NJ SHARES’ MISSION STATEMENT

NJ SHARES PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED OF HELP MEETING THEIR UTILITY BURDEN. THROUGH ADVOCACY, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND REFERRAL, WE CONNECT LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSEHOLDS WITH AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

NJ SHARES’ ASSISTANCE

Energy costs can add a significant burden to family budgets. Whether a family or individual is on a limited income or faced with an unanticipated financial hardship, NJ SHARES provides a safety-net for households who need assistance and do not qualify for other programs.

Additional Programs

Telephone Assistance: NJ SHARES is focused on providing our clients with the highest level of support, information and access to resources. In partnership with Verizon New Jersey, the NJ SHARES Client Services Call Center connects clients to the Verizon Communications Lifeline program ensuring seniors and low income households stay connected, allowing people to reach their doctors, families, and emergency services if needed.


NJ SHARES’ IMPACT

Through the generosity of our donors, partner agencies and supporters, we can celebrate the true impact our energy program has made for 180,000 households since 1998.

Offering Hope, Delivering Help

77% OF ALL GRANTEES FROM 2005 TO DATE RECEIVED A GRANT IN ONLY ONE OF THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Data shown on all sidebars is based on an annual impact evaluation by Applied Public Research Institute for Study and Evaluation (APRISE).
Dear Friends:

NJ SHARES is a safety-net for households in an emergency or crisis situation and our programs are needed now more than ever. Economic recovery in New Jersey is slow, and we know from the Legal Services' Poverty Benchmarks Report that poverty in New Jersey is at record levels not seen in 50 years.

Since anyone can face a financial crisis, it is important to note that NJ SHARES grants are available for the working poor, those facing a temporary setback and those with vulnerable household members. A recent program-impact evaluation indicates that 82 percent of our grant recipients have employment income. Last year, 50 percent of households who received NJ SHARES assistance had a child under the age of 18 and 53 percent had a household member over 50 years old. In 2015, NJ SHARES was able to assist thousands of households with their energy, telephone and water utility needs. This impact is only possible with your support.

NJ SHARES remains committed to working together with our partners to encourage dialogue on critical issues surrounding poverty in New Jersey. This year we had the opportunity to work with acclaimed film directors Harry and Joe Gantz to create a customized version of their film, American Winter. This powerful, compelling video provides a candid look into what real struggling households endure when utility bills cannot be paid and the difficult daily choices they are forced to make to keep their families warm, safe and fed.

In today's increasingly interconnected world, telecommunications services provide a vital lifeline to emergency services, caregivers, friends and family. Communications Lifeline provides crucial financial assistance for qualified consumers. NJ SHARES celebrates 10 years of partnership with Verizon NJ providing outreach and enrollment services for their Communications Lifeline program. We are proud to work together to connect our neighbors with vital resources.

We also celebrate 10 years of providing water assistance to SUEZ Water (formerly United Water) company customers in New Jersey and in 4 additional states. NJ SHARES administers water assistance programs for SUEZ Water and New Jersey American Water companies.

As we work together to help our neighbors who are facing difficult circumstances, we are grateful for your continued support. Together we work hard to provide solutions for our New Jersey neighbors in need and avoid the tragedies associated with using unsafe methods to light and heat their homes.

Warm Regards,

Alita T. Corbett
Board Chairperson

James M. Jacob
President and CEO
NJ SHARES RECIPIENTS WERE LIKELY TO HAVE VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.

50% HAD A CHILD 18 OR YOUNGER IN THE HOME.

53% HAD A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER OVER 50 YEARS OLD.

“NJ SHARES offers our clients an additional resource for much needed utility assistance.”

Renee Gordon-Johnson, Site Manager, the Center For Food Action, Saddle Brook.

ADVOCACY, COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

NATIONALLY

AMERICAN WINTER
Through our partnership with the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC), NJ SHARES had the opportunity to work with acclaimed film directors Joe and Harry Gantz, to edit a short customized version of their award-winning documentary American Winter.

American Winter vividly illustrates what has been happening to families across America, including working families losing their homes, people remaining jobless or underemployed, children going hungry, families getting their heat shut off in the dead of winter, and people with health issues being overwhelmed by medical costs. NJ SHARES has used the film in our outreach events across the state and it can be downloaded and viewed from our website.

More than 100 community leaders attended Atlantic City Electric’s Energy Summit where NJ SHARES debuted our custom American Winter film. The film was featured at 20 energy and community events this year, which educate community partners on the resources available to help struggling families maintain their utility services.

Pictured at the NJ SHARES display at the Statehouse are Barbara Gomes and Jim Jacob.
ENERGY AND UTILITY AFFORDABILITY ACTION DAY
NJ SHARES’ participated in the National Energy Affordability Action Day in Washington, DC. The event, sponsored by NEUAC, brought together energy assistance organizations and advocates from across the nation to visit their representatives on Capitol Hill and ask for their critical support to provide relief to those in crisis.

NJ SHARES HIGHLIGHTED AT NATIONAL CONFERENCES
Our work was showcased at the 2015 National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference held in Baltimore, MD and at the Annual Call Center Week Conference in Las Vegas, NV. NJ SHARES’ approach to connecting clients to resources through our Client Services Call Center was showcased as a unique example to the industry.

LOCALLY
In 2015, NJ SHARES partnered with 230 organizations and participated in 248 events to provide support and create awareness of the struggle of the working poor population.

NJ SHARES held a ‘Day at the Statehouse’ event to educate decision makers on the importance of energy and utility affordability. Our team provided visitors and staff with information on all of our programs.

Our partnership with the Anti-Poverty Network enabled us to highlight the impact of the NJ SHARES’ energy safety-net program in a discussion regarding working poor and anti-poverty efforts in New Jersey. Three working poor community heroes shared their story with local, county and state officials, who pledged to take budget actions that could restore economic fairness.

“The working poor share their stories during a discussion at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. Pictured are Nursing Assistant Devika Smith (Middle), Jim Jacob, President & CEO, NJ SHARES (left) and New Jersey Senate President Stephen Sweeney (right).”

NJ SHARES’ RECIPENTS ARE THE WORKING POOR.

82% HAD EMPLOYMENT INCOME.

60% HAD INCOME BETWEEN 200% AND 300% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

“If you have something, you are supposed to share it. NJ SHARES does so much for our neighbors in need. Being a school nurse for more than 20 years, I saw children whose families needed the support of NJ SHARES and I am happy to do my part in helping families afford the basic necessities.”

Eileen Gurski
NJ SHARES HELPS CLIENTS WHO ARE IN SERIOUS DANGER WITH THEIR UTILITY BILLS.

40% HAD THEIR SHUTOFF DATE PASSED.

13% HAD THEIR UTILITY SERVICE TERMINATED.

“I give to NJ SHARES and I will do so as long as I live because I know it helps my neighbors right here in New Jersey.”

Frances Molnar

ADVOCACY, COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION continued

A DECADE OF CONNECTING CLIENTS

This past year marked the 10th anniversary of our Client Services Call Center. The NJ SHARES Client Services Call Center, sponsored by Verizon NJ, assists people on the application and enrollment process for the Communications Lifeline program. Also clients can be categorically eligible to receive 10 additional programs.

Verizon NJ and NJ SHARES first partnered in October 2005 to open the NJ SHARES Client Services Call Center. Today, our partnership is stronger than ever, providing help to more than 100,000 households in need each year.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

Our collaborative culture enables us to work together with more than 230 organizations to provide solutions for families and individuals who need our services. To educate the public on our programs, NJ SHARES participated in 248 community events in 2015.

NJ SHARES SPEAKS WITH VETERANS AT GI GO FUND JOB FAIR

NJ SHARES joined more than 500 people including active duty personnel, veterans and their families and more than 60 exhibitors at the Seventh Annual Newark Veterans Job Fair hosted by The GI Go Fund at Rutgers’ Newark Campus. NJ SHARES provided information on our safety-net programs that veterans can utilize if they’re having difficulty making ends meet while they look for employment.
NJ SHARES JOINS WELLS FARGO MOBILE UNIT

NJ SHARES joined our community partners at the Wells Fargo Mobile Unit in Egg Harbor Township to give special assistance to Atlantic City and surrounding communities. Residents who were facing financial difficulties had the opportunity to meet with Wells Fargo representatives and other dedicated individuals from various community resource programs to get valuable information regarding mortgage assistance and other financial needs.

NJ SHARES PARTICIPATED IN THE 16TH ANNUAL BURLINGTON COUNTY SENIOR EXPO

Organized by the Burlington County Sheriff's Office and Board of Chosen Freeholders, this event provided NJ SHARES with an opportunity to distribute information about our programs to more than 500 seniors as well as network with other community groups.

NJ SHARES SUPPORTS NEW JERSEY’S SOCIAL WORKERS AT LOCAL CONFERENCE

NJ SHARES celebrates the many lives that are improved by the numerous unsung heroes that provide social services throughout our state’s communities. Dena Shipley, NJ SHARES’ Outreach Coordinator, managed an exhibit table at the NJ Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers Conference, giving us the opportunity to meet with social workers one-on-one and talk about our various programs and services.

NJ SHARES REQUIRES THAT CUSTOMERS MAKE A GOOD FAITH PAYMENT TOWARD THEIR UTILITY BALANCE IN THE 90 DAYS PRIOR TO APPLYING FOR A GRANT.

79% had payments over $100 in the 90 days prior to grant receipt. The average payment was $434.

“Utility assistance is an unmet need for much of the community impacted by Superstorm Sandy. We also see clients who just need the help of NJ SHARES to continue to live self-sufficiently. We are grateful for NJ SHARES’ programs and the impact they make for a segment of our clients who often do not qualify for other programs.”

Deanna Sovern, Director of Community Based Programs, Red Bank Resource Network.
NJ SHARES’ GRANT IMPACT

DESPITE THE LARGE PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY RECIPIENTS FACED AFTER RECEIVING THEIR GRANTS, MANY WERE SUCCESSFUL IN MEETING THEIR BILL OBLIGATIONS IN THE YEAR FOLLOWING GRANT RECEIPT.

90% IS THE AVERAGE AMOUNT RECIPIENTS WERE ABLE TO PAY OFF THEIR CURRENT BILL.

RETIREES TO VOLUNTEERS

NJ SHARES’ ‘Founding Fathers’ James Dieterle and Michael Swayze retired this year. Both James and Michael are advocates for others, dedicating their lives to bettering the lives of our neighbors through their work with AARP NJ and the Union County Division of Social Services respectively.

The NJ SHARES Board of Directors credits Michael with the vision of a statewide heating assistance program for households with nowhere else to turn. He led the original steering committee which gathered non-profit and utility industry leaders as well as concerned citizens. James also had a major role on the steering committee, a group that eventually formed NJ SHARES in 1998.

NJ SHARES is delighted both men will continue to work with us as volunteers.

James Dieterle with Barbara Gomes.

Michael Swayze at his former Union County office.

Mary Grassi, energy affordability expert and a recent retiree of a Pennsylvania public utility company joined the NJ SHARES volunteers network. Mary has a broad range of experience on low-income and energy efficiency issues, including project design, contract management and regulatory matters.

Mary Grassi with Jim Jacob.
NJ SHARES NEIGHBORHOOD HEROES

Our work is not possible without the support of the many individuals and organizations we call Neighborhood Heroes. We are grateful for the warm hearts of our legislators, community partners and agencies, along with our corporate, foundation and individual donors. Because of their generous support, we are able to provide our New Jersey neighbors with the financial assistance and resources they need to stay safe in their homes.

NJ SHARES Night at the Devils Game Event Supporters.

PNC Foundation Joseph Whall and Michael Nardo Executive Vice President of PNC Bank stand with NJ SHARES’ Alita T. Corbett and Jim Jacob.

NJ SHARES’ Dena Shipley (far left) joined utility company partners Vincent Malone and Alita T. Corbett from Atlantic City Electric (center) and Peter Eschbach from New Jersey American Water (far right) at an energy assistance event in Atlantic County. NJ SHARES’ partnerships with ACE and NJAW make it possible to provide life sustaining services such as electric and water assistance to customers in need. Our community partners, the Family Service Association and the United Way were also at the event to ensure that NJ SHARES assistance programs reach the people who need them most.

Thomas Hayes and Bill Bradshaw Showcase NJ SHARES' American Winter Film at New Jersey Natural Gas’ 2015 Customer and Energy Forum.

Gina LaPlaca from Verizon New Jersey and NJ SHARES CEO, Jim Jacob.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Alita T. Corbett  
Chairperson  
Atlantic City Electric

Barbara Shissias  
First Vice Chairperson  
Jersey Central Power & Light, a FirstEnergy Company

Michael Swazye  
Second Vice Chairperson  
Member At Large

Joan Sweeney  
Secretary  
South Jersey Gas

Gregory L. Seitz  
Treasurer  
New Jersey Natural Gas

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James Dieterle  
AARP Volunteer

Sheldon Presser  
Advocates for Children of New Jersey

Robin Rodriguez  
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Joyce Campbell  
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Harold Garwin, Esq.  
Community Health Law Project

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Edward Miller  
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Jacob Toporek  
New Jersey State Association of Jewish Federations

Michael Nardo  
PNC Bank

Claire Bartolomeo  
Public Service Electric and Gas

Linda Feger  
Rockland Electric

Joan Sweeney  
South Jersey Gas

Brenda Beavers  
The Salvation Army

Gina LaPlaca, Esq.  
Verizon New Jersey

NJ SHARES Executive Committee: Barbara Shissias, Jim Jacob, Alita T. Corbett, Gregory L. Seitz and Michael Swayze. Joan Sweeney is not pictured.

NJ SHARES Board of Trustees: Front Row: Joyce Campbell, Linda Feger and Jacob Toporek. Middle Row: Reverend Sara Lilja, Mayor Janice Mironov, Gina LaPlaca, Alita T. Corbett, Michael Swayze and Michael Nardo. Last Row: Barbara Shissias, Michael Vogel, Gregory L. Seitz, Sheldon Presser and Claire Bartolomeo.
Contributions from individual donors go toward energy assistance and may qualify for a dollar–for–dollar match by the individual’s utility company.
During the harsh winter months, we realize how critical it is to have the basic necessity of heat in our homes to keep our families safe. However, the reality is, not every family can afford their monthly utility bills. A budget that enables self-sufficiency in New Jersey is almost double the national average.

Since more than half of all jobs in New Jersey pay less than $40,000 a year, hardworking families across the state are being forced to choose between basic necessities to reduce their expenses. This is why organizations such as NJ SHARES and their 230 organizational sponsors, which provide utility grants and education, are so important in ensuring every New Jersey family can pay their utility bill. As a state legislator, it is my hope to continue to develop legislation that helps ensure hard working New Jersey families do not have to make the choice between feeding their children and paying their utility bills.

NJ SHARES knows just how hard it can be for individuals and families to put money aside to pay for energy and utility bills on top of already saving to pay for groceries, school and other important life necessities. It is our responsibility as legislators to enact meaningful legislation to help them in that purpose and cut the cost of living in our state, while also safeguarding our environment.
Scott T. Rumana (R) Republican Whip from the 40th Legislative District

“Last year’s record-setting cold winter did more than stretch the patience of us all. For some, it stretched their budgets beyond their breaking points.

Thanks to NJ SHARES, residents facing temporary financial hardships do not have to choose between heating their homes and putting food on the table.

As a legislator, I want to commend NJ SHARES, its team of outstanding professionals dedicated to helping their neighbors and the individuals and corporations who donate to make sure that NJ SHARES can continue to serve as a safety-net for those in need. You help us help others and for that I am grateful.

I pledge to continue to fight to make New Jersey a more affordable place to live and also to make sure I do all I can to keep businesses and jobs here.

In the meantime, thank you, NJ SHARES, for doing so much good.”

Assemblyman Chris A. Brown (R) from the 2nd Legislative District

“I would like to congratulate NJ SHARES on the wonderful work they do year round to help out New Jersey residents. I know my office, with the help of NJ SHARES, is able to help constituents that contact us and need help with their utility bills. Water and electricity are not luxuries, they are basic necessities that everyone needs to have access to.”

Assemblyman Gordon M. Johnson (D)

from the 37th Legislative District

“I would like to congratulate NJ SHARES on the wonderful work they do year round to help out New Jersey residents. I know my office, with the help of NJ SHARES, is able to help constituents that contact us and need help with their utility bills. Water and electricity are not luxuries, they are basic necessities that everyone needs to have access to.”

Assemblyman Chris A. Brown (R)

from the 2nd Legislative District

“The middle-class families and retirees in Atlantic County are going through a tough time right now. In the face of unacceptable unemployment and foreclosure rates, I am happy NJ SHARES is helping middle-class families and retirees in Atlantic County get back on their feet.

NJ SHARES keeps the heat and the lights on for families struggling to make ends meet.

Recently, my office worked with NJ SHARES to help restore the Communications Lifeline enrollment for a constituent, who is legally deaf. NJ SHARES went the extra mile to help her by coming to my office and meeting with her to resolve her problem.

I am grateful for the partnership I have with NJ SHARES because the help they give makes it just a bit easier for the people I represent to make ends meet until they can get back on their feet.”

Pictured from left – Gina Chea, Linda Ellis, Assemblyman Chris Brown and Kimberly Warrick.
NJ SHARES programs provide a much needed safety-net for families who need the stability that utility assistance can provide.”

Priscilla Machado, Director, Bayway Family Success Center
|our partners|

AGENCIES

Alliance Center for Independence
AtlanticCare Behavioral Health Hammonton Family Success Center
Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group
Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation
Bayway Family Success Center
Bethel Development Corporation
Beyond Today
Bloomfield Department of Health and Human Services
Borough of Lincoln Park – Mayor’s Office
Borough of Neptune City and West Long Branch
Boys and Girls Club – Garfield
Boys and Girls Club – Union Township
Boys and Girls Club – Vineland Township
Brick Senior Outreach Services
Bromley Neighborhood Civic Center
Burlington County Community Action Program, Inc.
Camden City Independent Living Center, Inc.
Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity, Inc.
CASA PRAC, Inc. (Puerto Rican Action Council)
Cathedral Community Development Corporation
Catholic Charities, Inc. – SUEZ Cares – Delaware
Catholic Charities – Archdiocese of Newark – Essex Parish Access Center
Catholic Charities – Archdiocese of Newark – Union Parish Access Center
Catholic Charities – Diocese of Metuchen
Catholic Charities – Diocese of Trenton
Catholic Family and Community Services
Center for Food Action
Center for Independent Living of South Jersey
Christian Caring Center, Inc.

Bayway staff and NJ SHARES partners’ Dominque Garrett and Medji Jean.

Betty Harden, Arlene Almonte, Mujiba Parker, Dalia Gonzales at Camden OEO.

Kelly Terranova, Renee Gordon-Johnson and Grace Brockel from Center for Food Action.
“Our center is a progressive hub offering a menu of services to help households remain successful. We are thrilled to be a new partner with NJ SHARES and to offer the members of our community a place to turn to for help with their utility bills.”

Tahira Chambers, Director,
Hillside Family Success Center

—

“We are so fortunate to be working with NJ SHARES. For the past eleven years we have been able to provide invaluable and much needed services to the community.”

L. Kathy McCarey, Principle Tenant
Interviewer / Investigator
“We know that a warm night is not a given for the families we serve, NJ SHARES enables us to help clients who do not qualify for other assistance.”

Connie Mercer, 
President & Chief Executive Officer
Lawrence Community Center
Carmen Riveria, Bilingual Family Resource Specialist and Deanna Sovern, Director of Community Based Programs for Red Bank Resource Network.

“"We are truly grateful to be able to work with NJ SHARES in our efforts to assist Middlesex county residents. NJ SHARES enables us to broaden our reach to families with a slightly higher income range that we are not able to help with the LIHEAP resources we have. THANK YOU NJ SHARES.”

Cuqui Rivera, PRAB


Carmen Riveria, Bilingual Family Resource Specialist and Deanna Sovern, Director of Community Based Programs for Red Bank Resource Network.
Ruth Murphy, Christie Winters, NJ SHARES’ Dena Shipley and Visitation’s Cheri Gleason.

“We are very proud to serve our town and the surrounding communities in the continued Superstorm Sandy recovery effort. Partnering with programs like NJ SHARES can help our recovering residents with their unmet needs.”

Christie Winters, Executive Director, the Visitation Relief Center.

Dena Shipley (NJ SHARES), Mike McNeil and Lynne Liotino (STEPS).

“Our partnership with NJ SHARES enables STEPS to connect struggling, working families with resources to help them to get back on their feet.”

Lynne Liotino, Vice President, STEPS.
New Jersey SHARES, Inc.
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TEL 609 – 883 – 1626
FAX 609 – 883 – 6364
EMAIL info@njshares.org
WEB www.njshares.org

Energy Assistance Hotline

NJ SHARES is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization.

Visit: NJSHARES.org/warmheart
Tax deductible donations to NJ SHARES may be made online at: NJSHARES.org/donate
Mobile Giving Option: Text NJSHARES to 50155

"My husband was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis and when his health started to worsen the medical bills started piling high. Doctor bills and prescription medicines consumed more than half of our fixed income. He is in a wheelchair now and we keep him warm with an electric blanket that my daughter bought him for Christmas. I tried to balance staggering bill payments from month-to-month but eventually I couldn’t catch up. I felt overwhelmed with my utility bills. I was so relieved and grateful NJ SHARES was able to help us."

Lois, a grateful recipient from Hamilton Square

Special thanks to:
- MGT Design
- Jon Roemer Photography, L.L.C.