

MONMOUTH COUNTY DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Monmouth County Division of Social Services (MCDSS) is a county government agency providing financial, medical, and social services to the public.

MCDSS is part of the Monmouth County Department of Human Services, the largest county department in Monmouth County. Programs are administered through the New Jersey Department of Human Services on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Families and Children, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Programs administered by MCDSS are funded through federal, state, and/or county funds. Services are provided to all county residents meeting program requirements. Many programs have financial eligibility requirements.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Services are available to Monmouth County residents who meet funding and eligibility guidelines. MCDSS provides social services through professionally trained social work staff by assisting with individual, family, or group counseling. In addition, support services and case management are offered.

An important service provided by social work staff is information and referral to partner agencies in the community. A number of staff are designated as liaisons with various community organizations (Brookdale Community College, Lunch Break, and St. Mark's) to provide seamless services to those in need. Services are provided to single adults, children, and families. Staff includes bi-lingual workers in both offices.

Outreach and Support

Adult and family referral and case management for food, medical, housing needs, and various support services.

HIV/AIDS and Case Management

Services to assist families and individuals dealing with HIV/AIDS.

DISABILITY SERVICES



Services and referrals are provided to assist physically disabled adults and children to enhance their quality of life by becoming more independent.

EARLY PERIODIC SCREENING DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT (EPSDT)

Monitors medical screening for children receiving services through MCDSS.



ELDERLY ASSISTANCE

Case Management and support for persons over 60 to address housing, medical, and financial issues.

BOARDING HOME SERVICES

Outreach to rooming houses and boarding homes; investigates all allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation at facilities; assesses need for level of care and provides social services to residents.

EMERGENCY HOME REPAIR AND BARRIER FREE PROGRAMS

Refers to the Office of Community Development for emergency repairs for low income households and funds for modification to housing units for the mobility impaired.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

Social workers provide crisis intervention and support services in coordination with the state Family Violence Option and 180 Turning Lives Around.

SOCIAL SECURITY LIAISON

SSAMI (Social Security Assistance for Mental Illness) social workers assist mentally ill and/or homeless individuals with the application for Social Security benefits.

TARGETED POPULATION CHILD CARE

Provides child care assistance for high risk children.

FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY (FSS)

Provides assistance with social services, training, and financial planning to FSS participants on the Rental Assistance program.

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Services are also provided for case management for recipients of Medicaid through the assisting with preparation of social and medical assessments for the State Medical Review Panel to determine Medicaid eligibility, Application Assistance for financial assistance programs for homebound applicants and NJ Shares-utility arrears assistance.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial programs administered by MCDSS include Work First New Jersey (also known as welfare assistance), food stamps/SNAP, child support and paternity services, emergency services, housing assistance, and burial assistance.

Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)

In 1996, the Federal Government made significant changes to public welfare programs. These reforms were made through legislation called PRWORA- Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. New Jersey also passed legislation to be in compliance with PRWORA. New Jersey's legislation resulted in the Work First New Jersey Program (WFNJ). WFNJ has two provisions: WFNJ-TANF and WFNJ-GA.

WFNJ has time limits with a maximum lifetime limit of 5 years. MCDSS case managers work closely with recipients to help them to become self-sufficient.

WFNJ provides a number of support areas to help people succeed, such as job training, child care and transportation. The law provides for exemptions and waivers for those unable to become self-sufficient.

WFNJ-TANF (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES)

TANF replaced AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children). TANF provides monthly cash assistance based on financial need to families with dependent children. The definition of "family" includes relatives taking care of other family members. The monthly benefit paid is based on income and household size.

WFNJ-GA (GENERAL ASSISTANCE)

General Assistance (GA) provides monthly cash assistance based on financial need to single adults or adult couples without dependent children. MCDSS administers programs for many towns in Monmouth County. The programs in remaining towns are administered directly by the municipality.