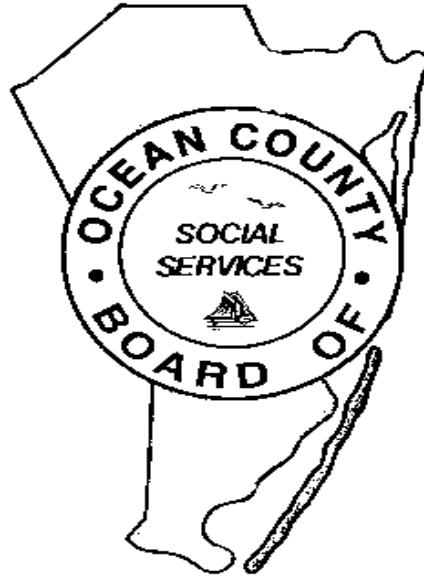

PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED

OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES



Northern Satellite Office
Northern Ocean County
Resource Center
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Lakewood, NJ 08701
732-370-8854

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Toms River, NJ 08754-0547
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PREFACE

The Ocean County Board of Social Services provides eligible county residents with financial, medical, and social services assistance. Assistance can be granted for emergency circumstances, as well as to meet ongoing needs.

Income Assistance Programs
Medicaid Programs
Social and Support Programs

Offices are located in Toms River, Lakewood, and Manahawkin. Not all offices are staffed for all programs.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Ocean County Board of Social Services is to serve residents of Ocean County in the administration of approximately 60 programs. The agency has expanded its mission to include a more pronounced emphasis on client responsibility and eventual self-sufficiency. The Ocean County Board of Social Services continues to commit to an ongoing record of excellence in serving Ocean County's population.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Income maintenance and social services staff are acquainted with the myriad of county services available. They ensure that clients are aware of the programs and benefits and assist with referrals as needed.

NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Ocean County Board of Social Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, age, ancestry, nationality, marital or domestic partnership or civil union status, sex, gender identity or expression, disability, liability for military service, affectional or sexual orientation, atypical cellular or blood trait, or genetic information (including the refusal to submit to genetic testing).

Esta agencia no discrimina por raza, credo, nacionalidad de origen, sexo, identidad de genero o expresión, edad, estado civil o socios domésticos o uniones civiles, ancestros, incapacidad, nacionalidad, orientación sexual o afectiva, rasgos celulares o sangre hereditaria anormal, información genética (incluyendo la dengación a someter a la prueba genética), por servicios en las fuerzas armadas.

INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

COMMUNICATIONS LIFELINE/LINK UP AMERICA

Verizon's Communications Lifeline/Link Up America program makes telephone service more affordable for qualified applicants. The Communications Lifeline provides qualified low-income individuals with a credit towards their monthly telephone bill. The Link Up America component of the program provides eligible individuals with a discount on telephone connection charges with the remaining amount billed in 12 monthly payments.

ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER (EBT)

The Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system (known statewide as Families First) took effect in Ocean County on March 1, 1999. This system replaced the issuance of checks and food coupons to eligible TANF/GA/FS clients and made their cash and food benefits available to them through an electronic benefit account. To access their cash and food benefits, TANF/GA/FS clients utilize their Families First cards. The EBT card may be used at merchant point-of-sale (POS) terminals and automated teller machines (ATM).

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Work First New Jersey/TANF/GA and Supplemental Security Income recipients may be eligible to receive benefits to alleviate or prevent homelessness. This assistance may include temporary shelter, utility assistance, food, clothing, household furnishings, back rent, and/or a rent subsidy. Receipt of these benefits is time-limited and contingent upon other eligibility factors, such as housing affordability.

FOOD STAMP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM (FSETP)

FSETP aims at making sure able-bodied Food Stamp recipients register for work and participate in meaningful work-related activities to increase self-sufficiency.

FOOD STAMPS

This program is designed to promote the general welfare and safeguard the health and well-being of low-income individuals by raising their level of nutrition. When making food purchases, eligible individuals use their Families First card to pay for food purchases with funds available in their Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) account. With the inception of EBT accounts, paper food stamps are no longer issued.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This program is designed to provide time-limited cash assistance and services that help improve the well-being of single adults or couples without children while they work at obtaining self-sufficiency through employment and/or other sources.

HOME TENANT BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Assists individuals, families, elderly, and disabled who fall under HUD income guidelines and are in need of housing assistance. Provides a rent subsidy for a maximum of 24 months.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM (RRP)

An individual may be eligible if he or she has fled from and cannot return to his/her place of national origin due to fear of persecution due to political opinion, race, or religion. Eligibility is limited to a total of eight months for WFNJ/GA type cases. Individuals may be eligible for benefits under TANF after this period.

WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY/TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (WFNJ/TANF)

This is a program designed to provide assistance to needy families with children which incorporates a five-year lifetime limit on cash assistance and requires most recipients to participate in work-related activities while providing child-care assistance and other support services designed to promote economic self-sufficiency. WFNJ/TANF recipients may also be eligible to receive Medicaid benefits.

MEDICAID PROGRAMS

Medicaid is a program that pays medical bills for low-income individuals who qualify for assistance through programs administered by either the Ocean County Board of Social Services or the federal government. All payments are made directly to the providers of medical and other health-care services.

AIDS COMMUNITY CARE ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (ACCAP)

ACCAP provides services to individuals with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The purpose is to help individuals remain in the community rather than a long-term facility or hospital setting.

BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER PROGRAM

This program provides full Medicaid benefits to uninsured women under the age of 65 who have been diagnosed with breast and/or cervical cancer and who are in need of treatment. As part of the eligibility requirement for this program, women must be screened through the New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection Program administered by the Department of Health and Senior Services. Once a woman is determined eligible for this program, she continues to be eligible without regard to changes in her financial circumstances until she no longer receives cancer treatment. As long as a woman is eligible, she is entitled to receive all Medicaid-covered services from a Medicaid-participating provider.

BURIAL ASSISTANCE

Provided for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid Only, Community Care Program for the Elderly and Disabled, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Medically Needy, General Assistance, and AIDS Community Care Alternatives Program recipients. Payment is made directly to funeral homes.

THE COMMUNITY PROJECT – COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER (CMC)

This program is a co-operative effort with Community Medical Center (CMC). Board staff stationed on-site at CMC screen patients and secure applications for Board programs.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

This extends Medicaid services to eligible individuals to help them remain in the community rather than be cared for in a long-term care facility or hospital setting. Home services, including case management, are provided to aged and disabled persons who meet the eligibility requirements of the program. The Ocean County Board of Social Services provides case management services to both the client and the caregiver.

EARLY PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT (EPSDT)

This is a preventive health-care program for Medicaid eligible persons under the age of 21. The purpose is early detection of medical and dental problems and follow-up care for any serious health problems. Medicaid eligible persons who are part of a health maintenance organization (HMO) also receive these services as part of their membership.

FAMILY PLANNING

Family planning services are covered by Medicaid. Board staff explains to clients the availability of family planning services through private physicians and the local family planning clinic.

HOSPICE PROGRAM

This program provides care for the terminally ill, emphasizing supporting and palliative rather than curative care. Services include bereavement counseling and pain control.

MEDICAID EXTENSION

Extended Medicaid benefits are available to families who lose eligibility for Medicaid due to employment-related criteria based on the income standards and methodologies in effect for the AFDC program as of July 16, 1996. Thus, extended Medicaid benefits will begin with the loss of WFNJ cash assistance only when that loss is coincident with the loss of Medicaid eligibility under the July 16, 1996 AFDC income standards and methodologies.

MEDICAID ONLY

Medicaid Only is available to aged, blind, and disabled residents of Ocean County. Eligible individuals may reside in the community, a nursing home, or may be confined to a general or rehabilitation hospital. Eligibility is based on the applicant's income, as well as resource guidelines which relate to the individual's living arrangements.

MEDICAID OUTSTATIONING SERVICES

As a result of federal and state mandates, the Board implemented outstationing at Kimball Medical Center (KMC) in Lakewood, NJ in 1991. In addition, two other sites were added: Ocean Health Initiative, Lakewood, and Ocean Health Initiative, Toms River.

MEDICAID SPECIAL

This is designed to provide adequate medical care for children under the age of 21. Financial eligibility is based on the income and resources of the individual and/or his or her parents. The income of the spouse is also considered if married.

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Transportation services to and from medical appointments are available for most Medicaid-eligible persons. Recipients may drive their own cars and be reimbursed for mileage when authorized or take public transportation and be reimbursed. Other methods of transportation include taxi service, volunteer drivers, social service aides employed by Board, or the Ocean Ride Program through the Ocean County Department of Transportation and Vehicle Services. Board determines the most feasible method on a per-case basis.

MEDICALLY NEEDY

This provides limited medical benefits to certain New Jersey residents who may not be able to afford health care services but have income and/or assets that are too high to qualify for other Medicaid services. Must be 65 or older, blind, disabled, pregnant, or needy child under 21 years of age.

NEW JERSEY CARE FOR THE AGED, BLIND, AND DISABLED (ABD)

Low-income individuals aged 65 and over and individuals who meet the Social Security Administration guidelines for disability or blindness are eligible for the ABD segment of the New Jersey Care Program.

NEW JERSEY FAMILY CARE

This is a state subsidized health insurance program that provides Medicaid coverage for pregnant women, children, and some parents and caregivers. Eligibility is based upon income and alien status. Comprehensive health services are provided through health maintenance organizations (HMO's).

NEW JERSEY WORKABILITY PROGRAM

The New Jersey Workability Program is a state and federally funded program that provides Medicaid benefits to permanently disabled individuals between the ages of 16 and 64 who are employed either full or part-time. Financial eligibility is determined using the individual's earned income while disregarding their Social Security Disability benefits. A disability determination from either the Social Security Administration or the Disability Review Team of the New Jersey Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services is required.

PERSONS WITH AIDS TRANSPORTATION

The Ocean County Board of Social Services provides health-related transportation to HIV clients referred from various service providers. Transportation services are provided by contracted vendors.

TRANSPORTATION UNIT AND SERVICES

The Transportation Services unit administers the following programs or services:

- **Title 4A Emergency Assistance** – Transportation services are provided to recipients of Emergency Assistance.
- **Holiday Program** – Requests are received from concerned individuals, businesses, clergy, and other organizations for the names of individuals and families who would welcome a donated gift or food for their holiday meal. Clients authorize Board to give their names to donors.

- **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (Transportation)** – Volunteers in need of transportation to and from their volunteer sites may request transportation services. Reimbursement is also available for transportation costs incurred during the course of the volunteer's assignment if no other resources are available.
- **Safe Housing and Transportation Program (Transportation)** – Escorted transportation and housing rehabilitation are provided to senior citizens in Ocean County.
- **Title XIX Medical Transportation** – Transportation is provided to Medicaid beneficiaries to and from medical facilities.
- **Transportation Assistance Program (TAP)** – Transportation services to doctor appointments, shopping, work sites, etc. are provided to elderly and/or disabled residents who are ineligible for services under other transportation programs.
- **Persons With AIDS (PWA) Transportation** – Transportation services are provided for persons with AIDS for medically related purposes.
- **Fair Hearings** – Beneficiaries receive transportation to attend fair hearings concerning adverse actions to the beneficiary.
- **General Assistance (GA) Transportation** – Transportation services are provided to recipients of GA.
- **Friendship Corner** – Transportation for Friendship Corner clients is provided for several annual events held during the year.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

This provides services which enable eligible individuals to remain in or return to the community rather than be cared for in a nursing facility. Services include case management, personal care assistance, night supervision, respite, and day care.

VOTER REGISTRATION

The National Voter Registration Act was implemented in New Jersey. Accordingly, staff offers all applicants/clients the opportunity to register to vote at each application, address, change, recertification, or redetermination interview.

SOCIAL AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM

This program provides services to vulnerable adults 18 years of age and older residing in the community who are the subject of abuse, neglect, or exploitation and are unable to protect themselves. Social workers complete risk assessments and case plans and arrange for services, including legal intervention when necessary, to protect clients.

AFTER HOURS SPECIAL RESPONSE PROGRAM

This program is Board's after-hours 24-hour response program. The program responds to adults and families who are experiencing a social emergency such as homelessness, domestic violence, or home-care problems. The program is funded by the Ocean County Board of Social Services and the Office of Senior Services (Title III B Services to the Elderly).

ALZHEIMER'S AND RELATED DEMENTIAS SUPPORT GROUP

Two monthly support groups provide encouragement and support to family members, friends, and professionals dealing with persons with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias. Meetings are in Brick and Manchester.

CARE MANAGEMENT RESPITE

This program provides either residential maintenance or physical health services to individuals age 60 and over who need assistance with two or more activities of daily living and/or have a cognitive impairment that requires supervision. An adult age 60 and over who is living with/caring for a child 18 or under is also eligible for services. There are no income eligibility guidelines for these services.

Additionally, the In-Home Caregiver Education and Support Program provides one-on-one education in the home environment for caregivers of persons over the age of 60 and functionally impaired with a chronic disability, illness, or disease to enhance caregiver ability and effectiveness. The caregiver must be an unpaid primary caregiver who can be a relative or friend who either lives with the care recipient or visits regularly to assist with managing life activities. There are no financial eligibility criteria.

CASE MANAGEMENT FOR COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR DISABLED PERSONS (CRPD)

The Community Resources for Disabled Persons is a Medicaid waiver program that provides home care to disabled Medicaid beneficiaries. The waiver is designed to provide benefits to people who otherwise would be unable to live in the community and would probably have to move to a nursing home or other institution. Board provides case management services for eligible participants in Ocean County.

CASE MANAGEMENT FOR THE JERSEY ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY CAREGIVING (JACC)

Agency staff provides case management services for persons eligible for the JACC program. Case management services include assessment of a participant, their service needs, and arranging for the provision of services purchased through the JACC program. The purpose of the JACC program is to allow elderly persons to remain in their own homes as long as possible with supportive services provided by the program. The JACC program is accessed through the Ocean County Office of Senior Services, Ocean County's New Jersey EASE (Easy Access, Single Entry) site.

CHILD SUPPORT AND PATERNITY – PARENT LOCATOR

This program is a joint federal, state, and local effort to establish orders for child support and improve collection of child support. Services offered by this agency include parent location, paternity, DNA testing and establishment of child support orders.

FRIENDSHIP CORNER

Is a drop-in center developed to meet the social, recreational, and educational needs of boarding home residents. It operates Monday through Friday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Northern Ocean County Resource Center, 225 Fourth Street, Lakewood, New Jersey. Activities include encouraging client socialization or relocation to more appropriate housing. Friendship Corner also co-sponsors an annual boarding home festival and a spring fling for residents.

GLOBAL OPTIONS

This is a Medicaid program that consolidated three Medicaid supported and community based service programs: Community Care Program for the Elderly and Disabled, Assisted Living Waiver Program and Caregivers Assistance Program. Global Options provides case management services by coordinating homecare services to transition eligible persons to the community from a long term care facility and provides access to a wider range of in-home long term supportive services for seniors and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities who meet the income asset and nursing facility level of care requirements established by Medicaid. Global Options is designed to supplement the assistance already being provided by family and friends.

HOMELESS/HOMELESS PREVENTION SERVICES

Board administers a number of time-limited programs to aid persons who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. Board provides emergency temporary housing. Help may be available from the agency through a variety of grants and funding streams whether or not persons are receiving public assistance and in some cases may provide security deposits, payment of up to two months' back rent or mortgage to prevent eviction or foreclosure. A small number of rent subsidy slots may be available to certain households. Other services such as food, clothing, mediations, and transportation are also provided. All cases are screened and referred to all other resources. The program is available on a 24-hour basis through the existing After-Hour Special Response Program. Funding is limited so assistance is not always available for all programs.

HOUSING AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

This helps persons forced to vacate housing due to code enforcement by providing moving expenses, emergency shelter, and/or rental assistance payments or down payments on the purchase of a home. Board does the eligibility determination for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and those municipalities within Ocean County with whom the agency has a contract.

NEW JERSEY EASE CARE MANAGEMENT

This program provides case management services to adults 60 years of age and older without regard to income. This is a collaborative program between the Ocean County Board of Social Services and the Ocean County Office of Senior Services.

OCBSS RESPONSIBILITY IN ROOMING AND BOARDING HOUSE ACT OF 1979

Board is responsible for coordinating the investigation of all complaints pertaining to rooming and boarding houses, as well as residential health care facilities throughout Ocean County. Allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of residents of these facilities are investigated directly by this department. Outreach to provide information on available services is performed every six months to boarding homes and residential health care facilities and every twelve months to rooming houses as required by the Rooming and Boarding House Act of 1979.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROGRAM

This program provides attendant services to self directing physically disabled adults 18 – 65 years of age enabling them to be employed, prepare for employment, volunteer, attend school and/or live independently in the community.

PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

This program provides case management services to adults with a permanent physical disability and their families, linking them with needed medical, social, financial, legal, educational, and/or vocational services.

PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

This program provides case management services and transportation to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. It provides short-term, individualized services to meet the medical and social support needs of each client. Recipients receive a wide range of service brokerage to needed medical, social, financial, legal, educational, and/or vocational services.

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)

This is a national program administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service and is sponsored by the Ocean County Board of Social Services. The purpose of RSVP is to create meaningful volunteer opportunities for individuals aged 55 and over and to help meet identified service needs in the community.

SAFE HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The program provides for moderate home repairs to alleviate existing conditions and code violations which are detrimental to the health and safety of the elderly. Home repair services may include repair of electrical, plumbing systems, heating systems, roofs, steps, floors, light carpentry, and stair railings. Additionally, escorted transportation is available to eligible seniors who require safe transportation to attend to their activities of daily living. This program is available to individuals 60 years of age and older who live in Ocean County.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Board provides services through the funding of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services, and the County of Ocean. Services are directed to adults in need of protective services or to residents in boarding homes. Information and referral are provided without regard to income.

STATEWIDE RESPITE CARE PROGRAM

This program provides respite services to families experiencing fatigue and stress due to long-term caregiving of frail, elderly, and/or disabled members. Respite care makes use of a variety of short-term services to meet the specific and limited goal of providing caregivers with temporary relief from the physical and emotional demands of caregiving. Families or individuals providing unpaid basic daily care at home to a functionally impaired adult over age 18 are eligible for services. Priority is given to families where the impaired member is at risk of long-term institutionalization due to the inability of the caregiver to continue in that role.

SUPPORTIVE ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES (SAIF)

This is an intensive case management program for Work First New Jersey recipients who have received more than 48 months of assistance. It also provides additional support to families and individuals who have been unable to become self-sufficient because of serious barriers.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR HOUSING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION IN OCEAN COUNTY

This program assists families with utility or rental security deposits. The targeted population is the working poor, low income, disabled, and clients of the Division of Children and Families not eligible for public assistance that are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.

WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) CASE MANAGEMENT

Case management services are provided to TANF/GA recipients with serious barriers to employment. The WFNJ case management unit handles cases involving domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and mental illness.

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TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

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Manahawkin 609-597-5739

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