Dear Colleague,

The Arc of New Jersey is pleased to provide some information that we hope will be helpful for families and staff:

1. **Unemployment Insurance Fact Sheet**, developed by The Arc of the US, which provides important information for everyone with I/DD who lost their job due to the coronavirus. The fact sheet explains the Unemployment Insurance policy changes for people who receive SSI, Social Security (including Social Security Disability Insurance, SSDI), and Medicaid. These changes occurred recently, after the passage of the CARES Act at the federal level. Please note that there is a difference in the Unemployment Insurance policy for SSI beneficiaries compared to those who receive Social Security benefits. See the Fact Sheet here:

2. **NJ Helps**: The New Jersey Department of Human Services has an easy-to-navigate website, [www.njhelps.org](http://www.njhelps.org) that may be helpful for individuals with I/DD living independently and for families who are struggling financially due to the coronavirus pandemic and lost income. Potential applicants can do an online screening that takes just 5 to 10 minutes, to find out if they may be eligible for food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); financial assistance; or NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid (health insurance). After the brief online screening, applications for these programs can be completed and submitted online.

3. **NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid helpline**: The best way to apply for NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid is online, and the application can be accessed from the [www.njhelps.org website](http://www.njhelps.org) (see #2 above). New Jersey Medicaid has a helpline for questions about applying for NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid; inquiring about the start date after an application was
submitted; and asking about health care services after coverage has started. The phone number is 1-800-701-0710 and these are the hours of operation:

- Monday and Thursday - 8 am to 8 pm
- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday - 8 am to 5 pm

4. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, New Jersey's public electric and gas utilities have agreed to suspend service shutoffs. Click below for further information for utility customers, including eligibility for home energy assistance and how to apply.

All utility customers who have questions about their service are encouraged to contact their utility. A list of all public gas and electricity utility company phone numbers is available here.

How to Apply for Home Energy Assistance:
1. Find out if you are eligible for the program
2. If you are eligible, fill out an application
   - Download, print and complete the Home Energy/USF/Weatherization Program Application [pdf 38KB]
3. Submit a completed application via email, fax, or mail to your Local Community Action Agency
   - Choose from the list of Local Application Agency's contact information

Additional Information:
- "Do You Need Help With Your Home Energy Bills?" - Brochure
- "Do You Need Help With Your Home Energy Bills?" - Brochure - Spanish
- Energy Assistance Program Fact Sheet for 2020
- Spanish Translation - Energy Assistance Program Fact Sheet for 2020
- "HEA - Heating System Improvement Dealer/Service Contract Assurances Forms
- USF/HEA Contractor's Assurances Letter
- 2020 LIHEAP Benefit Amounts Table

This is one of many emails that The Arc of New Jersey is distributing in an effort to help individuals with I/DD, their families, and staff to be safe and healthy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. To see other emails that The Arc of New Jersey has distributed on this topic, please go to https://www.arcnj.org/information/covid-19-updates-information.html.

Thank you.
Bev

Beverly Roberts
Director, Mainstreaming Medical Care
The Arc of New Jersey
985 Livingston Avenue
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
Direct line and fax: 732.246.2567
www.mainstreamingmedicalcare.org