The Office of Support, Employment & Training
Economic Self-Sufficiency and Advancement

Displaced Homemaker Programs In NJ
Webinar, October 8, 2020
Mission and Vision

The Division on Women was established in 1974, as a pioneering state agency for women’s advocacy throughout the state.

To create, promote & expand the rights & opportunities for all women in NJ.
The Office of Support, Employment & Training

Economic Self-Sufficiency and Advancement

Moving the dial one step at a time
Partnerships with the Department of Labor & Workforce Development

4 Technical Training Opportunities/ Year

One Stop Career Centers
Provide a multitude of services

Talent Network
Industry Partnerships
In 1979 the New Jersey Displaced Homemakers Act was signed into law to establish programs that assist individuals who have lost their primary source of income due to divorce, separation, death or disability of a spouse, and who must obtain or upgrade their skills for transition into the paid job market. They may come from a wide range of gender, age, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

*It is important to note that although participants of Displaced Homemaker programs historically have primarily been women, Division on Women and its contracted entities serve all eligible individuals.*
What is a Displaced Homemaker?
(as defined in N.J.S.A 52:27D-43.19)

As used in P.L.1979, c.125 (C.52:27D-43.18 et seq.), a "displaced homemaker" is an individual who has not worked in the labor force for a substantial number of years but has, during those years, worked in the home providing unpaid services for family members and has been dependent upon the income of another family member but is no longer supported by that income and: (one of the following)

b. Is receiving public assistance because of dependent children in the home but is within one year of no longer being eligible for assistance; or

c. Is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment; or

d. Is at least 40 years of age, an age at which discrimination based on age is likely, and at which entry or reentry to or advancement in the labor market is difficult.
Catchment Area

Programs serve the entire county.

Programs may also serve individuals from neighboring counties for various reasons:

The specific service or training is not offered by county of residence.

Transportation is not readily available in county of residence.

Programs may share individuals seeking services from each county.
Currently there are 22 Displaced Homemaker Programs exist in 21 counties across NJ. With Two in Bergen County:

In 2019 DCF established Displaced Homemaker Programs in five counties that previously did not receive service. These programs are at different stages of implementation:

- Camden County
- Cape May County
- Mercer County
- Salem County
- Somerset County

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic most services are currently being provided remotely*
Goals for DH Programs/Centers

- Economic Self-Sufficiency for those seeking employment
- Self-Sufficiency through Partnerships, Education and Training
- To cultivate partnerships and draw from all available resources in the community in order to better serve NJ.
- To engage in dialogue with peers and community experts in order to learn and share best practices.
How Our Programs Achieve Economic Self-Sufficiency

- Job Counseling and Training
- Financial Literacy Services
- Computer Literacy Training
- Information and Referral Services
- Short Term Education Certificates
- Education Services
- Workshops
Each Displaced Homemaker Program has available funds designated for tuition assistance for short term training in high demand fields.

In addition to tuition funds can be made available to assist with:

- Childcare (while attending training)
- Transportation (To and from training)
- The cost of materials associated with the training.
- Any fees associated with licensing or certification
Displaced Homemaker programs partner with local banking and financial service providers to offer financial literacy workshops and services on topics including:

- Budgeting
- Estate planning
- Understanding mortgages and loans
- Insurance
- Housing
- Credit
- Balancing a check book
- Opening a savings or checking account
Computer Literacy Training

All Displaced Homemaker programs offer computer literacy classes that provide:

1. Microsoft Word
2. Microsoft Excel
3. Microsoft PowerPoint
4. Internet
5. Online job searches
Displaced Homemaker Programs provide numerous workshops on a variety of issues affecting program participants. When necessary, programs partner with outside experts in a variety of fields to provide workshops which aim to inform and empower displaced homemakers. Topics can include:

- Workshops on “in demand” careers, as defined by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Legal counseling and referral.
- Financial Services
- Resume writing and mock interviews
- Health and Education (workshops covering topics such as, self development, empowerment, and self-esteem)
- Etc.
Economic Self-Sufficiency through Collaboration

- Displaced Homemaker Programs
- Partnership with The Department of Labor & Workforce Development
- One Stop Career Centers
- Private Sector
How Displaced Homemaker Program Achieve Outcomes

**Implemented in:** County Colleges, Non-Profit organizations, YMCA, One Stop Agencies, etc.

**Collaborations & Partnerships:** State & Local Resource Partners; Family Success Centers; Department of Labor; County Colleges; Domestic Violence providers, Legal Services of New Jersey and Pro bono attorneys, libraries.

**Funding:** State Legislation P.L. 1993, c.188. State Appropriation and Divorce Filing Fees.
Why We Collect Data

DCF-DOW
Office of Support, Employment & Training
The Division on Women’s responsibility for Continuous Study

N.J.S.A 52:27D-43.22 Continuous study of needs of displaced homemakers.

The Division on Women within the Department of Children and Families shall make a continuous study of the needs of displaced homemakers, and effective programs and services and funding available to meet those needs....
Division on Women

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Thank You