

# THE SERVICE NETWORK

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**The Service Network**  
 Prepared by Donna Farrell  
 908-527-4858  
 Edited by Fran Benson  
 Executive Director  
 Division on Aging  
 &  
 Disability Resource  
 Connection

## **New Jersey Statewide Respite Care Program is Accepting Applicants**

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, many of whom do not identify as such, can attend to personal matters, rest, vacation, or cope with an emergency. Respite can be used occasionally or at regularly scheduled times.

Eligibility for the program requires that the care recipient reside in New Jersey; be 18 years of age or older; have a chronic disability that requires supervision or assistance with basic daily needs; has an unpaid caregiver (spouse, partner, daughter, son, niece, nephew, grandchild, friend, neighbor) who provides necessary daily care; and, those who may be at risk for nursing home placement without the services of the caregiver.

The maximum income for a single person is \$2,205 monthly with assets no more than \$40,000. The maximum income for a married couple is \$4,410 monthly with assets no more than \$60,000. A home is not counted as an asset. Applicants may have a monthly co-payment, based on the income of the care recipient.

Services include homemaker/home health aide; social or medical adult day services; and in-patient respite at a facility for up to three weeks (does not have to be taken consecutively) for caregiver vacations or just for a needed break.

## **Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving (JACC)**

The Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving Program provides a broad array of services and supports that enable individuals at-risk of nursing home placement to remain in their home. By providing a uniquely designed package of supports to the participant, JACC is intended to supplement and strengthen the capacity of unpaid caregivers and delaying placement into a nursing facility.

An applicant must be 60 years or older; reside in the community (not a nursing home or assisted living facility); be financially ineligible for Medicaid/MLTSS; has no alternate means available to secure needed services/supports; and has been determined clinically eligible for services that require assistance with at least three of the following activities of daily living: eating, bathing, toileting, dressing, and mobility.

The income for a single person cannot exceed \$3,668 monthly with assets of no more than \$40,000; a married couple's income cannot exceed \$4,938 monthly with no more than \$60,000 in assets. Once again, a home is never counted as an asset.

Services may include a homemaker/home health aide; environmental accessibility modifications; emergency response systems; home delivered meals; social adult day services; and special medical equipment & supplies.

For more information on the **New Jersey Statewide Respite Care Program** and the **Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving (JACC)** programs, call the Division on Aging at 908 527 4870 or toll free at 1 888 280 8226.

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## Aging Services Kiosk September Schedule



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

<p><b><u>Wednesday, September 6</u></b> Linden Public Library 31 E. Henry Street Linden, 07036 10:00—12:00</p>	<p><b><u>Monday, September 11</u></b> Clark Public Library 303 Westfield Avenue Clark, 07066 10:00—12:00</p>	<p><b><u>Wednesday, September 13</u></b> Mountainside Municipal 1385 Route 22, East Mountainside, 07092 11:30—1:30</p>	<p><b><u>Tuesday, September 19</u></b> Union Public Library 1980 Morris Avenue Union, 07083 12:00—2:00</p>
<p><b><u>Wednesday, September 20</u></b> Fanwood Public Library 5 Forest Avenue Fanwood, 07023 10:00—12:00</p>	<p><b><u>Thursday, September 21</u></b> Westfield Community Center 558 W. Broad Street Westfield, 07090 10:30—12:30</p>	<p><b><u>Tuesday, September 26</u></b> Berkeley Heights Library 290 Plainfield Avenue Berkeley Heights, 07922 10:00—12:00</p>	<p><b><u>Wednesday, September 27</u></b> Elizabeth Public Library 11 S. Broad Street Elizabeth, 07202 10:00—12:00 (bilingual staff)</p>

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

### 2017 Senior Farmers' Market

The Union County Division on Aging would like to remind everyone who received the Farmers' Market vouchers to use them before November

### Why Having an Identity Proving Identification Card is So Important

Almost daily, the Division on Aging receives calls from people who need a photo ID; they are under the impression that they can obtain an ID card without actually proving who they are.

Identification is a key part of life these days whether you are at home, visiting other states, or traveling overseas. In most cases, proving **who** you are is also required when applying for government programs, being admitted to hospitals, and even going to the doctor's office. Proving who you are often causes problems for senior citizens, many of whom were born in other countries and do not have a copy of their birth certificate, or those old enough to not have been issued a birth certificate at all.

In New Jersey, the quickest and least expensive (\$24.00) way to obtain a photo ID is to go to Motor Vehicles for a non-driver ID card. New Jersey residents aged 14 years of age and older can apply for a non-driver photo ID. The non-driver ID is issued solely for the purpose of providing identification and is not a license to drive.

Applicants must meet the **6-Point ID Verification Program**; for information on what documents add up to the 6-Points go to [www.njmvc.gov](http://www.njmvc.gov) or call 609 292 6500 and request form BA-207.

Another way of proving identity is by obtaining a Passport, which is much more costly (\$110 for an adult; \$185.45 to expedite in 2—3 weeks) and takes more time to apply. A United States Passport is the key to international travel but it is also used as an identity proving document.

In Union County, a Passport can be obtained at the County Courthouse, 2 Broad Street, Room 114, Elizabeth. The telephone number is 908 527 4966. Passport photos are available at this office for \$10.00. There is also a Passport office located at the Colleen Fraser Building, 300 North Avenue, Westfield. The telephone number is 908 654 9859. Both locations are handicap accessible.



## Ageism in Health Care (excerpt: nextavenue)



We've all heard the saying, 'age is just a number.' Nowhere is that more important than in the hospital!

Over the years, we've all become more aware of ageism, but it can become dangerous when older patients go to the hospital and can be misdiagnosed. Assumptions about lower capabilities, cognitive status, and sedentary lifestyle are all too common. There is a kind of 'senior profiling' that occurs among hospital staff, and this regularly leads to inappropriate medical care.

Take for example, my uncle Joe. He is 86 years old, a widower, who recently endured the sudden death of his daughter. Shortly after her funeral, uncle Joe began having stomach problems...off he goes to the emergency room where he sees a ER doc who diagnosed him as having acid reflux; give pills. Go home....more pain....another ER visit with a diagnosis of constipation; more pills and a laxative. Go home....yet more pain....you guessed it, ER visit. This time, my cousin insists he have a CAT scan. Nothing wrong. Now his extended family, myself included, think that it must be his grief that is causing the very real pain he is having.

Hospitalized patients are often very different than their usual selves. As people age, they become more vulnerable to medication side effects, infections, and delirium; so the chance of an elderly hospitalized or ER patient being acutely impaired is much higher than the general population, as evidenced by my uncle Joe. Grieving, in pain, frightened, overmedicated. Unfortunately, many hospital-based physicians and surgeons, and certainly nurses and therapists have little or no prior knowledge of the patient in their care. The patient's 'normal baseline' must often be reconstructed with the help of family members and friends. This take precious time and often goes undone.

Years ago, a patient's family physician would admit a patient to the hospital and provide care there. These days, the breadth and depth of available treatments have given birth to an army of sub-specialists....and no one talks to each other.

Thankfully, my uncle Joe had my cousin Jean to act as his advocate; she ultimately had to stamp her foot and insist that an MRI be done; this showed that all the previous diagnosis' were wrong and uncle Joe had adhesions wrapped around his intestines that were causing the pain. He had to undergo surgery, complications set in, he was hospitalized for five weeks and then did a four week stint in rehab. He is at home now, growing stronger, gaining weight, and becoming his usual ornery self. The question begs to be asked...what of those who do not have an advocate? A concerned family member? A trusted friend?

An enormous amount of resources and diagnostic rabbit holes happen because physicians are not certain if a patient's symptoms are new or old and must remain mindful of the tendency to profile older patients. Behavioral disturbances in a hospital room or ER doesn't mean that's how the person is at home. Doctors, nurses, therapists, and social workers must be especially suspicious of reversible causes of mental/physical status changes and presume that patients are normally functional until proven otherwise.

## Supplemental Food Sources

**Senior Café**, congregate dining sites throughout the county for people aged 60+. This program is administered through the Union County Division on Aging; call 908 527 4870 for locations.

The **Jolin Food Box Program**, administered by Plainfield Action Services, is open to all ages and there are no income guidelines to participate. To view the current menu go to [www.shop.jolinfoodbox.com](http://www.shop.jolinfoodbox.com) or call **908 753 3519** for information. Plainfield Action Services is located at 510 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, 07060.

**Food Pantries and Kitchens** are also located throughout the County of Union. Call the Division on Aging at 908 527 4870 for more information that includes location, service provided, restrictions, or referrals that that may be required.

The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** (SNAP) is available for qualified applicants. The income guidelines are based on household size and the total amount of household income. For more information on the SNAP Program call the Division of Social Services in Elizabeth at 908 965 2700 and Plainfield at 908 791 7000.



### Senior Tax Freeze Extended to October 18, 2017



In mid-July the Division of Taxation began mailing checks for the 2016 Senior Freeze to qualified senior and disabled homeowners who filed applications by the original filing deadline of June 1, 2017. The Division will be issuing checks as quickly as possible to homeowners who filed their applications between the original June 1 deadline and the **extended** deadline of October 18, 2017 so there is still time to apply.

The State Budget has set the following qualifications for Senior Freeze payments: applicants are eligible if their income did not exceed \$87,007 for 2015 and \$70,000 for 2016, as long as they meet all other requirements. Residents whose income was more than \$70,000 but was \$87,007 or less will not receive checks for 2016. The Division will notify them that they are not eligible. However, those residents can establish a 'base year' for future reimbursements by filing an application by the deadline. This also ensures that the Division will mail them applications next year.

For additional information on the Senior Freeze contact your town's property tax office or go to [www.state.nj.us/treasury](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury)

#### Minority Task Force Health Fair

Saturday, September 23, 2017

10:45 am—2:00 pm

Rahway Senior Center  
1306 Esterbrook Avenue  
Rahway, 07065

**For more information call:**

Deborah Mathis 732 382 6272  
Elaine Haith 732 428 4800

#### Alzheimer's Caregiver Conference

Saturday, November 4, 2017

8:30 am—12:00 pm

Union County College  
1033 Springfield Avenue  
Cranford, 07016

Call **973 586 4300** to RSVP and secure adult day services  
Adult Day Services provided Gateway Family YMCA  
WISE Adult Day Services  
2095B Berwyn Street  
Union, 07083

#### Affordable Care Act Repeal Bill Fails in Senate Vote

As you know, the Affordable Care Act repeal bill failed in a Senate vote that fell short of the 51 votes needed to pass it on July 26, 2017.

Many thanks to all who advocated for seniors and people with disabilities; those who contacted their elected officials, wrote letters, sent e-mails, or called them directly; apparently they do listen to the voice of the people.

The road ahead will continue to be difficult as Congress begins debate on FY18 funding for programs serving millions of at-risk people across the country. Housing & Urban Development (HUD); Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); the Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP); the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP); mental health programs; programs for people with disabilities; home energy assistance and weatherization; legal assistance to low income residents; funding for HIV/AIDS programs; immigration assistance programs; just to name a few areas on the chopping block.

The Division on Aging will continue to keep you apprised on these and other topics related to the populations we serve; your continued support, as always, is appreciated. We don't know what's coming around the bend; but we are ready and our voices will be heard.

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