

THE SERVICE NETWORK

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Happy New Year

The journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step

Happy New Year from everyone at the Union County Division on Aging

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Union County Division on Aging/ADRC...a year in review

The Union County Division on Aging/ADRC is pleased to provide a snapshot of some of the services it provided to eligible seniors in 2017 with federal funds via the Older Americans' Act.

- Transportation 16,497 rides
- Certified Home Health Aide 4,981 hours
- Congregate Nutrition 168,590 meals
- Home delivered nutrition 216,894 meals
- Kosher 11,389 meals
- Legal Services 2,520 units
- Information & Assistance 5,310 contacts
- Housekeeping 8,701 hours
- Outreach to Community 550 contacts
- Mental Health Services 708 contacts
- Adult Protective Services 2,919 units

Older Americans' Act funding has seen some small increases while battling decreases, with some programs, such as the Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP), and Elder Justice programs passing the House of Representatives for elimination.

Contact your Senators now to advocate for funding for Older Americans' Act programs and services. These programs benefit seniors and their caregivers.

Make your support for Older Americans' Act programs heard!!

A Service of the Union County
 Board of Chosen Freeholders



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

www.ucnj.org

Aging Services Kiosk January Schedule



Division on Aging staff will be available at **Aging Services Kiosks** on the following dates in January

Wednesday, January 10

Linden Public Library
31 E. Henry Street
Linden, 07036
10:00–12:00

Monday, January 22

Clark Public Library
303 Westfield Avenue
Clark, 07066
10:00–12:00

Wednesday, January 24

Fanwood Public Library
5 Forest Road
Fanwood, 07023
10:00–12:00

Monday, January 29

Summit Public Library
75 Maple Street
Summit, 07901
10:30–12:30

Tuesday, January 30

Union Public Library
1980 Morris Avenue
Union, 07083
12:00–2:00

Division on Aging staff are available on these dates to meet with the public regarding any questions they may have about programs and services for seniors and/or their caregivers in Union County. The program has been highly successful in reaching County residents who might otherwise not know about help that is available through federal, state, and local programs.
Call the Division on Aging for more information at 908 527 4870 or toll free at 1 888 280 8226

Union County Facts

Elizabethtown, purchased by a group of English settlers from the Lenni Lenape Indians in 1664, became the first permanent English settlement in New Jersey; it was the first seat of New Jersey government and played a crucial role in the Revolutionary War.

Today, Union County has a land area of 103.4 square miles; it has 21 municipalities; 176 miles of county roadway; 470 bridges and culverts; 5 commuter rail lines that include the Raritan Valley Line, Northeast Corridor Line, North Jersey Coast Line, Morristown Line, and Gladstone Line; 6 major highways that include the NJT, Parkway, Routes 1&9, and Routes 78, 24, and 22; 2 airports that include Newark Liberty International and Linden; 2 maritime facilities that includes the Port of New York/New Jersey and Port Linden; 23 school districts; 172 public schools; 60+ private schools with approximately 105,389 pupils.

New Jersey Statewide Respite Care Program

The **Statewide Respite Care Program** was designed for caregivers who need a break from their caregiving responsibilities. The income guidelines for a single care recipient is \$2,250.00 single and \$4,500.00 married. Assets for a single person cannot exceed \$40,000.00/\$60,000.00 for a married couple. Services may include a homemaker/home health aide; social or medical adult day services; and in-patient respite at a facility for up to three weeks.

The in-patient component of the Respite Care Program can also be utilized by out-of-state care recipients who are temporarily residing in New Jersey. This also includes out-of-state people who have been displaced by natural disasters.

There may be a co-payment for the Respite Care Program. The program has an application process that must be adhered to that can take up to 30 days, depending on how quickly the application is received by the Division on Aging.

Plan ahead....call for information today!!

Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving Program (JACC)

JACC provides a broad array of services to individuals at-risk of nursing home placement that includes homemaker services; environmental accessibility modifications; a personal emergency response system; home delivered meal service; social adult day care; and special medical equipment and supplies.

The care recipient’s income, if single, cannot exceed \$3,668.00 monthly/\$4,938.00 if married. Assets for a single person are less than \$40,000.00/\$60,000.00 married. The participant must meet clinical criteria for the program and must be deficient in three areas of daily living that include eating; bathing; toileting; dressing; and mobility.

Once again, the JACC Program has an application process so it is essential to complete the application as soon as it is determined that services are needed.

Call the Division on Aging at 908 527 4870 or toll free at 1 888 280 8226 for more information



Home Energy Assistance Programs



Winter scenes featuring people cuddled up under cozy blankets in front of a roaring fireplace with a steaming cup of tea bring comfortable feelings of a mid winter break in the breakneck pace of life that most people keep, including senior citizens.

The reality for many are high energy bills and an inability to pay the price for keeping warm.

The following programs are available to assist homeowners and renters who pay for their utilities:

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to help low-income families and individuals meet home heating and medically necessary cooling costs. This year, the application period is October 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018. To be eligible for LIHEAP benefits, the applicant household must be responsible for home heating or cooling costs, either directly or indirectly, or included in their 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.

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% on electric. If a household has electric heat, it must spend more than 6% of its annual income on electric.

The **Weatherization Assistance Program** helps reduce energy bills and keep a home warm by providing a home energy audit to see how much money can be saved 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 more information contact PROCEED at 908 351 7727 or the Division on Aging at 908 527 4870

The **PSE&G Equal Payment Plan (EEP)** calculates an equal payment amount by dividing the previous year's energy usage into 12 equal monthly payments. An account is reviewed every six months and if energy usage changes, the payment amount is revised up or down.

The **Third Party Notification Program** will let the assignee know when an older, ill, or disabled family member's bill is late. The **Life Sustaining Equipment Program** allows people who use life sustaining medical equipment to receive priority power restoration if the power goes out.

For more information about PSE&G Customer Assistance Programs call 1 800 436 7734

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

New Jersey Comfort Partners provides free home analysis, energy education, and weatherization measures.

For more information contact Elizabethtown Gas Assistance Program at 866 340 9807

The **JCP&L Equal Payment Plan** is the same as PSE&G; however, the account is reviewed after eight months to determine if the payment should be changed to better reflect the actual usage.

The **Extended Due Date** for customers who are at least 60 years old and receive a Social Security or pension check, or if the customer receives disability assistance, will extend the payment due date until after the check arrives.

The **Extended Payment Program** is for customers who find it difficult to pay their electric bill on time; an extended payment plan will maintain service while making payments more suited to the financial situation.

The **Critical Customer Care Program** identifies customers who use certain electrically operated life sustaining medical equipment in their home. The program helps customers, for whom a service interruption could be immediately life threatening, prepare for planned and/or unplanned power outages.

For more information contact JCP&L Assistance Program at 1 800 662 3115

Home Energy Assistance....PAGE Program

The **Payment Assistance for Gas & Electric (PAGE)** Program was established by the Board of Public Utilities to provide relief on natural gas and electric bills for low to moderate income New Jersey households who are experiencing a temporary financial crisis. Eligible applicants cannot be receiving or be eligible for USF or LIHEAP benefits. PAGE is administered by the Affordable Housing Alliance.

For a list of eligibility requirements for this program or to apply online to go www.njpoweron.com or call 732 982 8710

Union County Congregate Nutrition Program

“If the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program was a restaurant, the sign outside would say “Six Billion Served.”
(former HHA Secretary Tommy G. Thompson)

For decades, the Congregate Nutrition Program has served seniors across the nation by providing nutritious, healthy meals to seniors aged 60+. The program is offered in group settings in senior or community centers and senior housing facilities throughout Union County. The congregate program provides older adults with positive social interaction, mental stimulation, and informal support systems as well as the opportunity for meaningful community involvement. The program helps participants learn to shop, plan, and prepare meals that are economical and designed to address special dietary needs, as well as educational programs to help connect older adults with other health or supportive services.

There is a \$1.75 suggested voluntary donation and all donations go back into the program. The donation is voluntary and no one is denied a meal based on their inability to contribute.

For more information call the Division on Aging at 908 527 4870 or the congregate nutrition sites listed below:

<u>Cranford Lincoln</u> 908 931 0194	<u>Farley Towers</u> 908 965 2454	<u>Liberty Square</u> 908 820 4700	<u>O’Donnell Dempsey</u> 908 354 7431	<u>Peterstown</u> 908 353 9806	<u>Sampson Center</u> 909 820 4707
<u>Hillside Sr. Ctr.</u> 908 355 8928	<u>Kenilworth</u> 908 272 7743		<u>Ann Ferguson Towers</u> 908 298 3820	<u>Gregorio Ctr</u> 908 474 8629	<u>Plainfield Towers</u> 908 668 1963
<u>Richmond Towers</u> 908 769 6335	<u>Plainfield Sr Ctr</u> 908 753 3506		<u>JFK Apartments</u> 732 382 4188	<u>Roselle Community Ctr.</u> 908 245 6717	
<u>Casano Center</u> 908 245 9150	<u>JCC—Kosher</u> 908 889 8800		<u>Ehrhart Gardens</u> 908 688 0565	<u>Schaefer Gardens</u> 908 964 9343	
<u>YM-YWHA—Kosher</u> 908 289 8112	<u>Westfield Community Ctr</u> 908 232 4759		<u>Winfield Community Ctr</u> 908 925 2014	<u>Union Sr Center</u> 908 851 5293	



Jolin Food Box Program @ Plainfield Action Services

The Jolin Food Box program is designed to provide families with nationally branded food products at wholesale prices; \$100.00 worth of food for less than \$50.00; that’s up to a 50% saving in your pocket.

There are new menus monthly; to view the current menu go to **www.shop.jolinfoodbox.com**.

Distribution day is listed online or call **908 753 3519** for information. Food must be picked up on distribution day between 1:00 to 4:00. Any food left unclaimed will be donated due to lack of refrigeration.

Pick up location: Plainfield Action Services, 510 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, 07060

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