

Bergen County Board of Social Services Program Overview

The following is an outline and background information on the numerous State and/or Federally mandated programs that the Bergen County Board of Social Services administers.

Medicaid Programs:

Institutional Medicaid – Provides medical assistance to aged, blind and disabled individuals who require long term nursing home care. There is a five-year look back period for assets (property, bank accounts, stocks, etc.).

Community Medicaid – Provides medical assistance to aged, blind and disabled individuals who reside in the community.

New Jersey Family Care Programs

AFDC – Related Medicaid – This Medicaid is for families who are receiving TANF or for those families with income below the AFDC Medicaid income standard (the lowest income standard for families).

Family Care Program – This Medicaid program is for families with income up to 133% FPL. This program has the most recipients of all the programs we administer. We receive over 550 new applications each month and annual renewals of over 13,000 Medicaid cases. This population often consists of employed parents (many are self-employed with partnerships or corporations).

Medicaid Special – This Medicaid program is for individuals ages 18-21 whose income falls below the AFDC Medicaid standard.

Medicaid services include coverage for doctors, hospitals, prescriptions, home care and medical transportation.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): (Formally known as the Food Stamp Program)

Provides a supplemental food allowance to low-income families and individuals. Benefits cannot be used to purchase non-food items such as paper products, toiletries and tobacco. The Board staffs outreach sites strategically located throughout Bergen County in order to facilitate the application process for customers. We also participate in numerous community events in order to increase public awareness of the benefits of the programs that we administer.

Cash Assistance Programs:

TANF – Temporary Assistance to Needy Families provides cash assistance to low income families. Parents are required to cooperate with child support regulations if there is an absent parent.

General Assistance – Cash assistance to adults without dependent children. We currently provide this service to 58 municipalities in Bergen County.

Refugee Resettlement Program – Provides cash assistance to certain individuals and families granted asylum by the U.S. Government.

All of the cash assistance programs are time limited and require a work activity component for continued eligibility.

Family Preservation Programs:

Emergency Assistance – Provides assistance to eligible families, and GA and SSI recipients who are in a state of actual homelessness or imminent homelessness. Provides rental assistance, furniture allowance, security and utility payments and emergency shelter. Provides emergency child care when medically necessary.

WFNJ/TANF/GA Work Programs – Provides case management in conjunction with the One Stop Career Center and other case management sites. Provides support services to WFNJ recipients required to participate in work or training activities (child care, transportation and other related expenses).

Adult Services Programs:

Adult Protective Services – Investigate and assess referrals/complaints of actual or potential abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults. Provide services necessary to stabilize the person then, if appropriate, refer for guardianship or ongoing case management through NJ EASE. Maintain the County after hour's toll-free hotline for emergencies: 1-800-3-Bergen.

Emergency Assistance – See above.

Homemaker Program – Purchases and monitors homemaker/home health services for elderly and/or disabled adults who require personal care in order to remain in their home. This program is funded by a grant received through the county.

DDD (Division of Developmental Disabilities) Supports Program – This program was developed by DDD to help serve adults with developmental disabilities by providing support and services. Consumers must be 21 years of age, Medicaid approved and DDD approved. For details of the services offered, please contact 201-368-7687.

Residential Service Program – Monitors compliance of rooming houses, boarding homes and residential health care facilities. Investigate complaints and report findings to the appropriate licensing entity. Provides referrals and case management, as needed, to eligible residents.

Child Support and Paternity (CSP) Services:

Federal and State regulations mandate the Board to pursue child support and paternity for all children on public assistance. This includes initiating paternity or support complaints or modifying existing child support orders, as appropriate. The agency also locates non-custodial parents regardless of their public assistance status. The program also requires the agency to pursue child support for children in the care and custody of the Division of Child Permanency and Protection (DCPP) and to handle interstate support actions initiated through the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA). The agency is also mandated to review child support obligations in non-public assistance cases. The CSP staff and the staff attorney work closely with the Bergen County court system and the Bergen County Probation Department to ensure compliance with support orders and the distribution of collections to offset the costs of the TANF program.