

Union County Department of Human Services
Division on Aging & Disability Resource Connection
10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, NJ 07207
908.527.4870 toll free 888.820.8226

Union County Special Needs Registry

The Union County Special Needs Registry is designed to help emergency responders locate and safely evacuate people who could find it difficult to help themselves in the event of a major disaster.

Anyone with a physical or mental health disability severe enough to require care and assistance to meet their basic needs should apply for this program.

Call the Union County Division on Aging at 908.527.4870 or toll free at 1.888.280.8226 for more information on this important program or to request an application (application included in this package).

Beltone Hearing & Audiology

Beltone Hearing & Audiology Centers provide hearing assessment and evaluation; hearing instrument demonstration and hearing instrument purchase, fitting, and delivery in the comfort of your own home. Beltone serves communities in Union, Essex, and suburban Morris counties.

Special Offer—People referred by the Union County Division on Aging will receive a **20% discount** on a hearing system (not to be combined with other offers). Please mention this offer when you call for an appointment.

Beltone has two locations in Union County: Roselle Park 908.245.6699 and Cranford 908.245.6161

Visiting Dental Home Services

For a variety of reasons, such as poor health or transportation difficulties, not everyone can visit the dentist. Dental Home Services has state of the art equipment that brings the dentist to you in your own home in any setting, including wheelchairs and hospital beds.

If you would like more information on Dental Home Services, or if you would like to schedule an appointment, call 1.800.842.4663.

Visiting Physician

Visiting Physician provides comprehensive care with the expertise to handle everything from routine checkups to serious illnesses. Visiting Physician makes house calls to private residences, senior housing buildings, and assisted living facilities, and are able to perform complete physical exams; conduct lab tests including blood work and urinalysis; perform EKG's and x-rays; care for wounds; and prescribe and monitor medications. For more information call Visiting Physician at 1.888.771.3338 or 732.571.1000

Resident Eye Care Associates

Resident Eye Care Associates are Board Certified in treatment and management of ocular disease by the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists. Resident Eye Care Associates are experts in bringing top-quality care directly to nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and patients' homes. There is no need for patients to move off premises or for the home bound to struggle to make an appointment. For more information on the services offered by Resident Eye Care Associates call 201.797.2747.

Visiting Podiatrist Roselle Podiatry Group, P.A.

Dr. Shim is dedicated to providing comfort to all those who walk. All age groups from infants to senior citizens can be affected by foot ailments. They include skin conditions, bone deformities, gait abnormalities and balance issues. Podiatry is a focused specialty with a broad spectrum of care. For more information please call 908-620-3200. "Invest in your feet, you only have one pair!"

Grocery Shopping Programs

Catholic Charities and SAGE Eldercare offer food shopping service for homebound older adult residents of Union County who are unable to shop for themselves and have no primary caregiver who can shop for them on a consistent basis. There is a small fee for this service. For more information call Catholic Charities at 908.497.3950. SAGE Eldercare covers Berkeley Heights, New Providence, Springfield, and Summit; call 908.273.5554 for more information.

State of New Jersey Office of the Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly

The Ombudsman's Office acts as an advocate for residents of nursing homes and helps to protect their rights. The Ombudsman and staff can answer questions, provide information, and handle complaints about residents' rights and other areas of concern by families or the residents themselves. The Ombudsman's Office can conduct public or a private hearing, subpoena documents or personal testimony, and has full, unrestricted access to elderly residents of long term care facilities and their records. For more information regarding a facility license or annual survey information call 1.800.792.9770.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, is a nutrition assistance program to help low-income individuals and families buy the groceries they need for good health.

As of April 1, 2010, you can have more income and resources and still be eligible for SNAP! Eligibility depends on several factors like income, resources, and household size.

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Monthly Income</u>
1	\$1,772.00
2	\$2,392.00

The increase in the amount of money and resources has made more seniors eligible for the SNAP Program. For more information, call the Union County Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services, at 908.965.2700 in Elizabeth and 908.791.7000 in Plainfield. You can also go online to www.oneapp.dhs.state.nj.us to screen for services, apply online for services, complete an unfinished application, or check the status of your application.

Assurance Wireless...Brought to You by Virgin Mobile

Assurance Wireless provides qualified participants with a free cell phone, 250 free voice minutes, and 250 text minutes; no annual contract; nationwide Sprint Network coverage; voicemail account, call waiting, and caller ID; the ability to keep your current home or cell phone number when you switch; and 911 access.

To qualify for this worry-free way to stay connected, an individual must be participating in one of the following programs: Medicaid; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8; Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP); National School Lunch's Free Lunch Program. Or, you may also qualify based on household income.

If you qualify and are approved for the program, you'll get 250 free voice minutes added automatically each month. You do nothing. You can also add money if you decide to choose and pay for any services not included, like additional minutes, texting, or international calls.

For more information call 1.800.392.3850 or visit www.assurancewireless.com

Verizon Communications Lifeline Program

Through Communications Lifeline, existing Verizon residential customers may be eligible to receive discounted local telephone service.

Communications Lifeline offers eligible consumers a service package that includes Flat Rate Service; Moderate Rate Service, and Low Use Message Rate Service.

A person is eligible for Verizon Communications Lifeline if they participate in one of the following programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income, Home Energy Assistance Program, Lifeline Utility Credit/Tenants Lifeline, PAAD, Section 8 Public Housing, TANF, and the National School Lunch Program.

Call the Division on Aging at 908.527.4870 or toll free at 1.888.280.8226 for more information; or call NJ SHARES Client Services at 1.888.337.3339

CHOICES ... New Jersey Prepaid Funeral Trust Fund

The New Jersey Prepaid Funeral Trust Fund allows individuals to prearrange and prefund funeral expenses, ensuring that person's funeral will reflect their wishes, that there is sufficient money readily available to pay for the funeral, and that family is not burdened with having to make important decisions or face financial concerns at a very stressful time.

The New Jersey Prepaid Funeral Trust Fund places your money in an FDIC insured account. The money stays in your name and is completely refundable; is managed in cooperation with one of New Jersey's largest banking institutions; account balances can be checked online at www.njsfda.org; returns the highest interest available; accepts flexible payments with a minimum initial payment of \$500.00; has no age limit; and provides a yearly tax statement and summary of principal and interest earned.

SSI/Medicaid and Prepaying a Funeral

Federal and State laws permit an individual to pay in full for future funeral arrangements by depositing funds into one properly established irrevocable account. Such burial funds are considered excludible resources when SSI, Medicaid or General Assistance eligibility is determined.

More information on the New Jersey Prepaid Funeral Trust Fund can be obtained at www.njsfda.org or through the funeral director of your choice.

La Casa de Don Pedro TRUE Program

The TRUE Program assists people having problems with their utility bills who are 45 days or more past due or who have received a shut-off notice. Applicants must demonstrate that four (4) payments of at least \$25.00 each have been made within the past six (6) months onto the gas and electric account. At least three (3) of those payments should have been made 30 days prior to the date of application. Applicants to the TRUE program cannot have received any benefits through USF and/or LIHEAP in the last 12 months before submitting a TRUE application.

Call La Casa de Don Pedro at 973.485.0794

Utility Assistance Programs

New Jersey American Water Customer Assistance Program

For more than eight years, New Jersey American Water has been assisting low-income customers who qualify through its H2O Help to Others Program and Low-Income Payment Program (LIPP).

The H2O Help to Others Program provides aid to those who need it most. Customers who qualify may receive a grant of up to \$500.00 to help pay their water bill.

The Low-Income Payment Program (LIPP) takes the H2O program one step further by providing aid to New Jersey American Water's most economically challenged customers. This aid can be equivalent to as much as 20% of a customer's monthly bill, depending on eligibility.

For more information call 1.877.652.9426

PSE&G

PSE&G Equal Payment Plan (EPP) calculates your equal payment amount by dividing your previous year's energy usage into 12 equal monthly payments. Your account will be reviewed every six months and if your energy use changes your payment amount will be revised up or down.

Third Party Notification Program will let you know when your older, ill or disabled family member's bill is late.

Life-Sustaining Equipment Program allows people who use life-sustaining medical equipment to receive priority power restoration if the power ever goes out.

For more information on the PSE&G Assistance Programs, call PSE&G at 800.357.2262

Elizabethtown Gas

Elizabethtown Gas **Fresh Start Program** gives first-time USF customers automatic enrollment if their past due amount is greater than \$60.00. Under this program, you are required to pay your current bill on time every month for 12 months and your past due balance will be erased.

New Jersey Comfort Partners provides free home analysis, energy education and weatherization measures. For more information on Elizabethtown Gas' Assistance Program call 866.340.9807.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The **Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)** is designed to help low-income families and individuals meet home heating and medically necessary cooling costs. This year, the application period is November 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013. To be eligible for LIHEAP benefits, the applicant household must be responsible for home heating or cooling, either directly or indirectly or included in the rent. People who live in senior/public housing are not eligible unless they pay for their own heating/cooling costs. The amount of LIHEAP heating benefits are determined by income, household size, fuel type, and heating region.

Cooling Assistance Program will assist eligible applicants who, due to a medical reason, require air conditioning during the summer months. A physician certification is required.

The **Universal Service Fund (USF)** is a program created by the State of New Jersey to help make gas and electric bills more affordable for low-income households. The applying household must pay more than 3% of its annual income on gas and 3% of its annual income on electric. If a household has electric heat, it must spend more than 6% of its annual income on electricity.

The **Weatherization Assistance Program** helps reduce energy bills and keep your home warm by providing you with a home energy audit to see how much money you can save on energy bills by weatherizing, and installing energy efficient measures which may include sealing, insulation, heating system repair and/or replacement of refrigerators and heating systems if necessary.

For information on the above listed programs, call the Division on Aging at 908.527.4870 or 1.888.280.8226.

Global Options

Global Options is a long term care program that administers a number of home and community based programs for seniors and their caregivers. The GO waiver has consolidated Adult Family Care, Assisted Living, Assisted Living in Subsidized Housing, the Caregiver Assistance Program, and the Community Care Program for the Elderly and Disabled, under one program.

A second component, Global Options **Nursing Facility Transition** also provides a broad array of supportive services to enable nursing home facility residents who are clinically and financially approved for long term care through Medicaid to return to the community, if determined feasible.

Eligibility Requirements

Individuals must be 65 or older and be eligible for Medicare or have other health insurance that includes hospital and physician coverage.

Individuals under 65 must be determined disabled by the Social Security Administration.

The Department of Health and Senior Services must assess all individuals.

Applicants must meet the clinical criteria for a nursing facility level of care which includes requiring assistance with three of the following: bathing; dressing; toileting; transferring; mobility; and eating.

A spouse's income is not considered in determination of eligibility however, the spouse's resources are.

Income Guidelines and Resources

\$2,163.00 monthly

\$2,000.00 single assets

Married couples will apply for benefit screening

Services Provided

Assisted Living/Adult Family Care
Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
Personal Emergency Response
Caregiver Participant Training
Transportation
Attendant Care
Chore Services

Home Based Supportive Care
Respite Care
Home Delivered Meals
Social/Medical Adult Day Care
Special Medical Equipment & Supplies
Participant Employed Providers

How to Access Services

Call Social Services – Elizabeth 908-965-3745

Plainfield 908-791-7093

Updated 01/08/14 df

Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving

Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving (JACC) provides a broad array of in-home services and supports that enable an individual at risk of placement in a nursing facility to remain in his/her community home. By providing a uniquely designed package of supports for the individual, JACC is intended to supplement and strengthen the capacity of caregivers, as well as to delay/prevent placement in a nursing facility.

JACC is Not a Medicaid waiver program. JACC is supported totally with state funds. There is a \$600.00 per month limit on services.

Eligibility Requirements

Must be 60 years or older

Resides in a home which he/she owns, rents or the home of a relative

Is financially ineligible for Medicaid or Medicaid Waiver services

Has no alternate means available to secure needed services or supports

Has been determined to be clinically eligible for nursing facility level of care, which includes requiring assistance with three of the following: bathing; dressing; toileting; transferring; mobility; and eating

Is a US citizen or qualified alien

Income Guidelines and Resources

Monthly income:

SINGLE \$3,550.00

MARRIED \$4,785.00

Has countable resources at or below \$40,000 single, \$60,000 married

Services Provided

Case management

Respite care

Homemaker services

Environmental accessibility modifications

Personal emergency response systems

Home delivered meal service

Social adult day care

Special medical equipment & supplies

Transportation

Chore services

How to Access Services

Call the Union County Division on Aging @ 908-527-4870/4872

TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-888-280-8226

Updated 01/08/14 df

STATEWIDE RESPITE CARE PROGRAM

The Statewide Respite Care Program is designed to provide assistance to families by giving caregivers a break from the daily responsibility of caring for an elderly or disabled relative or friend. Respite services may be used so that caregivers can shop, get medical care, attend to personal matters, rest, vacation or cope with an emergency. Respite may be used occasionally or at regularly scheduled times.

Eligibility Requirements

Reside in New Jersey

Be age 18 or over

Have a chronic physical disability which requires supervision or assistance with basic daily needs from an unpaid caregiver and who are at risk of institutionalization

Income Guidelines and Resources

\$2,163.00 monthly single

\$4,326.00 monthly married

Have liquid assets of less than \$40,000.00 for a single person and \$60,000.00 for a married couple.
(assets that can be converted to cash within 20 working days)

There is a co-payment amount in some cases based on a sliding fee scale from 0% to 25% of the care recipient's annual income

Services Provided

Homemaker/Home Health Aide

Social or Medical day care

In-patient Respite

Home Delivered Meals

How to Access Services

Call 908-527-4873/4870

Updated 01/08/14 df

Congregate Nutrition Program

The Union County Congregate Nutrition Program is a senior lunch program made possible by a grant from the United States Government under the Older Americans Act. The central objective of the lunch program is to maximize independence and dignity of seniors.

The program has four goals:

Health maintenance through improved nutrition
Fostering social interaction
Providing access to other supportive services
Satisfying emotional needs, especially for those who eat alone

Eligibility Requirements

Any person who is 60 years of age or older or anyone married to a person 60 years of age or older is cordially invited to participate in the program. A reservation should be made two days in advance. There are 23 nutrition sites located throughout Union County.

Income Guidelines and Resources

There are no income guidelines to participate; however, each participant will have the opportunity to make a confidential suggested voluntary donation of \$1.75 per meal. Donations are used to offset the cost of the meals and to expand the program.

Union County Meals on Wheels Home Delivery

The home delivered meals program is not administered directly through the Division on Aging. It is administered by Meals on Wheels, a private non-profit agency. Meals on Wheels serves home delivered meals to County residents who, because of illness or physical disability are unable to provide their own meals. The program aids individuals in maintaining a degree of independence by keeping them from hospitalization.

Eligibility Requirements

Elderly individuals or couples who are unable to prepare a nutritious meal
Homebound handicapped individuals
Individuals recovering from recent hospitalization or illness
Participants must be 60 years of age or older
A home assessment is necessary to determine eligibility

Income Guidelines and Resources

None

Union County Paratransit System

The Union County Paratransit System is a curb-to-curb transport service specializing in transportation of senior citizens aged 60+, persons with disabilities and/or economically disadvantaged residents of Union County.

The Paratransit System operates Monday—Saturday between 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
The service does not operate on Sunday.

Reservations can be made Monday—Friday between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by calling the scheduling office at 908.241.8300. While transportation is available on a first-come, first-served basis, Paratransit does require a minimum of seven to ten days advance notice for a scheduled trip.

When making a reservation you will be asked to provide day, date, and time of your appointment; address, city, state, and telephone number of your destination; doctor's name, clinic name, company name, and telephone number; and your approximate time of return. There is a fee of \$2.00 each way for a total of \$4.00 for round trip transportation.

Paratransit will provide non-emergency transportation for:

Medical appointments	Nutrition
Mental Health	Shopping
Employment	Recreation
Education	Bus & rail services

Out of County transportation is provided to the following destinations only:

Monday and Wednesday	JFK Hospital—Edison Kessler Institute—West Orange St. Barnabas Hospital—Livingston Beth Israel Medical Center—Newark
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Veterans Transportation

Tuesday and Thursday	Lyons
Wednesday	VA Hospital
Daily	Trinitas Regional Medical Center

To schedule an appointment call:

908.241.8300