

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE AT WILL

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LATEST LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON FOOD STAMP REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS

EDISON— Details for low-and moderate-income New Jerseyans about the state’s SNAP (food stamps) program and other services are spelled out in the latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ).

The bilingual publication, “Looking Out For Your Legal Rights,” is accessible online at [Looking Out For Your Legal Rights](#) and also is available at all Legal Services offices in New Jersey. Details about the SNAP program can be viewed at [SNAP—New Jersey's Food Stamp Program](#).

To qualify for SNAP benefits, applicants must not only be 16 to 59 years old and meet certain income levels, but also have to register for work rules — employment or training programs. There are numerous exemptions, but applicants who are not exempt come under the work mandates. In such work-related instances, the state must provide the individuals with transportation and child care assistance, if needed.

There are stiffer requirements for Able Bodied Adults Without Children (ABAWD). They can only get SNAP benefits for three months in a 36-month period unless they qualify for specific exemptions, such as working or doing volunteer work for 80 hours a month.

For both the regular and ABAWD programs there are procedures for individuals to appeal decisions. SNAP applicants are reminded it is essential they include their medical and utility expenses when calculating their income requirement levels for the program.

Meanwhile, the latest LSNJ newsletter also notes that low-income people who are involved in lawsuits may be eligible to have the often-costly filing fees for their court cases waived. There are two forms that must be filed for the waiver.

Low-to moderate-income persons who need help regarding the SNAP program and the process for having court filing fees waived can call the LSNJ toll-free legal hotline at 1-888 576-5529 or go to www.lsnjlawhotline.org . The hotline operates weekdays from 8 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. and handles numerous civil matters, including bankruptcy and many other issues.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of five independent non-profit corporations and has been providing free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people through offices in all 21 counties for more than 50 years. Since its inception, LSNJ has provided representation in more than 2.4 million cases.

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