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**FOR RELEASE AT WILL**

May 2018

**LATEST LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON THE CHARITY CARE PROGRAM THAT HELPS UNINSURED POOR PEOPLE PAY HOSPITAL BILLS**

EDISON — Details for low- and moderate-income New Jerseyans about eligibility and other aspects of New Jersey’s Charity Care Program that pays all or part of hospital bills 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](http://www.lsnjlaw.org) and also is available at all Legal Services offices in New Jersey.

In addition to information about Charity Care, the newsletter explores how to calculate medical expenses to secure the highest SNAP (Food Stamps) benefit, as well as details about an additional 26 weeks of unemployment benefits for individuals participating in work training programs.

The LSNJ newsletter notes residents who do not have health insurance or are not covered by Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare are eligible for Charity Care if they meet certain income and asset limits. That would amount, for example, to \$24,280 for a single person or \$50,200 for a family of four. Partial hospital payments may be available for somewhat higher income thresholds. The asset limits (excluding the value of a home) are \$7,500 for a single person and \$15,000 for a family of four.

The newsletter points out that a key to qualifying for the monthly amount of SNAP

benefits is calculating housing, medical, child care and other expenses. Such expenses determine “countable” income levels that dictate the amount of the awards. The article focuses and lists the medical expenses that can be deducted.

The newsletter lays out strict deadlines individuals must meet to possibly gain entry into an extended 26-week training program for unemployment benefits after the first six months of benefits have expired or are about to expire.

*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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