

Melnaiah L.

Greetings,

There were many challenges that had to face during the COVID-19. Such as homelessness, fear of my life being in danger, an unexpected miscarriage, or me having to scrape change for food according for me to survive. Being homeless during COVID made me feel more vulnerable to getting sick and I was at my lowest point in life and that wasn't an easy feeling to shake off. It still gives me chills just even speaking on that topic right now. During the COVID 19 pandemic I didn't have much allies, but enough. I had my Dad, Mom, Sister, and boyfriend that was there for me through every struggle I went through. Although the Covid-19 made life more difficult it also brought a blessing in my life. I was able to get PUA and that made me feel much more secure, so because of that I become somewhat relieved and happier. I didn't have to struggle with food anymore and I didn't have to beg the welfare to help me anymore. I was also able to provide myself with shelter when when friends/family couldn't take me in. Despite that, there is few things I would like to pronounce that NJ could have done better during the pandemic. Such as the welfare, they should have been more caring or at least have a heart for the homeless people like myself.

They didn't even help me, they had me sit in the waiting room for hours just for them to tell me, "No, we can't help you". I was even pregnant at the time and they still didn't care. They couldn't even give me any referrals for programs or shelters to go to, I never felt that humiliated or that afraid in my life. I would beg them for help and the staff just looked at me as if I was insane like I wasn't scared for my life. New Jersey needs to have more care for the homeless, just maybe if they experienced it themselves they just might care.