Emergency Assistance Expansion Report

Annual Update
April 2019

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Natasha Johnson
Director

Carole Johnson
Commissioner
Purpose
This annual report, mandated by New Jersey’s Emergency Assistance law, is a summary of the data elements specified in Section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51). Per this section, the Department of Human Services’ Division of Family Development (DFD) is required to report on data relating to the extension of Emergency Assistance for Specific Groups.

Overview
Effective December 20, 2018, the Emergency Assistance law (Section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51)) was amended to extend the emergency assistance time limit for eligible individuals from the follow groups:

- SSI recipients;
- WFNJ recipients who are permanently disabled;
- WFNJ recipients over 60 years of age;
- WFNJ recipients categorized as "chronically unemployable;" and
- WFNJ recipients who are parents or relatives that must provide full-time care for a disabled child or disabled dependent.

The amended law ensures that eligible members of these groups would not be limited to Emergency Assistance benefits for the twelve (12) month lifetime limit and the additional hardship extensions, but shall receive such benefits. This EA extension terminates in five years on February 2024.

The Division of Family Development provided formal guidance to the County and Municipal Social Services Agencies on the new legislation and changes to policy and procedures to effectuate the proper implementation of the law. In response to the amended law, the Division made the appropriate system edits to satisfy the law's data collection requirement.

Analysis
The data herein is reflective of data accumulated from the December 20, 2018, the law’s effective date, through March 15, 2019 statewide.

1. Case Count – Statewide

Presently, there are 454 cases of individuals who are receiving extended EA benefits statewide. Of the 454 cases, 310 of those individuals are GA recipients, and 144 are TANF and/or SSI recipients.
2. Type of Service Provided – Statewide

Temporary Rental Assistance is the most provided type of EA to clients receiving extended EA benefits. In some instances, a household may be receiving more than one type of EA supports. For example, a household may receive temporary rental assistance and utility expenses supports. The chart below represents a case count by type of service. Note that a case receiving more than one service is counted more than once.
3. Amount Spent on Services – Statewide

Approximately $560,976 has been spent on extended EA services statewide within the three (3) months of implementation. The majority of the costs are incurred by providing Temporary Rental Assistance payments which can include rent or mortgage payments.

![Statewide Expenditure Chart]

4. Average Duration of EA Provided – Statewide

On average, those individuals receiving Emergency Assistance under the extension have received 1.6 Months of EA from December 20, 2018 to March 15, 2019, a three (3) month period.

CONCLUSION

In compliance with the Annual Report requirement pursuant to Section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51), the Department of Human Services’ Division of Family Development respectfully submits this data to the New Jersey Legislature for its review and consideration.