

Legal Services of New Jersey
100 Metroplex Drive at Plainfield Avenue
P.O. Box 1357
Edison, New Jersey 08818-1357

Contact: Harvey Fisher
Office Phone: 732-529-8430
Cell Phone: 908-616-9941
E-mail: hfisher@lsnj.org

FOR RELEASE AT WILL

January 2018

**LATEST LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER
FOCUSES ON HELP PAYING ENERGY BILLS**

EDISON — The latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) focuses on the various programs in New Jersey designed to help poor people pay their gas and electric bills.

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.

There essentially are three key assistance programs: The Universal Service Fund, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Lifeline Energy Assistance Program.

All provide varying but substantial financial assistance for energy bill payments. Eligibility for each of the programs also varies, but generally focuses on income levels, age or disability of the individual or families applying for the benefits.

Details and assistance with applications can be obtained by calling Legal Services Hotline at 1-888-LSNJ-LAW.

The LSNJ newsletter also offers details on New Jersey’s Cold Blue Alert program, which, when temperatures drop below freezing and pose a danger for homeless people, allows authorities to take the homeless to local shelters that also provide food and clothing.

Information about the shelters and “Warming Centers,” can be obtained by dialing 2-1-1. Local police may also be called to learn when a Code Blue Alert has been declared.

Meanwhile, with the tax season approaching, low-income New Jerseyans are advised they can get help dealing with tax problems from LSNJs Tax Legal Assistance Project (TLAP) at the toll-free hotline 1-888-576-5529.

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.

#####