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LATEST LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON AID PROGRAMS TO REDUCE UTILITY BILLS, AS WELL AS THE LOOMING TERMINATION OF DACA

EDISON — Details for low- and moderate-income New Jerseyans about programs to offset costs for utility bills, as well as some of the key questions relating to the scheduled termination of DACA are the focus of the latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ).

The bilingual publication, “Looking Out For Your Legal Rights,” may be viewed online at www.lsnjlaw.org and also is available at all Legal Services offices in New Jersey.

The newsletter provides details about three major programs — the Universal Service Fund, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Lifeline Energy Assistance Program — to help qualified homeowners and tenants reduce utility bills. It spells out eligibility requirements, income limits, application procedures, and emergency help in certain situations.

The LSNJ newsletter focuses on some of the key questions relating to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, which, barring congressional action, is scheduled to terminate sometime in March. More than 22,000 young New Jerseyans now are in DACA, which has allowed those who came to U.S. as minors to receive essentially ongoing deferrals from deportation.

Federal authorities already have stopped accepting new DACA and related work applications, and have said applications already in the pipeline will be handled on a case by case basis. Current DACA recipients will not be affected until they reach the expiration date on their documents, the newsletter notes.

Further DACA-related information is available from LSNJ's Immigration Representation Project at 732-572-9100, extension 8782.

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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