

SENATE, No. 4044

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 14, 2025

Sponsored by:

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to request approval from federal government to provide rental assistance benefits to certain NJ FamilyCare beneficiaries.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 AN ACT concerning rental assistance benefits under NJ FamilyCare
2 and supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. No later than six months after the effective date of this
8 section, the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services in
9 the Department of Human Services shall apply to the Centers for
10 Medicare and Medicaid Services in the United States Department of
11 Health and Human Services for approval to amend the State's
12 federal waiver under section 1115 of the "Social Security Act," 42
13 U.S.C. s.1315, to include the provision of rental assistance benefits
14 to certain NJ FamilyCare beneficiaries, who are not currently
15 receiving other similar benefits under a different government
16 assistance program, for up to six months. NJ FamilyCare
17 populations eligible for these benefits under the approval request
18 shall be limited to those individuals: who are homeless, at risk of
19 homelessness as defined by 24 C.F.R. 91.5, or transitioning out of
20 an emergency shelter as defined by 24 C.F.R. 91.5; and who have
21 been diagnosed with a serious mental illness or substance use
22 disorder.

23 b. Upon receipt of approval to amend the State's federal waiver
24 from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the division
25 shall immediately begin implementation of a NJ FamilyCare rental
26 assistance benefit, as described in subsection a. of this section.

27 c. As used in this section:

28 "Rental Assistance Benefits" means vouchers, subsidies, or other
29 forms of financial assistance issued to a housing provider that allow
30 an eligible NJ FamilyCare beneficiary to secure or maintain housing
31 for up to six months.

32 "NJ Family Care" means the program established pursuant to
33 P.L.2005, c.156 (C.30:4J-8 et al.), which includes the Children's
34 Health Insurance Program and the Medicaid Program

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36 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and
37 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act"
38 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to effectuate the purposes of
39 this act.

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41 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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46 This bill directs the Division of Medical Assistance and Health
47 Services in the Department of Human Services, no later than six
48 months after the effective date of the bill, to apply to the Centers for

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1 Medicare and Medicaid Services in the United States Department of
2 Health and Human Services for approval to amend the State's
3 federal waiver under section 1115 of the "Social Security Act" to
4 include the provision of rental assistance benefits to certain NJ
5 FamilyCare beneficiaries for up to six months.

6 In New Jersey, this federal waiver is known as the NJ
7 FamilyCare 1115 Comprehensive Demonstration and, with federal
8 approval, it governs the operations of significant components of
9 New Jersey's Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance
10 Program. New Jersey's current waiver provides certain housing
11 related services to a variety of populations, but does not provide for
12 direct payment of rental subsidies. Populations eligible for the
13 existing benefits include individuals who are: transitioning from an
14 institution to the community setting, being released from
15 correctional facilities, transitioning out of high-risk or unstable
16 housing situations, and homeless or at risk of becoming homeless;
17 however, the waiver does not cover direct housing subsidies.

18 This bill would expand the services provided under the waiver
19 to include rental assistance benefits, which the bill defines as
20 financial assistance issued to a housing provider that allow an
21 eligible NJ FamilyCare beneficiary to secure or maintain housing
22 for up to six months. However, unlike the existing benefits, eligible
23 beneficiaries would be limited to those who are homeless, at risk of
24 homelessness, or transitioning out of an emergency shelter; and who
25 have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness or substance use
26 disorder.