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Resources for Neighbors Seeking Assistance

- **Social Services Assistance (732) 349-1500 1027 Hooper Ave, Toms River, NJ 08753**
<https://co.ocean.nj.us/OC/SocialServices/frmHome.aspx>
 (see below for all OCBSS Services)

Food Stamps (SNAP) (via Fulfill : 732-918-2600 or Ocean County Board Social Services (732) 349-1500)

Budget Planning <https://oceaninc.org/>

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Administration Office
 Ocean County Administrative Office
 40 Washington Street,
 P.O. Box 1029
 Toms River, NJ 08753.
 Phone (732) 244-5333 Fax (732) 349-4227

Free Legal Services <https://www.lsnj.org/sjls/>

South Jersey Legal Services, Inc., is a non-profit organization created to provide quality legal representation and advocacy to low-income individuals. We seek to empower low-income individuals to access the judicial system so they will achieve the greatest possible measure of substantive procedural, social and economic justice.

Ocean County Office
 215 Main Street
 Toms River, NJ 08753
 (732) 608-7794 Fax: (732) 608-9636 SJLSOcean@lsnj.org

Tax Refund Assistance (via Fulfill Fulfill : 732-918-2600)

Affordable Healthcare Insurance (via Fulfill Fulfill : 732-918-2600 or Ocean County Board Social Services (732) 349-1500)

Clothing (Your Grandmothers Cupboard) 173 NJ-37, Toms River, NJ 08755 (732) 240-0441
<https://yourgrandmotherscupboard.com/>

Baby and Toddler Care Products (refer to Hope Center (732) 341-4447)
<https://houseofhopeocean.org/>



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Cable / Internet Assistance www.internetessentials.com or 855-846-8376
Free Mobile Phone if you qualify

<https://www.assurancewireless.com/lifeline-services/states/new-jersey-lifeline-free-government-phone-service>

Affordable Housing

<https://www.oceanresourcenet.org/search/2020-2021-ocean-county-housing-resource-guide/>

Utilities Assistance

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):

Also protects against shut-offs during the winter. Contact Ocean Inc.

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Home Energy, Ocean County 1256

Indian Head Road Ste. 32

Toms River, NJ 08754

Phone (732) 244-9041 Fax (732) 244-3962

Universal Service Fund (USF):

Fresh Start 800-662-3115 forgives past balances by keeping up a payment plan.

www.nj.gov/dca/dcaid

Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (PAGE): 732-982-8701 (low and moderate income) njpoweron.org

NJ Shares: (moderate income) \$500 grant per utility call 1-866-657-4273

NJ SHARES is a non-profit organization that provides assistance to income-eligible New Jersey households for paying their energy, telephone, broadband (internet), and water bills. Applications for NJ SHARES grants can be made at any of the more than 270 participating social service agencies throughout the state. For more information, call 1-866-657-4273 or visit <https://njsharesgreen.org/>

NJ Natural Gas Gift of Warmth: one time grant up to \$500 Call 800-221-0051 and say "energy assistance" at the prompt.



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NJ Comfort Partners: 800-915-8309 low income home weatherization program

<https://njcleanenergy.com/residential/programs/comfort-partners/comfort-partners>

Lifeline: 800-792-9745 For seniors with SSD or PAAD

DYFS: If a family is involved in a DYFS case, have them call their case worker who may arrange for rent payment.

STEPS: 732-415-8638 Assistance and landlord mediation

CONTACT: 732-240-6100 For **immediate help** and resources.

CONTACT is simply "people helping people". We are a 24-hour Crisis Intervention/Listening telephone service. We are here for anyone who is in trouble, lonely, depressed, and suicidal or someone who just needs a person to listen to them. Volunteers are as close as the telephone 24 hours each day of the year, to listen and respond to the lonely, hurting people of our community.

Through an extensive training period, volunteers develop empathetic listening skills to help callers determine their own feelings, identify their options, and find their own strengths to resolve their problems. When appropriate, volunteers make referrals to other community services that are available to the caller.

All calls are kept confidential. Each caller is treated in a non-judgmental and accepting manner. We do not offer advice or try to solve another person's problems. We do provide a safe place for callers to talk about their problems with anonymity and confidentiality. The empathy the caller receives helps them feel understood and enables them to take action on their own behalf.

Veterans **VetWork:** 609-971-7613 <http://vetwork.org/>

Child Care: Children's Home Society of NJ 732-557-9633 state subsidies for child care given to low and moderate working families

1433 Hooper Ave, Toms River, NJ 08753

Ocean County Mental Health: Bright Harbor Healthcare (732) 240-3760

NJ Hope and Healing Crisis Counseling: 732-204-6510 counseling for those affected by Covid 19 pandemic



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Ocean County Board of Social Services

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 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.

Provides services to aid persons who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless, have been a victim of domestic violence, or have home care problems. Rent subsidies may be available to certain households. Other services such as food stamps, Jersey Care, Adult Medicaid, and medical transportation are also provided. All cases are screened and referred to all other resources. Special Response is a 24-hour response program. Funding is limited so assistance is not always available.

The agency has expanded its mission to include a more pronounced emphasis on client responsibility and eventual self-sufficiency.

Income Assistance Programs

- **HOME TENANT BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

This program assists low-income individuals, families, and the elderly who fall under HUD income guidelines and are in need of housing assistance by providing a rent subsidy for a maximum of 24 months, in addition to receiving case management by an experienced social worker

- **Burial Assistance :Funeral expenses and Burial Assistance** can be provided by Ocean County. Typical recipients include people who receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, the medically needed, and those who require SSI. However other working poor and indigent families may also qualify. All payments are made directly to funeral homes.

- **Communications Lifeline/Link up America** Verizon Communications Lifeline/Link-Up America **1-888-337-3339**

www.co.ocean.nj.us/socialservices

Verizon Communications Lifeline and Link-Up America make telephone service more affordable for recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Home Energy Assistance (HEAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Medicaid, General Assistance (GA), Lifeline Utility Credit/Tenants Lifeline Assistance or Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD).

Communication Lifeline provides free Touch-Tone

Service and a credit toward customer's monthly telephone bill. Link-Up America provides a discount on telephone and internet services.

- **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/NJ SNAP 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/NJ SNAP clients utilize their Families First cards. The EBT card may be used at merchant point-of-sale (POS) terminals and automated teller machines (ATM).

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- **Emergency Assistance**



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Work First New Jersey/TANF/GA and Supplemental Security Income recipients may be eligible to receive Emergency Assistance (EA) benefits to alleviate or prevent homelessness. This assistance may include temporary shelter, utility assistance, food, household furnishings, security deposit, first month's rent, 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)** This federal government mandated program will try to ensure clients register for work or get help finding a job. It is required that people participate in meaningful work-related activities (even if just searching) to increase self-sufficiency.
- **Food Stamps** NJ SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NJ SNAP)
 This program is designed to promote the general welfare and safeguard the health and wellbeing 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. Able-bodied NJ SNAP recipients may be required to register for work and participate in meaningful work-related activities through the NJ SNAP Employment and Training Program

General Assistance Program

WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY/GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WFNJ/GA)

This is a program 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. The WFNJ/GA program incorporates a five-year limit on cash assistance.

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

This is a program designed to provide time-limited cash assistance to needy families with children. The program requires most recipients to participate in work-related activities while providing child-care assistance and other support services designed to promote economic self-sufficiency. The WFNJ/TANF program incorporates a five-year limit on cash assistance

WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) CASE MANAGEMENT

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

(OCBSS Cont)

- **Medicaid Program** Medicaid programs pay medical bills for low-income individuals who qualify for assistance. All payments are made directly to the providers of medical and other health-care services.
 - **Medicaid**
 - **AIDS Community Care Alternatives Program (ACCA)**
 - **Breast And Cervical Cancer Program**



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- **The Community Project – Community Medical Center (CM)**
- **Community Resources For Persons With Disabilities**
- **Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, And Treatment (EPSD)**
- **Family Planning**
- **Hospice Program**
- **Medicaid Extension**
- **Medicaid Only**
- **Medicaid Out stationing Service**
- **Medicaid Special**
- **Medical Transportation**
- **Medically Needy**
- **Care For The Aged, Blind, & Disabled (ABD)**
- **New Jersey Family Care**
- **Persons With AIDS Transportation**

Transportation Unit & Services Free transportation is offered for most Medicaid-eligible persons in Ocean County. Aids and HIV patients can also qualify. Recipients of this service may decide to use public transportation and then be reimbursed, or they can even drive their own cars and be reimbursed for gas and other mileage expenses. Other transportation methods that can be paid for include taxi service, social service aides employed by Board, or transportation from volunteer drivers. **Another option is the Ocean Ride Program, which is offered through the Ocean County Department of Transportation and Vehicle Services agency.**

Emergency Assistance (EA) - Limited transportation services are provided to eligible recipients of Emergency Assistance.

Fair Hearings - Beneficiaries receive transportation to attend fair hearings concerning adverse actions to the beneficiary.

Friendship Corner - Transportation for Friendship Corner clients is provided for several annual events held during the year.

RWB Transportation Grant - Transportation services for grant recipients referred from the Ocean County Health Department and Jersey Shore University Hospital.

Safe Housing and Transportation Program - Escorted transportation and housing rehabilitation are provided to senior citizens in Ocean County.



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(OCBSS Cont)
 Senior Assisted

Transportation Services (SATS) - Assisted transportation services provided to Ocean County residents 60 years old and older to secure housing, benefits, and nutrition as well as access to medical care and other services related to the health and welfare of the individual who is not receiving transportation services through other programs.

Senior Services to the Elderly Transportation (SSE) - Assisted transportation services provided to Ocean County residents 60 years old and older to secure emergency housing, benefits, and nutrition as well as access to medical care and other services related to the health and welfare of the individual who is not receiving transportation services through other programs.

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

60 and over

SAFE HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to provide home repairs necessary to alleviate conditions which are determined to adversely affect the health and safety of county residents age 60 and older. Recommendations on needed home repairs for eligible individuals are made once a home inspection is completed. Additionally, escorted transportation is available to eligible individuals who require safe transportation to attend to their activities of daily living

COMPREHENSIVE CARE MANAGEMENT FOR SENIORS (CCMS)

This program provides case management services to Ocean County residents 60 years of age and older without regard to income. Case management services include identifying the needs of the individual, evaluating options and services, and assisting with implementing and coordinating those services. This is a grant program with funding from the Ocean County Office of Senior Services

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

The purpose of the JACC Program is to allow elderly persons in need of nursing home level of care to remain in their own homes as long as possible with supportive services provided by the program. Care managers work in collaboration with participants and their families to coordinate and implement services for eligible individuals. The JACC Program is accessed through the Ocean County Office of Senior Services

CARE MANAGEMENT/RESPIRE

This program is funded by the Office of Senior Services, Older American Act Title III E. The program provides residential maintenance and physical health services including minor home repairs and modifications, ramp installation, and Personal Emergency Response buttons to adults age 60 and over. Services are provided to eligible adults who have an unpaid caregiver and whose health and safety are threatened because they cannot perform activities of daily living and/or are at risk of institutional placement.

The In-Home Caregiver Education Program is a component of the Care Management/Respite program which provides one-on-one education to enhance caregiver ability and effectiveness. Instruction is provided in the home environment to caregivers of persons over age 60 that have a chronic disability or illness. The caregiver must be an unpaid primary caregiver who either lives with the care recipient or visits regularly to assist with managing life activities. The program

may provide up to five visits by professionals, including physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, dietitians, or licensed clinical social workers for counseling. There are no income eligibility guidelines for these programs



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ALZHEIMER'S & RELATED DEMENTIAS SUPPORT GROUP

There are two monthly support groups for family members, friends, and professionals dealing with people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The groups provide information on current research and, upon the request of participants, provides speakers to discuss various topics

CHILD SUPPORT & PATERNITY - PARENT LOCATOR

This program provides services to the general public which include parent location, genetic testing to establish paternity, and modification of child support orders. In addition, the program establishes court orders for child support and medical coverage on behalf of public and nonpublic assistance recipients. Court orders for support and medical coverage are established through the Superior Court and are enforced by county probation departments with the assistance of the county sheriff. Children referred by the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency are also eligible for child support services

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, and/or exploitation, and are unable to protect themselves. Social workers provide assessments, care plans, and work with legal interventions to protect clients

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROGRAM

This program provides attendant care services to physically disabled individuals age 18 - 70 years, have a permanent physical disability, and be capable of self-direction and supervision of an attendant. Services provided enable disabled adults to be employed, prepare for employment and volunteer, and/or live independently



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Section 10

Home Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program (pages 1 of 2)

<https://co.ocean.nj.us/OC/frmRERAP.aspx>

The Ocean County Board of Commissioners has increased the grant award for the Ocean County Residential Emergency Rental Assistance Program (RERAP). You may now be eligible for up to 12 months of rent arrearage coverage plus three months of future rent, not to exceed \$26,610.

Household annual income must be at or below 80% Area Median Income (AMI):

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5
50% AMI Level	\$38,300	\$43,800	\$49,250	\$54,700	\$59,100
80% AMI Level	\$61,280	\$70,080	\$78,800	\$87,520	\$94,560

To verify your identify, pick one:

- Current driver's license with a picture
- Current non-driver's ID card, or Learner Permit with photo
- ID card issued by the federal government
- United States Permanent Resident Card
- United States Employment Authorization Card
- United States Certificate of Naturalization
- United States Passport
- Non-United States Passport plus a current work visa

To verify your income (for everyone in your household over 18)

- Wages
- Pay Stubs
- 2020 W-2
- 2020 IRS Form 1040 from 2020 taxes
- Bank Statements (last 60 days, showing reduction in salary)
- Letter from Employer (for decreases in income, layoff, closures)
- Other Income (provide copies of award letters)
- Unemployment
- Disability
- Social Security Child Support
- TANF
- VA Benefits
- Pension



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Home Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program (pages 2 of 2)

(Verification Cont)

Insurance (Workers' Compensation)

Information on other rent assistance your household has received since April 7, 2020, including what organization helped, amount of assistance, months of assistance.

Completed Self Attestation if you have had no income (See form on this County webpage)

Tenants will also need:

Signed Lease Agreement

If you don't have a lease agreement, a signed letter from the landlord stating who lives in the unit, and how much per month you pay for rent

Notice of past due rent(s)

Eviction Notice

Landlords will also need:

- W-9
- NJ Business License

Additional Forms You May Need To Apply

Landlord Certification

Self-Certification of Landlord Tenant Relationship

Self-Certification of No Income

Self-Certification of Risk of Homelessness or Housing Instability

Self-Certification of Unemployment, Decreased Income, Increased Expenses

Written Attestation of Income

If you need one-on-one help with your Ocean County Residential Emergency Rental Assistance Program application, case managers will be available at the following times and locations.



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Appointments are now available, call 1-833-753-9671 to schedule. Please be aware this calendar may change

Notice: SNAP and WFNJ Updates During Coronavirus 9/21/2021

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Updates

Applying for SNAP

During this public health crisis, we have made the application process for SNAP food assistance simpler by removing some parts in the process. For example, a hard copy signature for your application and you will not be required to complete an interview to apply for SNAP.

You can apply online at NJHelps.org or if you do not have a computer, you can apply by phone by calling your **local board of social services**. You can also **download the application** and mail it into the local board of social services. Through a new online tool, available on [NJOneApp](#), SNAP applicants can upload the documentation needed for applications electronically instead of mailing or dropping off documents to the county offices.

SNAP Recertification Extension

If your case was due to be recertified and you are unable to get your paperwork in or complete your interview, your case will not be closed. You will receive your benefits on the usual day. Your case has been granted a six-month extension from the date your recertification is due. More information will follow on your new recertification date. In the meantime, you will continue to receive SNAP benefits.

SNAP Work Activities

During the current public health crisis, your case will not be closed if you are unable to participate in a work activity.

SNAP Benefit Changes

Temporary Emergency Supplemental Food Assistance Benefits

As of April 2021, a change was made that requires the temporary emergency supplemental food assistance benefit a household receives to be at least \$95 in additional benefits. Before April 2021, only households who were not receiving the maximum SNAP allotment for their household size received a temporary emergency supplemental benefit. Going forward, households will receive at least \$95 in emergency benefits or the maximum temporary benefit for your household size, whichever is greater.

For October, these additional emergency benefits will be available when your regular SNAP benefits are available. Check back every month to see if the emergency allotment supplements will continue.

Remember, this is an extra SNAP benefit being made available to help you buy food in this public health crisis. If you want to check your balance before you go to the grocery store, please visit www.NJFamiliesFirst.com where you can view your current card balance and transaction history, or at some ATMs. You also can call customer service at 1-800-997-3333, however, they may be experiencing higher call volumes, so please be patient. Please do not check your balance at the grocery store where cashiers may be very busy.

Online Grocery Shopping



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New Jerseyans enrolled in SNAP may use their Families First EBT card to purchase eligible SNAP food items at participating stores online. For more information about ordering online and to find participating stores in your area, visit the [NJ SNAP Using Your Benefits page](#).

Extra Benefits for Children

Special Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) provides benefits for children under the age of 6 in active SNAP households or school-aged children) eligible for free- or reduced-price school meals, but whose schools closed or operated at reduced hours or attendance.

School-age children in grades K – 12 who are eligible for P-EBT have been receiving P-EBT benefits for the school year 2020-2021 and Summer 2021. Depending on your situation, you may receive multiple payments.

No application is necessary for P-EBT. The majority of P-EBT eligible families participating in SNAP receive their benefit on their household's existing Families First card. All other P-EBT eligible households are mailed a P-EBT card. More information is available on the [P-EBT page](#).

If you receive a card in the mail, please keep it in case of future benefits.

Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) Updates
WFNJ Redetermination Extension

If your WFNJ case is scheduled to be redetermined, the deadline may be extended, for specific reasons, as long as the Public Health State of Emergency remains in place. Information will be sent to you about your new redetermination date. If you have questions, contact your [county board of social services](#). In the meantime, you will continue to receive WFNJ benefits.

WFNJ Work Activities

During the current public health crisis, your case will not be closed if you are unable to participate in a work activity. This includes if you are a General Assistance (GA) client completing the 28-day work activity while your case is being reviewed.

