

THE SERVICE NETWORK

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Union County Division on Aging Names Executive Director Natalie Zarrillo

After eight years as Assistant Executive Director of the Division on Aging, I am excited to take on the opportunity to lead the Division on Aging! I'm also humbled by the well wishes I've received, and feel very fortunate to be able to advance our mission of addressing underserved populations in our community.

I came to the Union County Division on Aging in 2013 with a Master's Degree in Social Work and many years of direct-service in the private, non-profit sector, from front-line social work and case management to piloting advocacy programs. My passion has always been connecting older adults and their caregivers with the support, advocacy and care that they often-times struggle to access. This type of work has its unique challenges, but I've dedicated my professional training and education to it, knowing that I could make a difference -- even if in just one person's life.

Now with the skills, experience and unwavering commitment of our Division on Aging staff coupled with our dedicated Service Provider network, I feel even more energized. And I look forward to continuing our efforts and strengthening our impact in service of our Union County older adults and their caregivers. With our collective strength, there's nothing we can't do!



The Time is Right for Social Work

March is National Social Workers' Month

Every March, social workers are recognized during National Social Workers Month, which underscores the contributions they have made to the nation for more than a century and recognizes the services they provide are needed now more than ever as our nation addresses economic inequality, systemic racism, the need for improved health and mental health care, Covid-19, and other issues.

Social workers have helped drive significant, positive changes in our nation. Social workers, such as social reformer Jane Addams, former Labor Secretary Frances Perkins, and civil rights leaders Dorothy Height, Whitney Young and Ida B. Wells have pushed for voting rights, equal rights, Social Security, unemployment insurance, and other programs. Social workers touch millions of lives each day and it is likely a social worker at some time will assist you, a family member, or a friend.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) will lead the 2022 Social Work Month celebration in March with the theme "The Time is Right for Social Work," which underscores the contributions social workers have made to the nation.

CELEBRATE YOUR SOCIAL WORKER TODAY!



The Service Network

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 Executive Director
 Division on Aging/ADRC





Older Americans' Month is Coming Up!

Every May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads the nation's observance of Older Americans' Month (OAM).

In 2022, ACL will be focusing on aging in place, so fittingly, the 2022 theme is **Age My Way**; an opportunity for all of us to explore the many ways older adults can remain in and be involved with their communities.

The Union County Division on Aging would like to hear from any senior centers/programs that are planning and making connections for celebrations for their senior population. Please call Donna Farrell at 908 527 4870 or Luis Ramirez at 908 527 4863 to give details that we might share with seniors who call the office.

Let's all make 2022 the year seniors can celebrate!

Meals on Wheels Update: The repairs to the Meals on Wheels physical location continue with progress slowly moving forward since storm Ida destroyed the building.

Home delivered meals continue to be delivered by staff with a different vendor providing the meals.

The Grab & Go program continues to be provided at selected sites throughout the county.



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division on Aging Services

The New Jersey Division on Aging Services (DoAS) administers a number of federal and state-funded programs that make it easier for older adults to live in the community as long as possible with independence, dignity, and choice. DoAS receives federal funding through the Older Americans Act and serves as the focal point for planning services for older adults, developing comprehensive information about New Jersey's older adult population and its needs, and maintaining information about services available throughout the state.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is designated by the U.S. Administration for Community Living as New Jersey's State Unit Aging (SUA), with DoAS serving as the administrative agency. DoAS provides oversight of the home and community-based programs provided by or through New Jersey's 21 county offices on aging known as the [Area Agencies on Aging \(AAA\)/Aging and Disability Resource Connection \(ADRC\)](#). **In Union County call 908 527 4870.**

State funding, both from the general fund and the Casino Revenue Fund, supports programs and services specific to New Jersey or expands service availability and reach beyond federal funding limits. These include Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving, Congregate Housing Services Program (CHSP), Statewide Respite Care Program, Alzheimer's Adult Day Services Program, weekend home delivered meals, the Lifeline Utility Assistance program, Hearing Aid Assistance to the Aged and Disabled, and two state prescription assistance programs: Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled and the Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program.

DoAS also conducts clinical eligibility and quality assurance for [Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports \(MLTSS\)](#), and is home to the Office of the Public Guardian and Adult Protective Services.

Information about the programs is also available through our [program guide](#) and various toll-free hotlines.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Division of Aging Services

New Jersey Department of Human Services

P.O. Box 715

Trenton, NJ 08625-0715

For Medicare counseling and general aging services questions: 1-800-792-8820

For NJ Save (PAAD, Sr. Gold, Medicare Saving Programs, Lifeline, and more): 1-800-792-9745

www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home

In Union County call 908 527 4870, for Spanish call 908 527 4863 or visit www.ucnj.org/aging



NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Beginning **May 4, 2022**, NJ State law (P.L.2020,c.117) will prohibit stores from using single use plastic carryout bags. In addition, grocery stores larger than 2,500 square feet may not provide or sell single use paper bags, and instead may provide or sell only reusable carryout bags.

'Store' is any grocery store, convenience store, liquor store, pharmacy, drug store, or other retail establishment. Penalties for Non-compliance & Enforcement will be a warning for a first offense, a fine up to \$1,000 per day for the second offense, and a fine of up to \$5,000 per day for the third and subsequent violation.

The public may use their own bags at the stores that don't qualify as reusable carryout bags but are encouraged to utilize their reusable bags.

For more information go to:

www.nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law/#single_use_bags



Income Tax Assistance

VITA/AARP Tax Assistance

Free assistance in the preparation of federal and state Income Tax Returns, using the simple tax form, is available for taxpayers of every age at local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and AARP sites. Once again, due to COVID, you must make an appointment to receive help.

For information for a site nearby call the IRS at 1 800 906 9887 or online at IRS Site Locator at www.irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep

Tax Counseling for the Elderly

Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) is an AARP tax-aide program primarily for individuals 60 years or older. TCE has counselors who specialize in questions about pension and retirement related issues that are unique to seniors. For more information contact the National AARP office at 1 888 227 7669

The VITA/AARP site listing is active from January 1 through April 15 each year

MyFreeTaxes

MyFreeTaxes is a free online tax preparation and filing tool for anyone who earned less than \$66,000 in 2020. Using this online service to file federal and state tax returns is cost free.

For more information go to: <https://myfreetaxes.com/>

Tax Counseling for Military Personnel

Tax Counseling for Military Personnel is a VITA program that is administered by the Armed Forces Tax Council (AFTC). Marines, airmen, soldiers, sailors, guardsmen, and their families worldwide receive free tax preparation assistance at offices within their installations. These Vita sites provide free tax advice, preparation, and assistance to military members and their families who are trained and equipped to address military-specific tax issues.

Where is My Return?

Individuals can check the status of their tax refund using Where's My Refund? Tool or by calling 1 800 829 1954 for automated refund information.

2022 Union County Senior Art Exhibit



Union County residents, age 60 or older, are invited to enter an artwork in the 2022 Union County Senior Art Exhibit, open to amateur and professional artists. Entry must be an original artwork completed within the past three years.

Media categories are: acrylic painting; oil painting; watercolor; pastel; works on paper (drawing); photography; digital art; mixed media; printmaking; sculpture; and craft.

The Senior Art Exhibit will be on view from **April 28 to May 11** at Trailside Nature & Science Center, located at 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside (open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; closed Mondays). Artwork must be delivered according to exhibit rules and specifications.

Online registration is required. Find complete details and register at www.ucnj.org/senior-art
 Registration closes Thursday, April 21 at midnight.

Union County COVID In-Home Vaccination Program

The County of Union has partnered with Mobile Medical Services & Technology to provide homebound vaccines to county residents unable to attend events in the community. Mobile Medical Services & Technology can typically schedule a home visit in five days or less of receiving an appointment request.

To schedule a COVID-19 vaccination at your home call 1 833 256 2478

Statewide Respite Care Program & Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving Program

The **Statewide Respite Care Program** is designed to provide assistance to those who are unpaid caregivers who need a break in their responsibilities while caring for an elderly person or a person with a disability. The caregiver does not have to be a family member; many are friends or neighbors who do not self identify as a caregiver.

Services can include a homemaker/home health aide; adult day services; and In-patient respite while the caregiver takes vacation or just needs time to recharge. Applicants must be 18 or older and meet the following criteria:

<u>2022 Income</u>	<u>Assets</u>
Single—\$2,523.00 gross monthly income	\$40,000.00 or less (does not include home)
Married—\$5,046.00 gross monthly income	\$60,000.00 or less (does not include home)

The **Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving Program (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 their home. JACC is intended to supplement and strengthen the capacity of caregivers.

Applicants must to 60 or older; be financially ineligible for Medicaid or Medicaid Waiver services; is determined to be clinically eligible for nursing facility level of care, which includes needing assistance with three Activities of Daily Living (ADL’s) that include dressing; eating; bathing; toileting; transferring; and with mobility.

Services may include respite care; homemaker/home health aide; environmental accessibility modifications; personal emergency response system; home delivered meals; medical day services; special medical equipment and supplies; and chore services.

<u>2022 Income</u>	<u>Assets</u>
Single—\$3,918.00 gross monthly income	\$40,000.00 or less (does not include home)
Married—\$5,299.00 gross monthly income	\$60,000.00 or less (does not include home)



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