



## **Important message on recent changes to the state's Emergency Assistance (EA) for individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless**

Governor Murphy on December 20, 2018, signed a new law (P.L.2018, c164) that expands the time limit for Emergency Assistance benefits for certain groups of people for five years<sup>1</sup>. The groups included are as follows:

- Parent or relative of a disable child or other disabled dependent who is providing full time care for disabled dependent.
- Permanently Disabled (This includes persons on SSI benefits)
- Over 60 years of age
- Chronically Unemployable as defined by regulation

Under the Emergency Assistance Program through NJ Department of Health Services Division of Family Development, eligible persons may receive the following benefits (including but not limited to): essential food, clothing, shelter and household furnishings; temporary rental assistance or back rent or mortgage payments; utility payments (such as heat, water, electric); transportation to search for housing; and moving expenses.

An individual who is presently homeless or at risk of homelessness AND has exhausted their EA time limits AND is part of at least one of the groups mentioned above may be eligible for additional EA benefits without time limits for the next five years.

If you believe you are eligible and you are denied EA by the county or municipal welfare agency, you are entitled to request a Fair Hearing or contact a lawyer.

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<sup>1</sup> The new law eliminating the time limits will expire in five year and you must meet WFNJ eligibility criteria in order to receive EA.