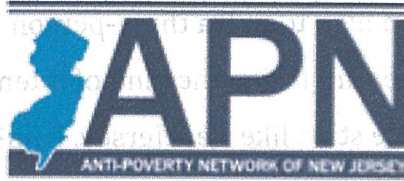


**APPENDIX**



**Senate Legislative Oversight Committee, September 29, 2016**

**Testimony of**

**Renee Koubiadis, Executive Director  
Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey**

Good afternoon Chairman Gordon, Vice-chair Weinberg, and members of the committee. My name is Renee Koubiadis and I am the Executive Director of the Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey, a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals committed to the prevention, reduction and the eventual end of poverty in New Jersey. I am also on the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness and am here representing them as well. Thank you for the invitation to address you today about the far-reaching challenge of meeting the housing and social service needs of people in this state as it relates to the work of the this committee.

Poverty runs the spectrum from the desperately poor that are often facing generational barriers to opportunity, to the formerly middle class who have slipped into poverty since the Great Recession.

We know that New Jersey is a high cost state. What APN calls *True Poverty* is twice the federal poverty income (200% FPL). At this level we know that about 1 in 5 New Jerseyans are facing economic shortfalls relative to the cost of living in New Jersey.<sup>1</sup> This places individuals and families at the edge where one high cost or unexpected bill can push them into homelessness.

At the other end of the spectrum we see extreme poverty faced by some of our neighbors. The official poverty rate (100% FPL), while counting far less people who are really struggling in our state, still accounts for 1 in 9 New Jersey residents (11.1%). Many of these are minimum wage workers whose salary, even working

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<sup>1</sup> The most recent statewide Census poverty data estimates that 24.9% of New Jersey residents have incomes at or below twice the federal poverty level (200% fpl).

full-time, year-round is not enough to pull a three-person family out of poverty. Moreover, our poorest families are facing the kind of intense deprivation that should be unknown in a high resource state like New Jersey. Families that depend on the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, although less numerous than the other categories (an average of about 73,700 people in 2015), face an incredible gap between their monthly resources and the Standard published by DHS. This is the very Department that serves them. However, \$424 a month is barely more than 15% of the Standard of Need, and even when combined with approximated SNAP benefits the total resources are still less than 30% of the Standard. This kind of intense poverty must be part of the conversation about addressing New Jersey's poverty problem.

An essential component of our welfare safety net is **Emergency Assistance (EA)**. We are seeing people who have been denied EA because they have exceeded the 12-month time limit. With the dearth of low-income and affordable housing statewide, it can be extremely difficult for families and individuals to secure affordable housing within this time frame. There are exemption categories that exist currently in the Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) program that could be used to apply exemptions for certain populations, like those with long-term disabilities and those deemed unemployable by DHS. Legislation could modify the WFNJ statute to allow for these exemptions to be put in place to extend EA assistance, enabling people to find safe, sustainable housing.

The second issue is that since last summer the Department of Human Services (DHS) has implemented a significant policy change in the EA program which has driven many disabled and vulnerable individuals and families into homelessness, and threatens many more. DHS Commissioner Connolly has said repeatedly that the regulations for EA have not changed, and while that is true, the way the regulations have been applied to new applications has changed. Indeed the June report from the Division of Family Development indicates that between June 2015 and June 2016, the number of EA cases decreased by 43.6%. The individuals and families who are being denied this assistance are still homeless whether they are doubling or tripling up with other families or are being provided temporary assistance by homeless

services providers who cannot in good conscience see them on the street or sleeping in cars even though those providers are no longer getting the EA funding to provide assistance. These situations are precarious and can destabilize at any time. The decrease in EA approvals and funding has created a crisis in our state and caused a number of homeless services providers to lay off significant numbers of staff and cut back on services they can provide or even to close their emergency assistance programs. The New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness recently provided DHS Commissioner Connolly with information on 10 homeless service providers who have cut back on assistance or closed their doors entirely. That list and additional organizations that are seeing the same results can be forwarded to this Committee by APN and the Coalition, if that would be helpful in your review of the current situation and solutions.

It is very encouraging that New Jersey has adopted a Housing First approach and voucher programs have seen some expansion, providing more low-income residents in our state access to stable housing. However, the concern of APN and many other advocates throughout the state is for the individuals and families who find themselves on the verge of homelessness or suddenly homeless with no real safety net. With the increased EA denials in the last year people are being told they have "caused their own homelessness" through "failure to plan". This is the case whether it is a domestic violence victim who was able to take her children and leave her abuser or an individual who is suddenly kicked out of the apartment they shared with a boyfriend or girlfriend. These are typically unplanned life events and can be more difficult to manage with low or no income. There are also low-income families who just get buried under the high cost of living in this state with a major car repair needed to continue to get to work, a sick child, or a high heating bill in the winter that sets them back financially where they can no longer afford their housing and become homeless. We need to ensure that emergency assistance is still available to these people when they are in crisis.

A report released in the journal *Science*, entitled *The Impact of Homeless Prevention Programs on Homelessness* found that 4,448 people in Chicago who sought assistance for rent or security deposits before they became homeless,

reduced the likelihood they would wind up in a homeless shelter by 76%. For people with lower-than-median incomes this percentage increased to 88%. Providing temporary rental and security deposit assistance can reduce more costly shelter and other service costs, while improving health and educational outcomes for families. Securing the continuation of this type of assistance is needed for New Jersey's vulnerable.

The legislature can also play a role in requiring data from DHS on the numbers, reasons for denials, and impact of the cuts in EA funding to help inform solutions to reduce the effect on our states most vulnerable.

In closing, there is another element of New Jersey's poverty crisis that must be recognized and addressed to effectively reduce poverty statewide. There is sufficient data to show that poverty disproportionately affects people of color in our state and in our nation. Structural racism, the kind of racism that we do not necessarily recognize in our everyday lives, creates persistent barriers to equity and opportunities that can lift people of color out of poverty. I grew up poor and on welfare for most of my childhood here in New Jersey. I feel very strongly that if my family had been Latino and African American we would have been homeless at least at some point in my childhood, because we would have been denied access to the low rent housing that helped us to survive year-by-year and meet our other basic necessities. It was well known in my community that through a racist policy, people of color were denied access continually to the housing there. Last year APN convened a working group of committed partners who have assembled a report series about the problems of structural racism and what New Jersey needs to do to address the serious and persistent barriers that face communities of color. We will begin to release this series of reports next month at the annual APN Poverty Summit. We urge each member of this committee to engage with us in exploring the policy recommendations that could reduce poverty in our state by addressing the barriers for a significant percentage of the population affected by poverty. We need to address structural racism head on to improve the economic future of our residents and our state. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony today.



September 29, 2016

Senator Gordon, Senator Weinberg and members of the Senate Legislative Oversight Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today about New Jerseyans who live in or on the verge of homelessness, many dependent on emergency assistance. The agency I direct, The Supportive Housing Association of NJ (SHA), is a membership organization of over 100 member agencies all dedicated to creating permanent, affordable housing with supportive services for people with disabilities and other special needs. Our members are for profit and not for profit developers creating high quality housing throughout NJ as well as providers delivering critical supportive services to help individuals remain successful in their homes. The industry is always in search of multi pronged resources - 1. Adequate capital for construction and rehab, 2. Sufficient reimbursement for supportive services, and 3. Rental subsidies for those on very low incomes. It's a 3-pronged formula, which, when available, keeps people stable in communities statewide. One of the biggest obstacles for us is our inability to house the poorest. This is particularly frustrating since we know that doing so will reduce the overuse and dependency on emergency rooms, long term care facilities and prisons.

To put the need in some context: Over 120,000 adults with disabilities receive SSI benefits at a monthly income of about \$760 which is simply not enough to afford an affordable rental unit even at the fair market rent. About 6,000 more are children with disabilities on SSI. The SSI numbers do not include persons in state institutions or prisons. We have reason to believe that between 40 and 45,000 people with disabilities of ELI receive some kind of federal or state housing assistance, which means there are many in various stages of housing crisis or inappropriate housing.

SHA receives calls daily from aging parents whose children live at home with disabilities without any concrete plan for the future, from individuals living in substandard housing without any hope of improving themselves, to individuals and families on the verge of eviction or foreclosure (many families who call have disabled children), as well as people who are homeless calling from cell phones while couch surfing, living in motels, in their cars or in shelters and half way houses. Their stories are often complicated and they need the housing, but also quality, knowledgeable case management, supportive services and sometimes, legal services.

The rules and regulations governing EA and GA should be made simpler and more transparent with fewer obstacles for individuals and my colleagues who work more closely with these programs can address these specific challenges and offer recommendations. I would like to endorse or suggest ideas, that are not new but represent remedies that will solve the housing crisis for the neediest of NJ residents so that we can significantly reduce the number of people in need of emergency assistance. Perhaps some of these ideas can be advanced through legislation.

1. The Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness was established in 2012 and submitted its report to end homelessness in 2014. A work group was established in 2015 to explore these recommendations. Too much time has passed. This body needs to be reconstituted with more community members and given authority to identify changes in the way resources are allocated from different parts of the state system to reduce and end homelessness. Julia Orlando from the Bergen County Health and Human Services Center and Matthew Reilly, CEO of MEND, Inc. are the only 2 community leaders on the work group, both of whom are well respected in their fields.

Counties such as Bergen and Mercer, which are solving chronic homelessness, should be the templates for the workgroup's activity. While the numbers of homeless people has dropped from the official homeless count over the past several years and there has been significant strides in ending veteran homelessness, we believe that there are many who have just given up and no longer use the public system because it may be too onerous and burdensome (number of unsheltered homeless has risen). That is why we urge the DHS to maintain a responsive, robust and simplified EA system for those in need, which the workgroup can and should tackle in its deliberations.

2. There is a critical need for more affordable housing in NJ, particularly with subsidies to house those on ELL. On the positive side, NJ's HMFA incentivizes supportive housing in its QAP but tax credit units alone are not nearly sufficient in number to handle the need. The DCA most recently has put out hundreds of new rental vouchers (both SRAP and Section 8) and will be taking thousands off the wait list over the next 2 - 3 years. The DHS will be soon initiating a program to convert emergency assistance to permanent vouchers for the SSI population with an eye in the future on doing the same for the GA and TANF populations. These are important steps forward as they stop the recycling of people in perpetual housing crisis and offer permanence. SHA is currently working with lending institutions to explore the availability of low cost loans to small non-profit developers who can acquire and refurbish housing. More can be done. We need a renewal of the now depleted Special Needs Housing Trust Fund, which leveraged nearly 2,000 units of housing over 5 years while also creating thousands of jobs in the construction and social services fields. And while there are municipalities out there doing important work to welcome and house special needs populations, many towns avoid their housing obligations and do not use municipal housing trust funds for those most in need.
3. We also must adopt more efficient ways to house people who live on very low incomes. A one BR apartment is not for everyone especially when the income is under \$800 a month or less. Shared housing models and non-profit ownership of small boarding homes are just 2 ideas that deserve serious consideration. SHA has presented and discussed these ideas with state officials and there is interest. Refurbishing foreclosed properties for families in the welfare system is another idea that bears merit.
4. Medicaid will reimburse for home counseling. This is a function desperately needed by those who have no idea how to manage the intricacies of the public housing system. They are losing opportunities because they cannot understand who to call and what to ask and they need more than phone numbers. Entities that are already doing work or suited for work in this specialty should be trained and expanded to capture the very low-income population with disabilities.

We no longer need ideas for successful solutions. We have them. We need to implement them. And yes-new resources are needed but some of this work can be accomplished by rebalancing and redirecting resources. A state policy and public mandate to ending homelessness would be an important contribution toward these efforts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gail Levinson  
Executive Director

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**TESTIMONY OF JON WHITEN, VICE PRESIDENT, NEW JERSEY POLICY PERSPECTIVE, ON TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES BEFORE THE SENATE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, SEPT. 29, 2016**

*Contact: 609-393-1145 ext. 15 or [whiten@njpp.org](mailto:whiten@njpp.org)*

Chairman Gordon and members of the committee, thank you for inviting me to speak about the adequacy – or inadequacy – of New Jersey’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which is supposed to be the safety net of last resort for some of the state’s poorest families with kids – and also goes by the name WorkFirst New Jersey.

There are some essential facts about TANF – and New Jersey’s support of the families this assistance is designed to serve – that are crystal clear, and quite distressing. In short, this safety net of last resort is failing thousands of the state’s poorest children and families. And that failure is a major contributor to a stubborn crisis in New Jersey, with child poverty in 2015 34% higher than it was in 2007, before the Great Recession.

But let’s all start by going even further back in time, to 1987. What was going on in your life? How much have things changed since then? I’m pretty sure we’d all say quite a lot has changed. What hasn’t changed, sadly, is New Jersey’s cash assistance for TANF families. It’s been completely stagnant since 1987. No adjustments for inflation, no accounting for the state’s high cost of living. Nothing.

So what does 29 years of inaction do to the program’s adequacy? It absolutely decimates it. The maximum TANF assistance for a family of three is \$424 a month, the same level it was in 1987. But its *real value* has been cut in half due to inflation, and today it only gets a struggling family to 25% of the federal poverty level, which itself is an inadequate measure of what it truly takes to get by in this state.

At this level, New Jersey’s TANF assistance is the lowest in the Northeast by far. New York’s assistance, for example, is nearly double ours. And when you factor in the high cost of housing in New Jersey, 40 states – including places like West Virginia and Kentucky – offer stronger support to families receiving TANF.

But when it comes to the inadequacy of TANF, don’t just take our word for it. The state itself acknowledges that this assistance comes nowhere near what it takes to support a struggling family. Since 2003, the Department of Human Services has established a standard for decency that takes into account real needs of a family including the cost of housing. That standard is now \$2,700 per month for a family of three, seven times higher than current TANF assistance.

While dwindling state support of TANF has a clear effect on the families that receive this crucial assistance – they are getting the same amount even as everything costs more – it has a more

profound, but less visible, effect on the countless families and kids who *do not* receive TANF. And, sadly, more and more of the state's poorest families are falling into this category.

That's because a family's eligibility for TANF is based on the benefit level. Families earning more than 150 percent of the benefit level are not eligible for assistance. For a family of three, that means that if you earn more than \$636 a month – or about \$7,600 a year – you are cut off from assistance. It's beyond debate that a family earning \$10,000 is still in deep, deep poverty in New Jersey. Yet this family currently receives no TANF assistance.

As a result, the number of New Jerseyans enrolled in TANF has plunged since the last time the assistance level was increased. In 1988, over 300,000 residents were enrolled in TANF. By 2015, that number dropped to under 60,000 – an 81% decrease.

And because TANF serves families with kids, children are the ones that are ultimately harmed. In fact, 82% of New Jersey's poor children don't receive any assistance. That's more than a quarter-million New Jersey kids we're talking about.

The low level of assistance and other restrictions have also made TANF unresponsive to real needs in our state. While there have been major increases in unemployment and the child poverty rate, the TANF enrollment rate has gone down substantially – exactly the opposite of what you would expect. In fact, over the same time that TANF enrollment has dropped by 81%, New Jersey's unemployment rate has risen by 78%.

And it's not just temporary cash assistance these poor families are missing out on. The state offers a broad array of important other services in TANF designed to promote economic independence, like education and training programs, and support services like child care and transportation. But for families struggling to find a foothold, these services are only worthwhile if they can be accessed. And today in New Jersey, most parents below the poverty level are not eligible for any of these supports because, like most poor kids, they are not eligible for TANF.

In fact, in the last two years alone, the number of families receiving education and training services through TANF has dropped by 46%, while the number receiving emergency assistance has declined by a stunning 58% (to 2,766 from 6,625 families).

To reverse course and begin shoring up this safety net of last resort, New Jersey needs to start by increasing assistance levels. The proposal we supported this spring, which passed the Senate and Assembly with bipartisan support, thanks to the efforts of co-sponsors like Senator Ruiz on this panel, would have increased the assistance level by 30 percent over three years, rising to \$551 for a family of three. After that modest but crucial bump, the assistance level would've been tied to inflation to help ensure that these families don't continue to fall even further behind in the future. While the bill was vetoed by the governor, we urge all of you not to forget about these families and these children, and to continue to make improving TANF's adequacy a priority.

**TESTIMONY OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH LAW PROJECT**  
**TO THE NEW JERSEY SENATE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**REGARDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

September 29, 2016

I am Steven Leder and I am a Senior Attorney in the Trenton Office of the Community Health Law Project. We are a statewide legal services organization providing legal and advocacy services to low-income people with disabilities. We often represent clients in Fair Hearing appeals concerning the termination of their Emergency Assistance and in eviction cases in landlord-tenant court.

Emergency Assistance (EA) is a lifeline for many of our clients. When they fall short in their ability to pay their rent, are unable to secure temporary shelter, or pay their utility bills to keep their lights on, the Emergency Assistance addresses the need. The Work First New Jersey - Emergency Assistance is sometimes the only tool that we have to assist our clients when facing such a crisis.

Our clients face overwhelming obstacles in keeping and finding affordable and accessible housing. The cost of housing in our State is among the highest in the country. This population is living in extreme poverty. Those individuals on SSI receive a disability grant of \$764.25 per month. Disabled people awaiting SSI get a General Assistance grant of \$210 per month. Unfortunately, there is a severe shortage of subsidized housing or rental assistance vouchers in New Jersey. In addition to poverty, many of these individuals have poor credit history, prior evictions of records, limited English proficiency, mental health issues and a lack of transportation to search for housing.

In the last year there has been a considerable decrease in the number of persons on General Assistance (GA), Temporary Aid to Needy Families(TANF) and Supplemental Security Income(SS) receiving EA. While this decrease can be partially explainable by improved economic conditions the largest decrease took place shortly after two major modifications of the program.

The first modification was on July 6, 2015 the State through a Program Instruction entitled "Expiration of the HHE and HAP Pilots"(See DFDI 15-07-02/GAPI 15-07-01, July 2, 2015), announced the expiration of the HHE and HAP, which were pilot programs to provide EA beyond the time limitations for EA set forth in *N.J.S.A. 44:10-51*. This was a major change in policy, in that prior to this Program Instruction the state had continually re-authorized pilot programs to extend EA to vulnerable individuals and families, in order to prevent homelessness. There was a considerable amount of press coverage in the month following the decision to not re-introduce a new pilot, especially regarding the fact that over 3,000 low-income and disabled individual were at risk of homelessness.

It is interesting to note that the largest drop in the EA caseload occurred in the few months following the termination of the pilot. To the administration's credit, in December of 2015 they implemented a six month Intensive Case Management (ICM) program to continue benefits for some people terminated by the end of the pilot. However, this only covered certain households who were already enrolled in HAP or HHE at the time of its expiration.

Earlier in this Legislative session a bill was introduced (S983/A2568) to allow additional months of EA eligible beyond the present statute for parents caring for a disabled child, permanently disabled individuals, persons over 60 years of age and chronically unemployable persons. This legislation was passed by both houses, but conditionally vetoed by the Governor.

The termination of the HHE/HAP pilot has had a continuing adverse effect on disabled and low-income individuals and families. Since there is no longer a formal pilot program persons receiving GA, TANF or SSI benefits, are only entitled to 12 month of EA, with two possible 6 month extensions for hardship. Since the Work First New Jersey statute imposing this cap on the number of months of EA was enacted in 1997, a person may have used up their eligibility many years ago. If a new emergency occurred today, they would not be eligible for benefits no matter how deserving they may be. Due to the meager income of these populations, they periodically have emergent situations which causes their housing to be at risk. As such, this lifetime limit has the capacity to cause severe hardship, rendering a person homeless who has not used EA in many years. A group of advocates have been working with law-makers in the last few months to address this problem and expect legislation to be introduced shortly to alleviate it.

The second modification is somewhat more subtle in nature. While there is no longer a "per se" fault standard for benefits since the late 1980's, the regulations do provide that in order to be eligible for EA that "...the assistance unit is in a state of homelessness or imminent homelessness due to circumstances beyond their control or the absence of a realistic capacity to plan in advance for substitute housing..." *N.J.A.C. 10-90-6.1(c)*. While anecdotal, advocates from around the State have reported seeing a number of denials of EA benefits which cite as a basis that the recipient "caused your own homelessness" or that the applicant "had failed to plan". These rationales have been used by the Division of Family Development for many years, but we are seeing them being used more frequently as a basis of denial, while not taking into account the fragile economic circumstances of this population, which may be paying over 70% of their income for housing, or the fact that any minor set back (i.e. car repair, funeral expenses for relative, municipal fine, etc.) can put them at risk of homelessness. In the past Boards of Social Services have seem more inclined to factor in these individual circumstance prior to denying a request for assistance. Additionally, many disabled individuals have issues related to functional incapacity which negates their opportunity for realistic planning, but do their disability, they are not able to articulate or provide evidence to the Board of Social Services without advocacy assistance to prevent their homelessness.

We know that everyone who works in Human Services, including state and county agency officials and employees, the non-profit providers and our elected officials want to do the right thing and make sure that no one is rendered homeless by poverty and disability. We hope that everyone can come together to come up with comprehensive solutions to the tragedy of homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Senate Legislative Oversight Standing Committee  
September 29, 2016

Thank You, Senators,

My name is Jay Everett from Monarch Housing Associates. Monarch is a statewide nonprofit, and we work with 17 of New Jersey's 21 Counties to end homelessness through their local Continuum of Care process. We also coordinate NJ Counts, the state's annual Point-In-Time Count of persons experiencing homelessness. Our Ending Homelessness Team assists each community to develop a housing crisis response system that effectively coordinates available services and funding resources, and which prioritizes the New Jerseyans who need help the most to obtain and maintain permanent housing.

In order for these local housing crisis response systems to work, and to actually end homelessness, every part of the system is integral: each partner, provider, funder, stakeholder, and consumer; the whole Continuum of Care. Our partners across the state, in every community, have related to us just how integral funding for the Emergency Assistance (EA) program is to quickly sheltering and housing those experiencing homelessness. Two major issues caused by recent changes to the EA program are:

- Slow admissions to the Emergency Assistance program benefits, and
- A reduction in the number of homeless residents being determined eligible for Emergency Assistance housing benefits, but no reduction in need.

The Continuum of Care agencies across the state are working to reduce the length of time households spend homeless. The Emergency Assistance program, including Immediate Need Housing Benefits, is a key resource for responding quickly to a household's housing crisis. However, although the only requirement to qualify for this Immediate Need Housing Benefits is a sworn statement signed by the applicant stating that he or she is homeless, many homeless households with little or no financial resources are required to obtain notarized letters from people they have resided with, or are not given same-day decisions as required by the statute. With regard to general EA Housing Benefits, burdensome documentation requirements such as notarized letters, case workers that fail to assist claimants with obtaining requested documentation, and a failure to make eligibility decisions in a timely manner, delay program admissions. This bureaucracy keeps people homeless longer than necessary. It means persons living temporarily in emergency shelters, hotels, and motels, are kept homeless longer because the burdensome eligibility determination process delays their ability to receive Temporary Rental Assistance. It also means that people who cannot access shelter without EA, are forced to stay in the street, cars, or other places no one should have to. These delays prevent each community's Continuum of Care from operating as a true housing crisis response system.

Another issue is that stricter interpretation of the eligibility criteria for the program has reduced the number of homeless persons who can receive Emergency Assistance, but it has not reduced the number of homeless persons seeking help. This means that homeless persons cannot access many housing services that can only assist those with EA benefits, and it strains capacity

in other parts of the housing crisis response system, such as emergency shelters and street outreach teams. When EA is not given in a timely way to eligible applicants, Board of Social Services case workers are expending more flexible Social Services for the Homeless funds (SSH), meaning that this precious resource is in too short a supply to be used effectively for other homeless households ineligible for EA. Unfortunately, the reduction in EA eligibility determinations can also impact other costly systems where vulnerable homeless persons can end up such as the emergency healthcare and criminal justice systems. One reason for the recent reduction in the number of persons being deemed eligible is the determination of which individuals and families "caused their own homelessness" and are therefore not eligible for EA housing benefits. Many case workers do not adequately consider whether a claimant had the "functional capacity" to avoid becoming homeless when the claimant has documented mental health, cognitive and/or substance abuse issues even though assessing these factors is required by EA eligibility regulation.

With our partners across the state, we affirm that Emergency Assistance is a key resource for helping households experiencing homelessness in New Jersey to quickly end their housing crises.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for the work you are doing to shape policies around effective solutions for housing and serving those who are experiencing homelessness in our communities.



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Testimony of Sarah Steward, Chief Operating Officer, HomeFront  
To the New Jersey Senate Legislative Oversight Committee  
Thursday, September 29, 2016

I am pleased to join you this morning as you examine the administration, adequacy, and funding of the safety net here in our state. My name is Sarah Steward, Chief Operating Officer at HomeFront, a Mercer County nonprofit dedicated to ending homelessness in Central New Jersey. On any given night, HomeFront is providing shelter for approximately 450 people, most of them children. Last year, HomeFront answered over 16,000 cries for help for shelter, food, and emergency aid. Through our programs and services, we lessen the immediate pain of homelessness and help families become self-sufficient by providing emergency and longer term housing, tools for living and finding a job, a vast resource network to obtain life's essentials, and programs for children to break the cycle of poverty. It is on our clients' behalf that I am proud to be here today.

Yesterday, I walked into our agency to literally bare shelves in our food pantry. For twenty five years HomeFront has been providing essential food for families in need and right now over 1,000 families a month visit our offices and receive food. Yesterday, something happened that never has in 25 years: we had none left. But our waiting room was still full. Last night, every room in our 38 family emergency shelter was filled by a family in need, each with a compelling story but many deemed ineligible for Emergency Assistance.

HomeFront has seen the decline in approvals of Emergency Assistance firsthand – we work every day to try to shelter and care for the families that have been told they are not eligible. Others will testify this morning as to the appropriateness and interpretation of the EA rules. I am here to reinforce the basic truth that we at HomeFront believe should guide your thinking. There are families and individuals in our state in desperate need that are not currently eligible for government Emergency Assistance but who cannot survive without intervention. They fill the HomeFront waiting room and voicemail box every day. Beyond just our anecdotal experience, I cannot find another indicator of poverty that has dropped as substantially as EA approvals have. The New Jersey Department of Education tracks the number of homeless children; it has remained roughly constant.

In New Jersey, unlike many other states, we have tied Emergency Assistance to TANF and GA eligibility and I urge you to consider whether that is wise. The now twenty-year-old welfare reforms at the federal level were important and needed but the State of New Jersey tying eligibility for EA to eligibility for TANF has meant that families in true crisis by any objective measure cannot access crucial and in some cases even life-saving EA dollars.

Last week, I met a family living at our Family Campus – a 13 year old severely autistic son, a two year old baby that was born prematurely with developmental delays, a mother with significant, complicated disabilities that include heart and pulmonary ailments, a severe seizure disorder, and crippling anxiety. The father seeks work whenever he can to keep his family stable – but is often prevented from working as one medical crisis after another devastates the family. They are no longer eligible for Emergency Assistance. Another mother came to us with stage four cancer and four children, one of which is a 16 year old with severe cerebral palsy, currently functioning at the intellectual level of a three year old. Once her medical bills ran her bank account dry and left them on the street, she, too, could not access Emergency Assistance – her meager unemployment check put her over the income threshold to be

considered. A third mother was victimized by years of domestic abuse and finally chose to leave her abuser when he came after her child. She was told she had a “failure to plan” for her homelessness – given the history of abuse, she should have known it would have gotten unbearable. She was ineligible for EA as a result.

These are real people and true stories and they are heartbreaking. Our society believes it has woven a safety net to catch the most desperate but too many are slipping through its cracks. In years past, HomeFront has always been able to catch those that the system did not. Our strong partners in the community, at the county welfare offices, and in the state would turn to us when families had nowhere else to turn. Now, with our budget stretched to the breaking point as Emergency Assistance funds have sharply plummeted, we are for the first time having to say no. Where the safety net once had small holes, it is now being torn to shreds.

Earlier this summer, HomeFront closed our longtime haven of hope and support for first-time pregnant women, a program that demonstrably changed the lives of the mothers and improved the outcomes of the children they bore with us. We were simply out of funds. HomeFront, unlike many of our sister agencies, will survive. We are fortunate to have the resources and community support to be able to continue to provide our core services, although continued cuts diminish and jeopardize the many programs we offer that set a family up for long-term success. Many of our sister agencies see a much bleaker future unless the State reconsiders the way it funds and maintains its emergency shelter system. Again, I suggest we consider looking to the example of other states and reconsider whether emergency aid should be dependent on one’s eligibility for cash assistance through welfare.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue that affects the most vulnerable people in our state. We at HomeFront stand ready to partner with you as you consider possible remedies to strengthen New Jersey’s safety net.

## **Rescue Mission of Trenton Funding Crisis**

Comments for the Senate Legislative Oversight Committee

Re: Emergency Assistance 9/30/2016

Call it a coincidence, or great minds think alike – This morning the Rescue Mission of Trenton hosted a community discussion on the current crisis facing the emergency shelter. Essentially, after allowing for private funds and available grant funds the shelter deficit is just over \$400,000 which the Mission cannot afford to supplement. Given our long history, needs of those we serve and in simple language our covenant with the community we have committed to supplementing the deficit until 6/30/2017. This crisis in funding has been exasperated by the loss of emergency assistance.

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Emergency Assistance reimbursement has become a staple in supporting the emergency response network and is used for shelter reimbursement, motel placements, transitional housing, and extending into housing subsidies.

The strict interpretation of the eligibility rules is a departure from the long-term State practice and has quickly and inadvertently, created a crisis. Planning and systematic transitioning is appropriate, along with development of alternative funding streams to mitigate the impact upon communities.

This change in interpretation is adversely affecting the very population that the administration has committed to assisting and expanding services for - those with substance abuse issues, mental health concerns, and ex-offenders re-entering the community.

With the focus on Rapid Re-Housing and Housing First, there is constant rhetoric about “no wrong door”. The sad reality is families and individuals alike are finding themselves on the street with no resources to combat homelessness. Every theory and approach to ending homelessness starts with the recognition that there is a problem; we need an emergency shelter response system to address the immediate crisis of homelessness.

Shelters are crucial to saving lives; they provide immediate intervention and essential life-sustaining services. Further, emergency shelters provide access to other systems to end homelessness. While we recognize that there will remain a place and need for shelters, we must work towards lessening the utilization of emergency shelters in favor of more permanent housing. Unfortunately, at the very time we as a community, state, and nation are making the systemic changes toward the goal of permanent supportive housing, a central component of the emergency assistance system is being dismantled.

The current patchwork of funding that is supplied by the government to address the homelessness supplements the private dollars received from corporations, foundations, and the general public in support. These private contributions indicate the general belief that human beings should have shelter and the opportunity to build a life in a

community. Every step we as a community take must include recognition of this public trust.

The system needs to reposition previous EA dollars from an individual eligibility and compliance focus, to a service-based block funding. A reasonable formula to calculate the award of such funding would include payments to the emergency response system vendors on a fiscal year basis, with consideration of service utilization via HMIS records and point in time count.

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We believe that we are at a crucial decision point: the need at this time is to appropriately restructure emergency funds into two categories. The first, into block grant funding that will ensure that the emergency safety net is sufficient to meet the immediate life threatening crisis faced by the homeless persons in our community and second, direct benefit to individuals that is immediately available based upon presumptive eligibility. This would allow the funds be administered in a systematic and cost effective manner without further disruption to the devastating lives of those this system will serve.

Submitted by:

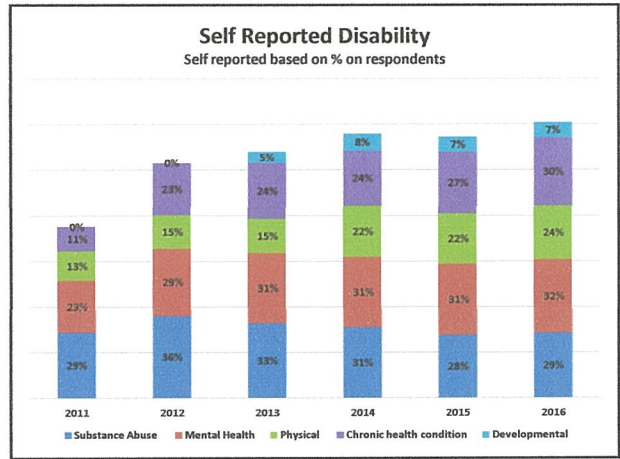
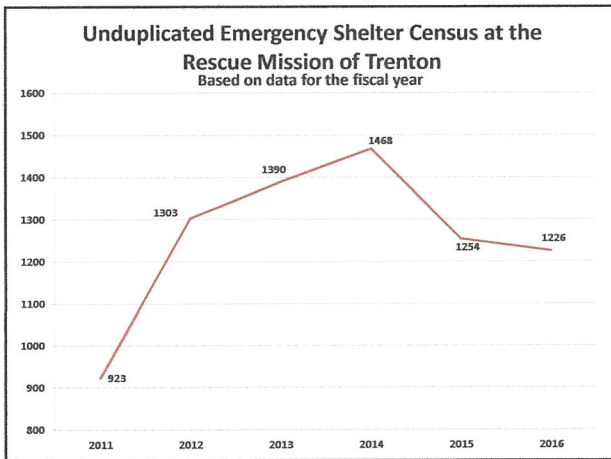
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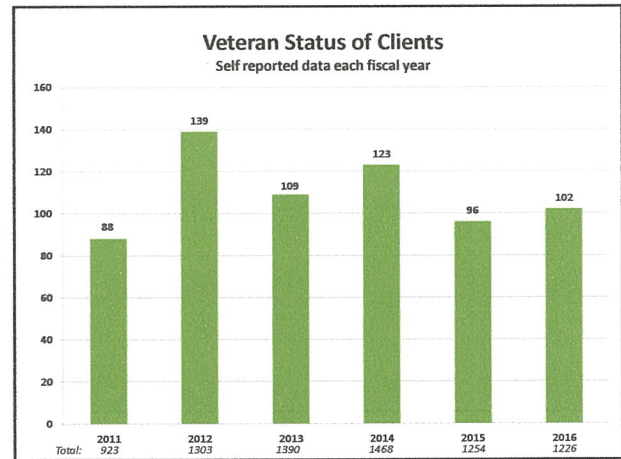
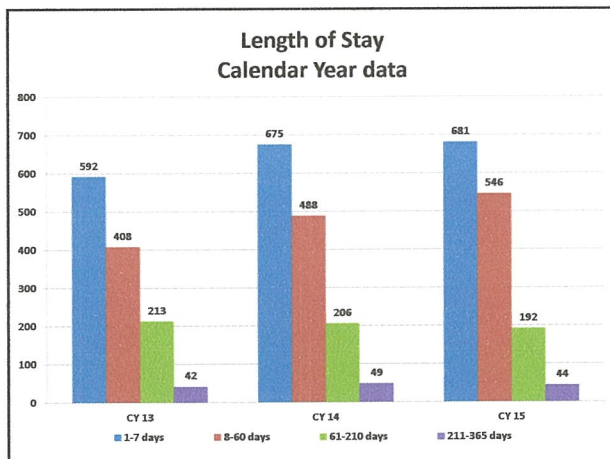
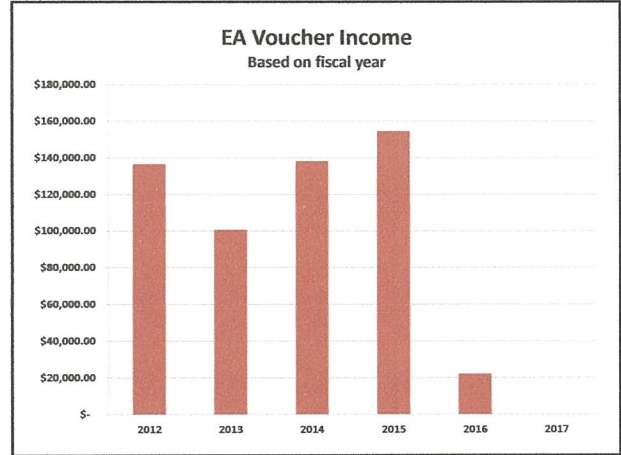
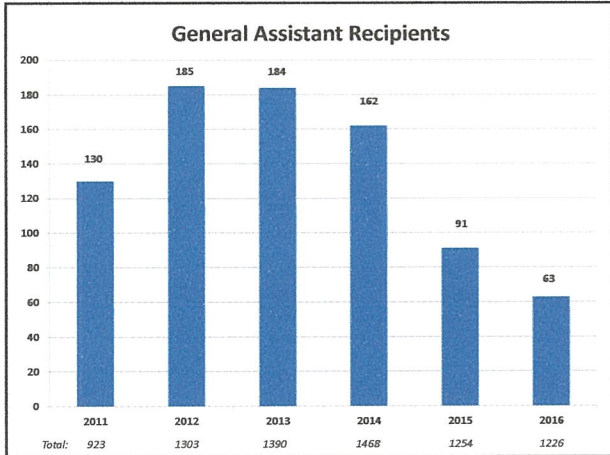
**Public Discussion  
Emergency Services**  
  
The Rescue Mission of Trenton  
September 29, 2016

**Philosophy on Emergency Shelter**

The Rescue Mission of Trenton believes that every person deserves a safe, warm place to shelter, to be free from hunger and to be treated with respect. Informed by this belief, our emergency shelter and services provide a gateway from homelessness to housing, security and stability.

- In order to realize this vision, the Rescue Mission commits to the following:
- Providing the support necessary to help clients who are homeless and to access needed services.
- Providing every client with information about community resources – especially housing – that are available to assist in ending their homelessness.
- Challenging misconceptions and educating the community on the plight of the impoverished.
- Treating every person who seeks Emergency Services with dignity and respect.





*(Handwritten red scribble)*



**State of New Jersey**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
PO Box 700  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0700

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Li. Governor*

ELIZABETH CONNOLLY  
*Acting Commissioner*

September 28, 2016

Senator Robert Gordon  
Chairman  
Senate Legislative Oversight Committee  
14-25 Plaza Road  
PO Box 398  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Dear Chairman Gordon:

I have received your invitation to appear before the Senate Legislative Oversight Committee on Thursday, September 29, to discuss the state's social services programs, including Emergency Assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and General Assistance. I am unable to attend, but in lieu of an in-person presentation, please accept the following information as testimony on behalf of the Department of Human Services:

Chairman Gordon, members of the Senate Legislative Oversight Committee, Advocates and Stakeholders – for the last several months, there has been intense scrutiny regarding the state's 'safety net' with respect to funding and program rules. I am proud to report that since January 2010, more has been done to buoy residents with low-incomes, housing and food insecurity, or disabilities than under any previous administration in several decades.

Since 2010, the state has raised eligibility levels and eliminated the asset test for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), enrolling nearly 100,000 newly-qualified residents. In partnership, the DHS and the Department of Health identified and contacted SNAP-eligible participants in the Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled Program, enrolling over 60,000 new seniors into SNAP. In 2014, New Jersey expanded Medicaid, enrolling over 500,000 newly-eligible residents into NJ FamilyCare, which provides comprehensive health care, including physician visits, hospitalization, mental health and addiction services. In addition, the Earned Income Tax Credit was increased by 10 percent, allowing low-and-moderate-income families to keep more of their hard-earned money.

During the same period of time – and here is where there tends to be confusion – Emergency Assistance (EA), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and General Assistance (GA) enrollment has decreased dramatically. While some suggest that this decrease is the result of an effort by the state to restrict access to social services benefits, that suggestion is simply not true, as demonstrated by national and local experts and their studies.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Census Bureau announced that median household income increased by 5.2 percent between 2014 and 2015 while the official poverty rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points. In early July, Monarch Housing's 2016 Point in Time Homeless Count

Senator Robert Gordon  
September 28, 2016  
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report showed that the homelessness rate in New Jersey has declined by 12.4 percent compared to 2015. And, last December, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's annual report noted that New Jersey's homeless count declined more than 45 other states between 2014 and 2015.

This decline in poverty and homelessness can be attributed to many things: an improved economy and reduced unemployment rate are often referenced, but more effective has been the intense focus by the state and federal government in implementing homelessness prevention.

Since 2010, more than 1,000 new Section 8 vouchers were issued by the Department of Community Affairs; more than 1,000 veterans housing vouchers were distributed through the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; and, DHS has developed thousands more supportive housing units for people with mental illness and physical or developmental disabilities.

In addition, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") provides funding to community-based organizations – part of the Continuum of Care - to prevent and reduce homelessness. In 2014, New Jersey received \$38 million; in 2015, \$38 million; and, in 2016, \$40.65 million.

Reduced poverty similarly impacts other programming, such as TANF and GA. For those programs, qualifying applicants typically have no income at all, are limited to 60 months in a lifetime, and must participate in a work activity.

Because EA is only available to TANF, GA or Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") recipients, a drop in participation in those programs understandably reduces the EA rolls. Reductions in the FY'17 budget, therefore, are the result of caseload trends showing fewer applicants for TANF and GA – not a change to any eligibility criteria. **Eligible applicants continue to receive benefits.** To the extent some have claimed that DHS has limited access to EA through EA review teams, those claims are untrue. DHS's review teams (which only operate in six counties) play a critical role in ensuring that eligibility and timeline rules are enforced to preserve funds for eligible individuals and families. But, to be clear, there has been no change in eligibility criteria.

Residents determined to be ineligible for EA can still apply for Social Services for the Homeless ("SSH") funding, a state-funded program that provides short-term assistance to people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The Division of Family Development contracts with local agencies to administer the SSH program, which is funded with \$15.9 million annually.

Additionally, because the Governor expanded Medicaid in 2014, low-income residents now have access to a full array of medical benefits without having to enroll in TANF or GA, or to comply with the time limit and work requirement.

Because of the success of our work, in partnership and collaboration with housing support agencies, federal, state and local government and non-governmental organizations, we continue to advance new initiatives.

Senator Robert Gordon  
September 28, 2016  
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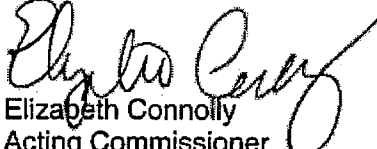
During the department's Senate and Assembly Budget hearings, I announced that, this fall, the department will launch a State Rental Assistance Program ("SRAP") for recipients of SSI-EA. This initiative is in partnership with the state Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

In addition, DHS recently included in its Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver renewal application a proposal to use federal Medicaid reimbursement to fund housing-specific case management for Medicaid clients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Studies show that programs that provide permanent housing over temporary or bridge housing create better outcomes for people receiving the benefits.

The above-mentioned programs, in combination with the host of local programs offered through non-profit groups and funded by federal grants, are working effectively to reduce our homeless population in responsible and effective ways: maximizing federal funds; promoting long-term to permanent housing options; and preserving temporary benefits for eligible individuals in need. This strategy is succeeding, and we will continue to push forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with the Committee this information about our progress in reducing poverty and combatting homelessness. I hope that it is helpful and that it allows for a balanced and constructive discussion.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Connolly  
Acting Commissioner

	CY 2006 average	FY 2006	CY 2009 average	FY 2009	CY 2012 average	CY 2012	CY 2015 average	CY 2015	CY 2016 average (as of July 2016)	CY 2016 (est)
	Number of Recipients (monthly)*	Expenditures (annually)**	Number of Recipients (monthly)*	Expenditures (annually)**	Number of Recipients (monthly)*	Expenditures (annually)**	Number of Recipients (monthly)*	Expenditures (annually)**	Number of Recipients (monthly)*	Expenditures (annually)**
TANF recipients ***	98,429	\$154,470,535	94,582	\$48,762,700	103,202	\$161,626,716	72,179	\$111,611,831	56,239	\$86,673,297
General Assistance / unemployable	15,463	\$43,312,482	17,373	\$49,533,898	13,178	\$33,643,434	10,811	\$27,565,455	9,562	\$24,371,626
General Assistance / employable	21,454	\$37,409,769	30,857	\$55,063,825	29,869	\$53,369,929	14,284	\$24,660,469	9,784	\$16,814,000
TANF/Emergency Assistance***	16,980	\$76,172,083	15,888	\$82,212,774	22,673	\$118,371,796	19,139	\$109,018,470	12,741	\$78,311,406
GA/Emergency Assistance****	6,955	\$68,250,250	8,042	\$81,260,228	6,663	\$74,141,600	4,478	\$54,004,143	3,083	\$37,712,243
SSI/Emergency Assistance*****	1,454	\$15,047,276	2,007	\$22,018,019	2,246	\$24,524,015	2052	\$22,530,221	1921	\$21,079,440
<b>Totals</b>	<b>160,735</b>	<b>\$394,662,394</b>	<b>168,749</b>	<b>\$338,841,444</b>	<b>177,831</b>	<b>\$465,677,490</b>	<b>122,943</b>	<b>\$349,390,589</b>	<b>93,330</b>	<b>\$264,962,011</b>

\* Number of recipients is from the Current Program Statistics report distributed by the Department of Human Services - <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dhd/news/cps.html>

\*\* Expenditures are extrapolated as the result of the average monthly grant from the Budget Book for the stated fiscal year multiplied by the number of recipients.

Each consecutive year can be located on the Office of Management and Budget's publications page - <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/omb/publications/07budget/index.shtml>

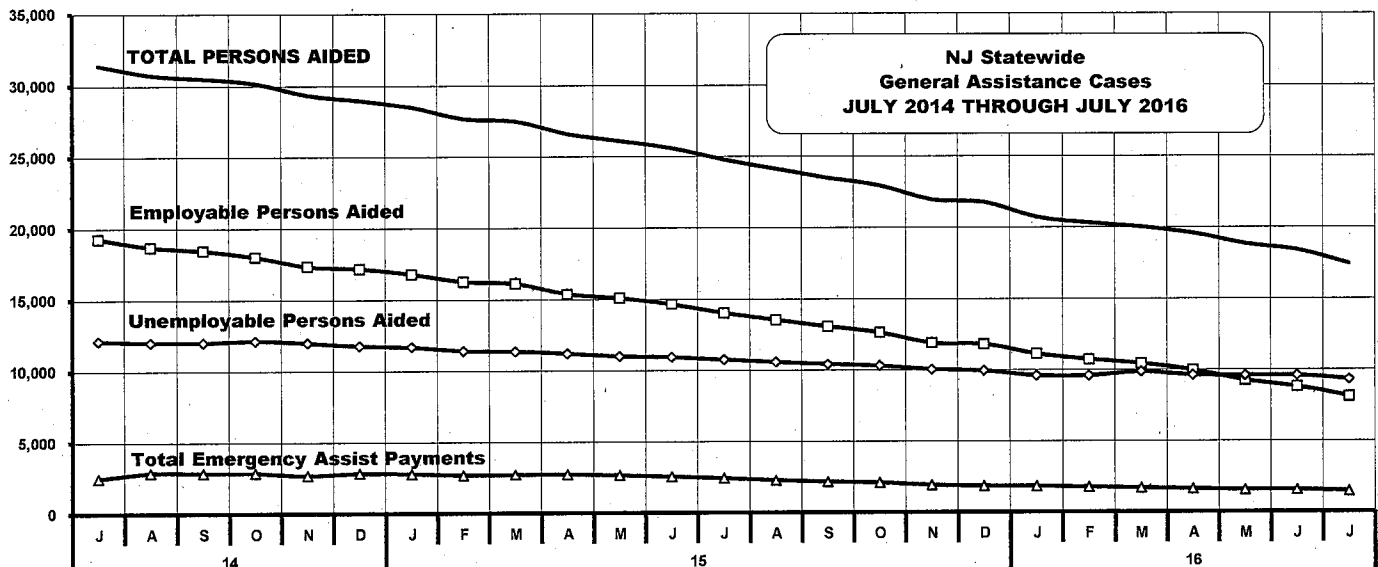
\*\*\* Number of recipients is counted by family units.

\*\*\*\*TANF emergency Assistance is only reported in the budget as a per person expenditure and is reported as a family unit by the department. This chart reflects the budgets per person spending.

\*\*\*\*\* SSI number of recipients is data from the FY budget book

**Table 10**  
**GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
**NUMBER OF EMPLOYABLE AND UNEMPLOYABLE RECIPIENTS AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS FOR JULY 2016 - STATEWIDE**  
**JULY 2014 THROUGH JULY 2016**

		Total Cases				Emergency Assistance Cases					
		Employable	% Chng (1 Yr)	Unemployable	% Chng (1 Yr)	Total	% Chng (1 Yr)	Temporary Rental Assistance	Other GA-EA	Total	% Chng (1 Yr)
<b>2014</b>	JUL	19,306	-20.9%	12,120	-6.2%	<b>31,426</b>	-15.8%	2,477	2,568	<b>5,045</b>	-12.5%
	AUG	18,721	-20.6%	12,017	-6.6%	<b>30,738</b>	-15.7%	2,872	2,446	<b>5,318</b>	-13.1%
	SEP	18,471	-17.6%	12,026	-4.3%	<b>30,497</b>	-12.8%	2,849	2,335	<b>5,184</b>	-6.0%
	OCT	18,030	-18.3%	12,143	-4.7%	<b>30,173</b>	-13.3%	2,848	2,661	<b>5,509</b>	-5.9%
	NOV	17,357	-17.6%	11,997	-3.7%	<b>29,354</b>	-12.4%	2,686	1,943	<b>4,629</b>	-7.9%
	DEC	17,192	-17.4%	11,775	-4.9%	<b>28,967</b>	-12.7%	2,838	2,362	<b>5,200</b>	2.9%
<b>2014 Average</b>		<b>19,172</b>		<b>12,103</b>		<b>31,275</b>		<b>2,776</b>	<b>2,469</b>	<b>5,245</b>	
<b>2015</b>	JAN	16,810	-17.1%	11,689	-5.1%	<b>28,499</b>	-12.5%	2,782	2,395	<b>5,177</b>	2.8%
	FEB	16,267	-16.8%	11,413	-5.3%	<b>27,680</b>	-12.4%	2,679	2,218	<b>4,897</b>	2.7%
	MAR	16,131	-20.5%	11,370	-7.2%	<b>27,501</b>	-15.4%	2,705	2,601	<b>5,306</b>	-3.7%
	APR	15,393	-24.9%	11,214	-7.9%	<b>26,607</b>	-18.6%	2,728	2,404	<b>5,132</b>	-8.7%
	MAY	15,107	-25.7%	11,010	-9.7%	<b>26,117</b>	-19.7%	2,658	2,186	<b>4,844</b>	-12.1%
	JUN	14,664	-26.8%	10,939	-10.3%	<b>25,603</b>	-20.6%	2,537	2,201	<b>4,738</b>	-15.6%
	JUL	14,031	-27.3%	10,763	-11.2%	<b>24,794</b>	-21.1%	2,428	2,175	<b>4,603</b>	-8.8%
	AUG	13,548	-27.6%	10,582	-11.9%	<b>24,130</b>	-21.5%	2,271	1,822	<b>4,093</b>	-23.0%
	SEP	13,073	-29.2%	10,425	-13.3%	<b>23,498</b>	-22.9%	2,161	1,706	<b>3,867</b>	-25.4%
	OCT	12,644	-29.9%	10,315	-15.1%	<b>22,959</b>	-23.9%	2,093	1,828	<b>3,921</b>	-28.8%
	NOV	11,914	-31.4%	10,054	-16.2%	<b>21,968</b>	-25.2%	1,914	1,509	<b>3,423</b>	-26.1%
	DEC	11,825	-31.2%	9,954	-15.5%	<b>21,779</b>	-24.8%	1,856	1,876	<b>3,732</b>	-28.2%
<b>2015 Average</b>		<b>14,284</b>		<b>10,811</b>		<b>25,095</b>		<b>2,401</b>	<b>2,077</b>	<b>4,478</b>	
<b>2016</b>	JAN	11,130	-33.8%	9,604	-17.8%	<b>20,734</b>	-27.2%	1,819	1,504	<b>3,323</b>	-35.8%
	FEB	10,731	-34.0%	9,597	-15.9%	<b>20,328</b>	-26.6%	1,748	1,578	<b>3,326</b>	-32.1%
	MAR	10,449	-35.2%	9,585	-15.7%	<b>20,034</b>	-27.2%	1,698	1,654	<b>3,352</b>	-36.8%
	APR	9,977	-35.2%	9,620	-14.2%	<b>19,597</b>	-26.3%	1,627	1,612	<b>3,239</b>	-36.9%
	MAY	9,257	-38.7%	9,596	-12.8%	<b>18,853</b>	-27.8%	1,559	1,163	<b>2,722</b>	-43.8%
	JUN	8,816	-39.9%	9,607	-12.2%	<b>18,423</b>	-28.0%	1,556	1,365	<b>2,921</b>	-38.3%
	JUL	8,126	-42.1%	9,324	-13.4%	<b>17,450</b>	-29.6%	1,459	1,236	<b>2,695</b>	-41.5%
	<b>2016 AVG to date</b>		<b>9,784</b>		<b>9,562</b>		<b>19,346</b>		<b>1,638</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>3,083</b>



Source: NJ Division of Family Development, GA Fiscal Unit

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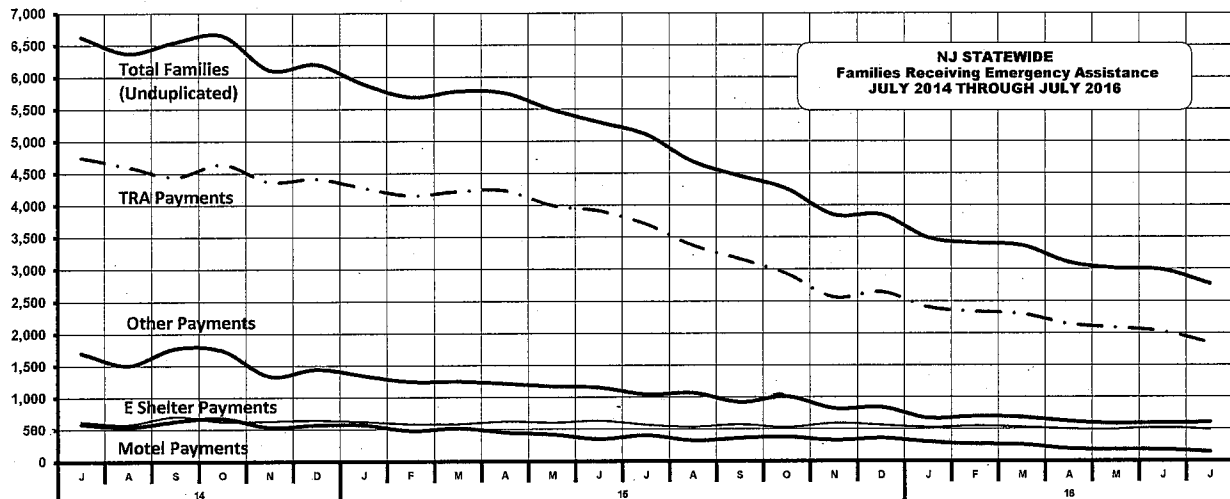
Table 8

TOTAL NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES RECEIVING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (STATEWIDE)

JULY 2014 THROUGH JULY 2016 - STATEWIDE

		TOTAL		Temp		Motel		Shelter/Transitional		Other	
		WFNJ/EA Families (Undupl)	% CHNG (1 YR)	Rent Asst. Payments (Undupl)	% CHNG (1 YR)	Housing Payments (Undupl)	% CHNG (1 YR)	Housing Payments (Undupl)	% CHNG (1 YR)	EA Payments (Undupl)	% CHNG (1 YR)
2014	JUL	6,625	1.7%	4,746	0.2%	586	31.1%	623	-8.2%	1,701	14.8%
	AUG	6,368	-5.7%	4,599	-5.2%	537	4.7%	581	-3.3%	1,505	-9.6%
	SEP	6,551	0.3%	4,445	-4.9%	630	25.7%	704	17.3%	1,776	11.5%
	OCT	6,647	-4.6%	4,643	-5.0%	675	21.2%	622	-11.9%	1,737	-4.7%
	NOV	6,108	-3.9%	4,368	-6.5%	531	-1.3%	632	7.8%	1,332	-1.8%
	DEC	6,198	-5.1%	4,414	-8.0%	571	-9.2%	643	24.9%	1,444	-6.5%
	<b>2014 Average</b>	<b>6,417</b>		<b>4,604</b>		<b>573</b>		<b>632</b>		<b>1,516</b>	
2015	JAN	5,888	-3.8%	4,271	-5.5%	568	15.0%	621	6.0%	1,340	4.8%
	FEB	5,685	-4.2%	4,153	-7.2%	476	-4.6%	582	1.9%	1,246	14.5%
	MAR	5,779	-12.0%	4,218	-9.2%	515	-24.3%	582	-11.1%	1,251	-24.8%
	APR	5,752	-13.4%	4,228	-11.7%	446	-24.1%	620	-5.2%	1,213	-26.3%
	MAY	5,490	-18.0%	3,996	-17.6%	416	-27.1%	599	-8.7%	1,170	-26.3%
	JUN	5,295	-19.0%	3,910	-17.7%	341	-33.4%	629	-5.0%	1,150	-19.9%
	JUL	5,104	-23.0%	3,701	-22.0%	398	-32.1%	565	-9.3%	1,038	-39.0%
	AUG	4,680	-26.5%	3,367	-26.8%	317	-41.0%	532	-8.4%	1,066	-29.2%
	SEP	4,458	-31.9%	3,159	-28.9%	354	-43.8%	570	-19.0%	921	-48.1%
	OCT	4,257	-36.0%	2,927	-37.0%	375	-44.4%	525	-15.6%	1,008	-42.0%
	NOV	3,847	-37.0%	2,560	-41.4%	319	-39.9%	588	-7.0%	819	-38.5%
	DEC	3,853	-37.8%	2,643	-40.1%	353	-38.2%	561	-12.8%	839	-41.9%
<b>2015 Average</b>	<b>5,007</b>		<b>3,594</b>		<b>407</b>		<b>581</b>		<b>1,088</b>		
2016	JAN	3,485	-40.8%	2,402	-43.8%	293	-48.4%	523	-15.8%	667	-50.2%
	FEB	3,406	-40.1%	2,335	-43.8%	259	-45.6%	543	-6.7%	696	-44.1%
	MAR	3,366	-41.8%	2,300	-45.5%	251	-51.3%	526	-9.6%	680	-45.6%
	APR	3,101	-46.1%	2,139	-49.4%	184	-58.7%	494	-20.3%	613	-49.5%
	MAY	3,012	-45.1%	2,081	-47.9%	173	-58.4%	490	-18.2%	581	-50.3%
	JUN	2,988	-43.6%	2,020	-48.3%	172	-49.6%	519	-17.5%	591	-48.6%
	JUL	2,766	-45.8%	1,844	-50.2%	137	-65.6%	483	-14.5%	598	-42.4%
<b>2016 AVG to date</b>	<b>3,161</b>		<b>2,160</b>		<b>210</b>		<b>511</b>		<b>632</b>		



WFNJ/EA data is derived from NJ MMIS Shared Data Warehouse. Effective July 2013 this data query source was converted to the SDW.

\* Effective Feb '11 Transitional Housing Payments were removed from "Other EA Payments" and added to "Shelter Payments."

24.