Provides information and resources to individuals with disabilities and their families, as well as helps them navigate and connect to other available services.



November 16 is National Information and Referral Services Day to raise public awareness of this important service that helps people find the help they need.

The [Division of Disability Services](#)' Information and Referral Services Team connects callers to live, professionally certified, Community Resource Specialists specifically trained in disability services, who:

- inform and educate on services available statewide;
- screen for appropriate services and supports;
- assist in navigating and connecting to programs and services based on individualized needs;
- attend disability-related community events and speaking engagements throughout the state; and
- work in partnership with some benefit programs such as NJ WorkAbility and Managed Long Term Services and Supports (MLTSS).

Nationally Certified Community Resource Specialists are available during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, to provide information and assist with navigating state and county services available to individuals with disabilities. In addition to providing live assistance over the phone, Community Resource Specialists attend public events throughout the state to disseminate information and answer questions.

All DDS Community Resource Specialist hold certifications from the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems, the internationally recognized professional credentialing program for community I & R providers. Certification consists of an initial exam and the completion of a minimum of 10 documented hours of continued training every two years.

Contact a DDS Community Resource Specialist: [1-888-285-3036](tel:1-888-285-3036)

Office Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday - Friday

Addressing the National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey



Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire and [Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired \(CBVI\)](#) Executive Director Dr. Bernice Davis joined the [National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey's](#) (NFB-NJ) 47th Annual State Convention to discuss how CBVI is making a difference in the lives of blind New Jerseyans. They joined with Anil Lewis, the NFB-NJ executive director for blindness initiatives, and Linda Melendez, the NFB-NJ president.

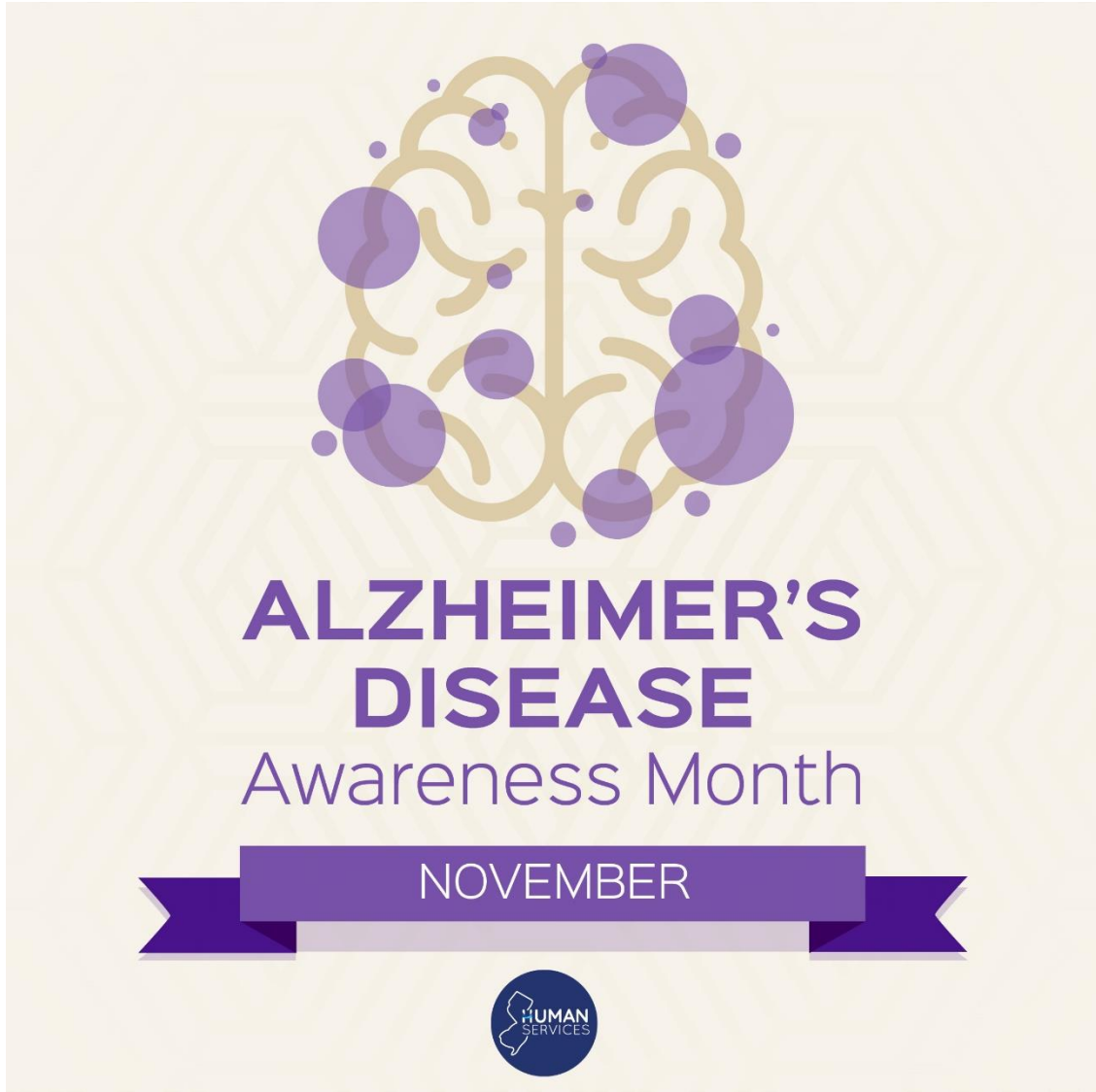
Diabetic Eye Disease Month



November is Diabetic Eye Disease Month. All people with diabetes are at risk for vision loss and blindness from diabetic eye disease - and diabetic eye disease often has no early symptoms.

Visit [here](#) to learn more and find info about eye screenings through the [Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired's Project BEST](#).

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month



Human Services marked National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month by highlighting the [Division of Aging Services' Statewide Respite Care Program](#).

Respite care provides caregivers a temporary rest from caregiving. To learn more, call 1-877-222-3737 or visit [here](#).

Statewide Respite Care Program

Provides respite care services to relieve caregivers of stress from providing daily care. This respite may be provided for a short time, or once in a while. Services can include adult day care, home care, companion services, campership, or a short stay in a facility.

For more information, call the Aging and Disability Resource Connection at **1-877-222-3737**



Public Health Thank You Day

PUBLIC HEALTH THANK YOU DAY



Human Services marked Public Health Thank You Day on November 22 by expressing appreciation to public health workers for their expertise, commitment and essential service.

Disaster Response Crisis Counselor Training



The [Division Mental Health and Addiction Services' Disaster and Terrorism Branch](#) held a disaster response crisis counselor conference for more than 150 attendees at Brookdale Community College. The conference provided training and network opportunities. Visit [here](#) for more information on crisis counselor certification.

Highlighting Human Services



Human Services highlighted its many program to local officials from throughout New Jersey at the annual League of Municipalities conference. From left to right, Jennifer Kraemer, Luis Tamayo and Nelson Troche.

SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

CHECK MAILING ADDRESS



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[NJ FamilyCare](#) Members - Take Action and [Stay Covered](#).



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