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FOR RELEASE AT WILL

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**LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON
INCOME LIMITS FOR NJ FAMILYCARE PROGRAMS AND
TIME LIMITS FOR SOME FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS**

EDISON — The latest newsletter from Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) provides details on new income eligibility levels for NJ FamilyCare programs, as well as food stamp time limits and work rules for able-bodied adults without dependents. The bilingual publication, “Looking Out For Your Legal Rights,” is accessible online at www.lsnjlaw.org.

NJ FamilyCare covers a wide range of health care programs for low-income adults and children, among others. This year the income limits for eligibility were revised upward. That means that some families that might have been ineligible in the past now might qualify this year. The newsletter provides some very specific details on the Medicaid-related health insurance programs for adults ages 19 to 64, children, and the aged, blind and disabled.

In a directly related matter, recent federal legislation bars all Medicaid terminations during the COVID-19 state of emergency. Similarly, rules have been suspended for SNAP (food stamps) time limits and work rules for those ages 18 to 49 classified as ABAWD — able-bodied adults without dependent children.

Most individuals in the ABAWD category who do not work can only receive three months of food stamps in a 36-month period. That stipulation has been waived in recent years, but there was a possibility it might be applied this year.

The newsletter also focuses on law changes expanding worker protections, as well as new safeguards for tenants.

One reform that would require employers in certain situations to give workers advance notice of layoffs and severance pay will not be applicable during the COVID emergency.

Meanwhile, LSNJ has created a special online section, www.lsnjlaw.org/Coronavirus, for legal information relating to the coronavirus, including unemployment benefits and paid sick leave, updates about court proceeding and closing, and details about numerous protections available for residents during the emergency.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of six 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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