



The **Department of Human Services** (Human Services or DHS) provides programs and services for individuals and families facing economic and health challenges. These include health insurance through NJ FamilyCare or Medicaid, food assistance through NJ SNAP, independent living supports, and personal care services. DHS serves one in five state residents, including older New Jerseyans, individuals and families with low incomes; people with developmental disabilities, or late-onset disabilities; people who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind; parents needing child care services, child support and/or healthcare for their children; people who are dealing with addiction and mental health issues; and families facing catastrophic medical expenses for their children.



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Agency Resilience Program in Action

Human Services serves many of the populations at greatest risk of harm from climate change-related hazards. By equipping community members and crisis responders with information about climate-related risks and available resources, Human Services helps individuals respond and prepare. In addition, by supporting the health and economic security of New Jersey residents, the department's programs help reduce sensitivity to the impacts of climate change by increasing the capacity and preparedness of those hardest hit by extreme weather events.



DHS awards funds through the **Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant Program**, which supports New Jersey communities and organizations engaged in projects that promote the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities in the communities where they live.



DHS **educates crisis responders about the impact of climate-related disasters on behavioral health** by developing informational materials and delivering training.



DHS collaborates with the NJ Office of Emergency Management to **promote the use of Register Ready** so that people who have disabilities and access and functional needs can share information that may help emergency responders better assist them during disasters or emergency events.



DHS **creates educational materials on the risks of heat and sun** for individuals taking psychiatric medications, including guidance on preventing heat illness, protection from sun and air quality risks, and medication storage.

Human Services serves about 2.1 million New Jerseyans, including roughly one out of every two children.