THE MCBOSS BUZZ

What's New – What's Now – What's Happening
In addition, how it affects you!

Important Information for SNAP Recipients about your February Benefits

The Federal Shutdown May Impact Your SNAP Benefits

Due to the federal government shutdown, you will be receiving your February Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits early. If you received a SNAP benefit in January and scheduled to receive SNAP in February, your February benefits will be available on your Families First card on January 17. This is your benefit for the entire month of February, so please budget with that in mind! February cash assistance benefits for Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and General Assistance (GA) will be available on your Families First card on your regular date.

For updates on how the federal shutdown may impact your SNAP benefits, visit www.mcboss.org and www.NJSNAP.gov.

PROGRESSIVE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

One Place, Many Services
Progressive Center For Independent Living

PROGRESSIVE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

The Progressive Center for Independent Living is a community based, cross disability, non-profit organization with a mission to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities to achieve and maintain independent lifestyles. Through promotion of choice, self-direction and inclusion, PCIL works with people with disabilities and their families to ensure the same freedoms and civil liberties as everyone else. PCIL helps individuals seek services through SSI, SSDI and other agencies and assist in developing plans to reach individual goals. The Progressive Center of independent Living in Mercer County is located at 3525 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 904, Hamilton, New Jersey 08619. For more information on the PCIL visit www.pcil.org or call (609) 581-4500 and (877) 917-4500.

Apply for the 2018 Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

TC is a special federal and state tax benefit for individuals d families who earn low to moderate incomes in NJ. A Tax Credit may reduce the amount of taxes you owe or provide you with a refund, even if you do not owe any taxes.

EITC Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2018	
Household Size	**Annual income**
Families with three or more qualifying children	If you earn less than $49,194 ($54,884 if married and filing jointly) in 2018 you could get a refund of up to $6,431.
Families with two qualifying children	If you earn less than $45,802 ($51,492 if married and filing jointly) in 2018 you could get a refund of up to $5,716.
Families with one qualifying child	If you earn less than $40,320 ($46,010 if married and filing jointly) in 2018 you could get a refund of up to $3,461.
Families or single adult between the age of 25 & 64 with no qualifying children	If you earn less than $15,270 in 2018 you could get a refund of up to $519.

EITC and Receiving Other Benefits

EITC refunds *will not count* as income when you apply for or renew benefits like SNAP, SSI, Medicaid, Cash Assistance, or Public Housing. Refunds that are saved do not count against federally funded benefit programs resource/asset limits for 12 months after the refund is received.

Get FREE Tax Help

Free tax preparation is available at over 300 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. For the nearest location, call NJ's resources hotline, 2-1-1 or visit www.nj211.org. To obtain more information on New Jersey's EITC, call toll-free 1-888-895-9179 or visit www.njeitc.org. For more information on federal EITC, call the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) toll-free at (800) 829-1040 or visit www.irs.gov/eitc.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Consumer Information-All Programs

(609) 989-4320

Adult Protective Services &

Adult Social Services

(609) 989-4346 or (609) 989-4347

Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator

(609) 656-6301

Child Support-General Information

1-(877) NJKIDS1 (1-877-655-4371)

Emergency Assistance, Family Planning &

Early Periodic Screening and Treatment Programs

(609) 989-4451

Homeless Hotline

(609) 468-8296

Fraud Tip Line

(609) 989-4400

Work First NJ Case Management Unit

(609) 989-6248

Toll Free Information-All Programs

1-(800) 564-1595

Fax (609) 394-6638

CONTACT INFORMATION

E-MAIL INQUIRY:
Email inquiries may be directed to
mcboss@mcboss.org

ADDRESS:
Mercer County Board of Social Services
200 Woolverton Street
P.O. Box 1450
Trenton, NJ 08650-2099

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday and Wednesday through Friday:
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

NEW JERSEY EBT CARD WEBSITE

HTTP://WWW.EBT.ACS-INC.COM

NEED TO CONTACT YOUR HMO?

***AMERIGROUP* 1 (800) 600-4441,**
***UNITED HEALTHCARE* 1 (800) 941-4647,**
***HORIZON* 1 (877) 765-4325,**
***WELLCARE* 1 (888) 453-3534**

Home Energy Assistance Programs

Need help paying your energy bills? Help is available!

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) 1-800-510-3102

LIHEAP helps low-income households pay their winter heating bills. You may qualify even if your heat is included in your rent. LIHEAP eligibility is income based; for example, the monthly gross income limit for a family of four is $4,184. *The application deadline for LIHEAP assistance is August 31, 2019.* Apply in person for LIHEAP at the Mercer County Home Energy Assistance Office located at 640 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08650. For more information, or to find out if you qualify call the number listed above or call the Mercer County Home Energy Assistance office direct at (609) 989-6858 or (609) 989-6959.

Universal Service Fund (USF) 1-866-240-1347

USF helps make energy bills more affordable for low-income customers. USF eligibility is also income based for example; the monthly gross income limit for a family of four is $3,661. If you are eligible, USF can lower the amount you have to pay for your gas and electric bills. *USF accepts applications all year.* You may also be eligible for both LIHEAP and USF.

NJ Lifeline Credit Program 1-800-792-9745

The Lifeline Credit Program provides a $225 yearly credit on the electric or gas bill to customers ages 65 years or older. In addition, disabled adults over the age of 18 who receive a Social Security Disability benefit may also receive this credit. Income must not exceed $27,951 for a single person or $34,268 for a married couple. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients will automatically receive the Lifeline benefit with their monthly SSI check.

NJ SHARES 1-866-NJSHARES (657-4273)

NJ SHARES provides energy assistance to moderate and fixed income households who do not qualify for other assistance programs. To qualify, you must show a history of paying your bills on time and that something prevents you from paying now. If you receive LIHEAP and USF, you are not eligible for NJ SHARES benefits. *NJ SHARES is available all year.* Call NJ SHARES toll free at 1-(866) 657-4273.

REMEMBERING TRENTON'S DR. HENRY J. AUSTIN BLACK HISTORY MONTH - FEBRUARY 2019

Dr. Henry J. Austin was significant as a Black physician and community leader during the mid-twentieth century. Born in 1888 in Rahway, New Jersey. Austin was raised in Princeton and in 1908 he graduated from Lincoln University. Austin earned his M.D. from Howard University in 1919 and returned to Trenton to practice medicine in 1922. In addition to his successful career as a physician in the African American community, Austin served as a leader in a number of local organizations. In 1941, the Trenton chapter of the NAACP was reorganized with Austin as its president: some historians credit Dr. Austin with helping to integrate Trenton schools. In 1969 the Henry J. Austin Health Center, Inc. was established in the city of Trenton. The mission of Henry J. Austin Health Center is to provide quality, community-based, affordable, accessible primary health care services in a culturally sensitive manner with respect and dignity. Today the Henry J. Austin Health Center provides care to approximately 13,000 individuals annually generating more than 50,000 visits from four locations.

Mercer County Board of Social Services Winter 2019