



## **Essex County Division of Family Assistance and Benefits COVID-19 Benefits Update**

Ensuring you receive your benefits during this ongoing coronavirus concern is a top priority, so in an effort to make it easier for you to apply or receive your benefits, a number of temporary changes have been put in place regarding social services that are administered at the Division of Family Assistance and Benefits.

We are encouraging county residents who want to apply for SNAP food assistance or cash assistance under the Work First New Jersey program to do so online at [NJHelps.org](http://NJHelps.org). During this public health crisis, we can do interviews by phone, so you do not need to come into the office to apply for benefits.

Work First New Jersey cash assistance clients who are due for their case to be reviewed in March or April automatically will get a 60-day extension. You do not need to come into the office.

If you are a SNAP food assistance or a Work First New Jersey cash assistance client, you are not required to attend your work activity unless you want to and the program is operating. This includes people who are applying for Work First New Jersey General Assistance and are in a work activity for 28 days while their application is being reviewed. No penalty will be assessed to you if you do not attend your work activity.

Please call our call center at 973-395-8000 to schedule a telephone interview.

When you need to bring paperwork to the office, you can fax, mail or look for the drop box located at 18 Rector Street, Newark, NJ 07102 or 50 South Clinton Street East Orange, NJ 07018