

# Township of Montclair

Department of Health and Human Services

## Annual Report 2023



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Montclair Health & Human Services



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The Montclair Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) is pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report. This overview summarizes our efforts to prevent disease and promote physical and mental well-being to ensure the highest quality of life for the residents we serve.

As we turned the page from 2022, it was clear that the mission of the pandemic response was shifting. While COVID-19 continued to be a part of our activities, we began to refocus more on other services that keep our community safe and healthy. Our inspectors restarted food handler courses and our nurses reinitiated in-person blood pressure screenings for Senior Citizens and others in the communities we serve. Our Division of Senior Services held many more in-person classes and the Animal Shelter ramped up dog adoptions as a result of residents surrendering dogs at record numbers which they had acquired during the early days of the pandemic.

Our hope is to expand our Health Education efforts in 2024 and we encourage residents to reach out to us to let us know of any programming they are interested in. We look forward to continuing to serve the community during the upcoming year and beyond.

In Health,

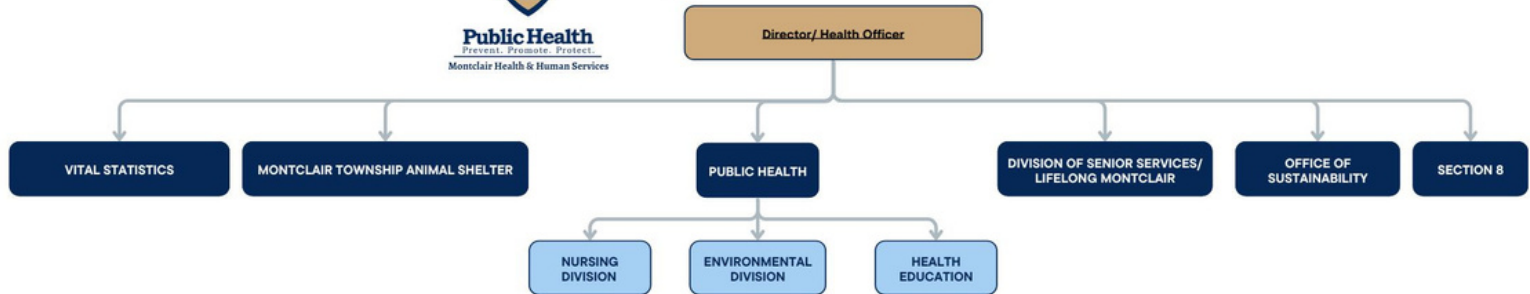
**Amy S. Monaco, MPH, HO**

Health Officer/Director of Health & Human Services

# Organizational Chart



## Township of Montclair Department of Health & Human Services



# What is Public Health?

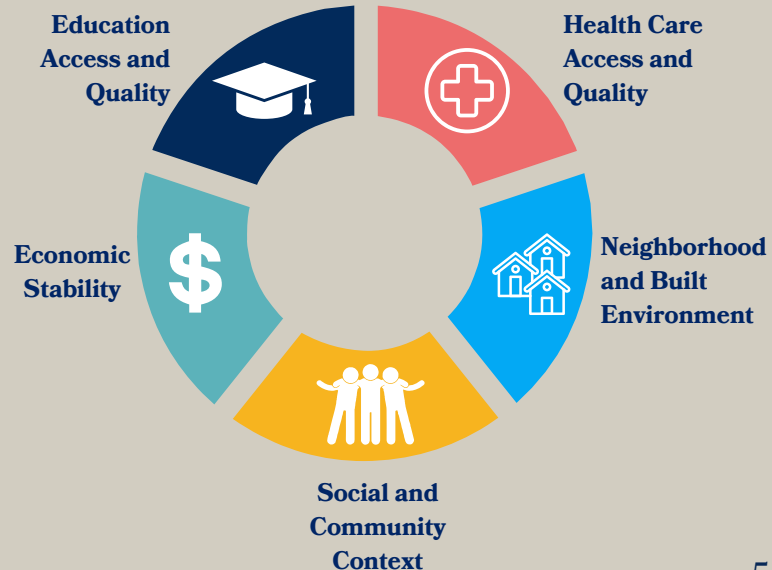
Public health is the root of our health care system and helps to improve our quality of life. Every day, the public health field is working – often behind the scenes – to prevent hazards and keep people healthy.

## 10 Essential Public Health Services

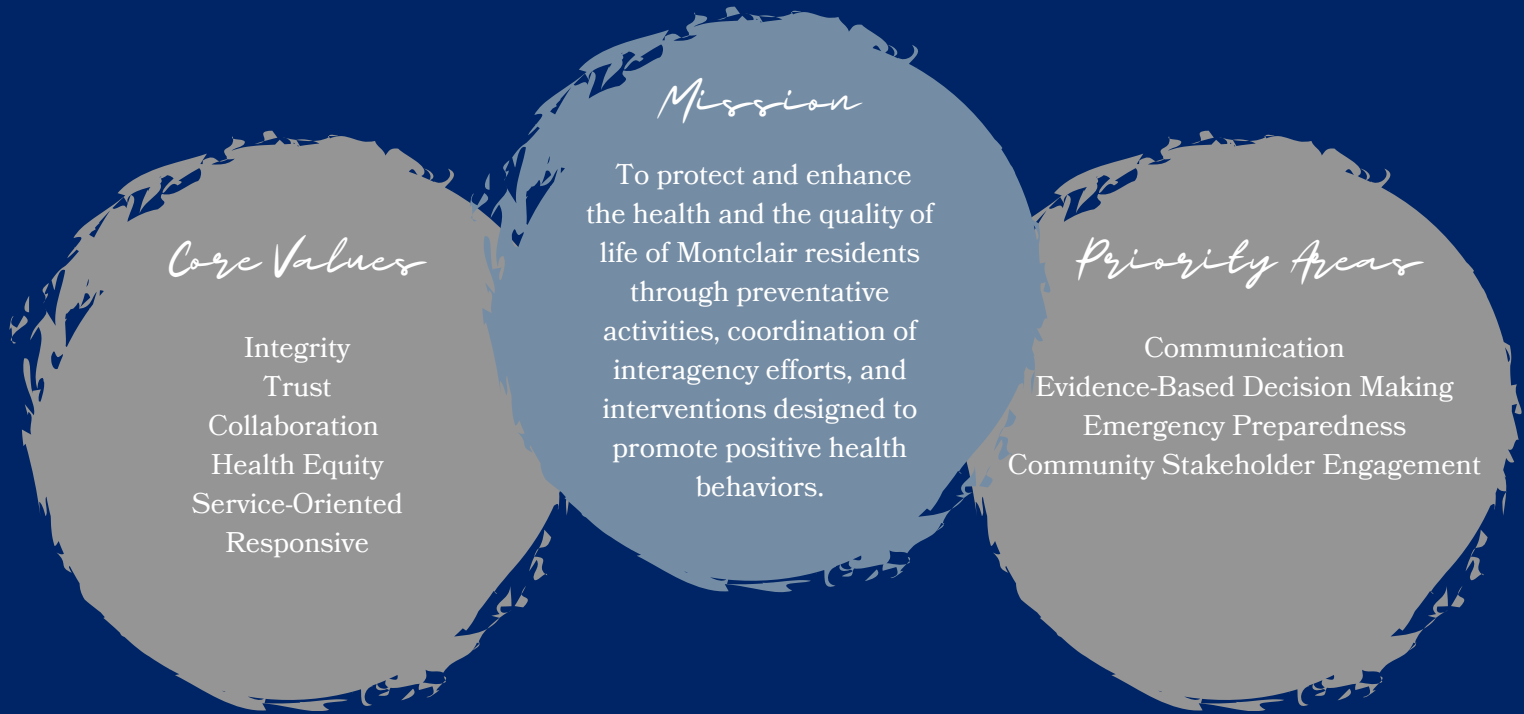
1. **Assess and monitor** population health.
2. **Investigate, diagnose, and address** health problems and address health hazards and root causes.
3. **Communicate effectively** to inform and educate.
4. **Strengthen, support, and mobilize** communities and partnerships.
5. **Create, champion, and implement** policies, plans, and laws.
6. **Utilize legal and regulatory actions.**
7. **Enable equitable access.**
8. **Build a diverse and skilled** public health workforce.
9. **Improve and innovate** public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement.
10. **Build and maintain** a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

## Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

SDOH are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.



# Mission, Core Values and Priority Areas



# Communities We Served in 2023

## **Township of Montclair**

205 Claremont Ave  
Montclair, NJ 07042

## **Township of Verona**

600 Bloomfield Avenue  
Verona, NJ 07044

## **Township of Cedar Grove**

525 Pompton Avenue  
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

## **Township of Nutley**

149 Chestnut St  
Nutley, NJ 07110

# 2023 Revenue

Inter-local Agreements.....	\$215,906.00
Retail Food Licenses.....	\$110,992.25
Vital Statistics (births, deaths, marriages).....	\$37,986.00
Animal Control and Shelter (adoptions, microchipping, surrenders).....	\$17,978.00
Dog Licenses.....	\$15,735.00
Animal Shelter Donations.....	\$4,333.25
Cat Licenses.....	\$1,250.00

**Total Revenue ..... \$404,180.50**



# 2023 Grants

USDA Urban Forestry .....	\$1,000,000
Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure (January-June 2023).....	\$537,606
Strengthening Local Public Health.....	\$406,046
Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure (July-December 2023) .....	\$269,798
NJBPU Clean Fleet Program .....	\$264,000
Childhood Lead .....	\$188,144
Partners for Health.....	\$41,000
NJBPU EV Tourism .....	\$40,000
Municipal Alliance.....	\$20,325
Mars Petcare.....	\$20,000
Visiting Nurse .....	\$14,561
Sustainable Jersey .....	\$7,500
<b>Total Grant Funds.....</b>	<b>\$2,808,980</b>

# **PUBLIC HEALTH**

## **N.J.A.C. 8:52**

**N.J.A.C. 8:52 - PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE  
FOR LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH IN NEW JERSEY**

**IN ADDITION TO A HEALTH OFFICER, THE FOLLOWING DIVISIONS ARE  
REQUIRED:**

**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
HEALTH EDUCATION**

# **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING**

# Public Health Nursing

Public health nurses **CARE** for all people in their community. Public health nurses **MONITOR** the spread of disease, keep vigilant **WATCH** for environmental hazards, **EDUCATE** the community on how to care for and treat themselves, and **TRAIN** for community disasters and bioterrorism. Public health nurses **ADVOCATE** for both the patient and the community. In 2023, the Montclair Public Health Nursing Division had:

**1,623** immunization records reviewed for Schools and Childcare Centers

**1,390** case investigations for communicable disease surveillance, investigation and education

**26** lead cases managed\*

**453** blood pressure screenings within the Montclair community

**114** vaccines administered for employees, first responders and homebound residents

**207** vaccines administered (this includes the 317/VFC program and 33 COVID-19 vaccines)

**125** vaccines provided in partnership with local pharmacy (this includes 61 COVID-19 vaccines)

\*Flip to page 14 to learn more about lead case management.

# Lead Case Management Summary

1. Following the receipt of elevated lead level results, the public health nurse (PHN) communicates with the ordering physician to confirm patient details and ensure the family has been informed and retesting scheduled.
2. The PHN then contacts the patient's family to explain the situation and why the results are reportable to the local health department, and to provide nursing case management.
3. With the family's cooperation, the PHN investigates potential causes of the high lead levels, educating the family on prevention measures. This includes diet and hygiene advice and extends to all family members.
4. Depending on the severity of the lead levels, a home visit is arranged. This includes a comprehensive investigation of potential lead exposure risks, health and nutritional assessments, and educational services.
5. A nursing care plan is drafted, outlining any necessary referrals. This is accompanied by a home inspection to identify problematic areas, providing the family with educational materials and supplies for cleaning.
6. The PHN remains a continuous support for the family, maintaining contact through various channels, and ensuring adherence to the retesting schedule.
7. Every retest, usually every 1-3 months, is followed by further communication with the treating physician and the family to discuss results, interventions, and further education if required.
8. This cycle of communication, education, and support continues until the lead levels drop below critical limits, with the health department remaining available as a resource.

# 2023 Key Initiative

**To increase the vaccination rates for seasonal Influenza and Covid-19 in our community**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Increase attention to the importance of protection and benefits provided by the annual Influenza and updated Covid-19 vaccine.

Administer Influenza and Covid-19 vaccines to employees, First Responders, Homebound residents, and vulnerable populations.

## **ACTION**

Ordered and obtained a supply of Quadrivalent Influenza, High-dose Influenza, and Covid-19 vaccines for our target populations.

Sought partnership with a local pharmacy to provide on-site vaccine clinics at senior buildings.

## **RESULTS**

Conducted seven vaccine clinics in our community in addition to our bi-monthly vaccine clinic at the Montclair Health Department.

Partnered with a local pharmacy for six on-site vaccine clinics within our community senior buildings.

Administered Covid-19 vaccines to those residents meeting current eligibility requirements. (VFC, 317, homebound residents)

# Communicable Disease Statistics

Communicable Diseases investigated in Montclair include COVID-19, Respiratory Illnesses, Bloodborne Diseases , Gastrointestinal Illnesses, Vector-borne Illnesses and much more.

**1,299**

total COVID-19 cases reported to Montclair

**91**

total health department reportable communicable disease labs investigated by Montclair

**30**

communicable disease outbreaks investigated by Montclair



**ENVIRONMENTAL**

# Environmental Division

The Environmental Division services many establishments within our community including public pools, recreational centers, retail/smoke shops, tattoo parlors, and all of the many restaurants that Montclair has to offer. The Environmental team handles:

- Childhood Lead Poisoning
- Rodent Control
- Public Health Nuisance
- Facility Plan Review
- Foodborne Illness
- Food Handler Training
- Body Art
- Rabies Vaccinations

**397**

Restaurant Inspections



10% of inspections were conditional/unsatisfactory

**29**

New Restaurants Opened

**85**

Sidewalk Cafe Licenses

**197**

Temporary Food Permits

**33**

Lead Inspections

**229**

Complaints Investigated

**426**

Dogs/Cats Vaccinated against Rabies

## 2023 Key Initiative

### CHILDHOOD LEAD ABATEMENT FUNDING

The Environmental Team connected families with lead burdened children to State funding that would help pay for the costs associated with removing lead hazards from their home. This funding paid up to \$25,000 towards lead abatement for each low-income family that had one or more children with an elevated blood lead level.

# HEALTH EDUCATION

# Health Education

In 2023, the Health Education team was revamped and began focusing on creating, implementing, overseeing, and analyzing programs and strategies that promote health and well-being. The team offers various resources including a monthly health department newsletter, collaborative programing and health trainings.

## **In 2023, Health Education....**

- Began Monthly English/Spanish Health Department newsletter
- Fostered new collaborative efforts with various community partners
- Began the process of creating a Narcan Training program with the Montclair Ambulance Unit
- Disseminated an Opioid Prevention Programming survey to the Montclair community
- Distributed 76 Opioid Backpack Gifts utilizing the Nationwide Opioid Settlement Funds

## **In 2024, Health Education plans to.....**

- Expand the Narcan Training Program to residents of Montclair
- Increase lead awareness in families, especially those with young children
- Increase nutrition understanding and knowledge
- Collaborate on inter-generational health initiatives with various community partners
- Establish a strategic plan

### **Opioid Prevention Programming Survey Key Finds**

- 59% of respondents stated that opioid misuse/abuse in Montclair is a moderately severe issue
- 55% of respondents stated that they did not know what to do in an opioid overdose emergency
- 43% of respondents stated that implementing more substance abuse education geared towards youth would be beneficial to the residents of Montclair
- 48% of respondents stated that implementing more substance abuse education geared towards adults would be beneficial to the residents of Montclair

# VITAL STATISTICS

# Vital Statistics

In compliance with state regulations, the Office of Vital Statistics keeps records of all births, deaths, marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships. Certified copies and genealogy search copies of vital records can be obtained through this office. In addition, the Township requires that all dogs and cats be licensed annually. This license can also be obtained through the Office of Vital Statistics.

**185**

Marriage Applications

**60**

Death Certificates Issued

**185**

Marriage Licenses Issued

**422**

Birth Certified Copies Issued

**427**

Marriage Certified Copies Issued

**1,130**

Dog Licenses Issued

**1,701**

Death Certificate Certified Copies Issued with EDRS  
(Electronic Death Registration System)

**117**

Cat Licenses Issued

# OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

# Office of Sustainability

In 2023, Montclair's Office of Sustainability achieved several significant milestones that underscore our commitment to environmental conservation and community engagement to create a greener and more environmentally conscious Township.

## **Secured a Million Dollar Grant for Urban Tree Canopy Expansion:**

The Office of Sustainability successfully obtained a substantial grant aimed at enhancing the urban tree canopy in Montclair. This initiative is pivotal in promoting green spaces, improving air quality, and fostering biodiversity within the Township. By partnering with Montclair State University's Institute of Sustainability Green Teams, this grant aims to leverage academic resources and community involvement to maximize the impact of tree planting and preservation efforts.

## **Collaborative Campaign for Home Efficiency Supported by Sustainable Jersey/PSE&G Grant:**

Using a grant provided by Sustainable Jersey, Montclair initiated an extensive campaign aimed at helping residents make their homes more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly. We presented this program at New Jersey League of Municipalities annual conference, showcasing the Township's commitment to sustainability.

## **Expanded Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Locations via BPU Grant:**

Through a grant from the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), Montclair was able to secure funding to increase the number of EV charger locations throughout the Township. This initiative aims to promote the adoption of electric vehicles, reducing carbon emissions and supporting sustainable transportation options for residents.

## **Revived Montclair's Backyard Composting Program:**

The backyard composting program was reinstated, allowing municipal residents to purchase composters at-cost. This initiative encourages composting practices, diverting organic waste from landfills and promoting soil health.

## *Mission*

To implement cost-saving energy reduction and waste prevention measures for the Township; provide information on environmental stewardship, public wellness, and economic responsibility to residents, schools, local businesses, and the municipal operations; and, as the liaison between the municipality and the Montclair Environmental Commission help create policies that protect our natural environment, the health and safety of residents, and the resilience of Montclair now and in the future.



# **DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES**

# Senior Services/Lifelong Montclair

2023 has been a year of reconstituting the Division of Senior Services in Montclair. The Division has increased staff, programs, and services, all to meet the needs of Montclair’s Senior Citizens. It has also held two focus groups with community members and produced a town-wide survey and progress report for AARP.

**NUMBER OF SENIORS PARTICIPATED IN CLASSES,  
CLUBS, AND EVENTS:**

	2022	2023
In-person	3,681	11,785
Virtual	22,432	16,978
Total	26,113	28,763



10% increase from 2022 to 2023

**Senior Services welcomed various  
new staff members including:**

**Director of Senior Services**  
(May 2023)

**Social Worker**  
(September 2023)

**Principal Clerk**  
**(part-time/grant-funded)**  
(October 2023)

**UNDUPLICATED PARTICIPANTS IN  
SENIOR SERVICE PROGRAMS:**

2022	895
2023	1,041



16% increase from 2022 to 2023

# 2023 Key Accomplishments

## Programs

- Additional site opened at Wally Choice Community Center in October 2023
- Added 2 ½ days a week of classes to address waiting list of seniors wanting to participate in classes and events
- Hosted a Community Wellness Fair at Wally Choice Community Center where 23 vendors presented resources to 112 seniors

## Support Services

- Social Worker initiated three support groups
- Responded to 46 individual cases that required information, support, or resources
  - Housing issues were identified as the number one issue for seniors calling requesting assistance

## Transportation Services

- Revamped EZ Ride/Ride for Life program
- Registered over 600 seniors and people with disabilities in program
- Provided 42,769 individual rides within Essex County and the city of Clifton
- Reintroduced Senior Bus for grocery shopping

# **ANIMAL CONTROL & SHELTER**

# Animal Control & Shelter

The Montclair Township Animal Shelter is municipally run and governed by the Township of Montclair, New Jersey. The Shelter takes in stray animals and pets whose owners are unable to keep them, and offers adoption services for pets that reside at the shelter.



# Animal Control & Shelter

Animal Control Officers have many responsibilities including capturing injured/sick animals, investigating dog bite incidents, helping shelter animals get adopted, enforcing state and local dog and cat licensing laws, providing surrender-prevention services, trapping colony cats for trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR), dealing with dog barking complaints, reuniting stray animals with their owners, conducting animal cruelty/abuse/neglect investigations, rescuing dogs and cats stuck on roofs and removing deceased animals from public property.

## Strays

108 Cats  
59 Dogs  
1 Ferret  
2 Guinea Pigs

## Total Surrenders

58 Cats  
23 Dogs  
3 Guinea Pigs

## Wildlife Taken In

26 Bats	45 Racoons
16 Deer	2 Rats
1 Ferret	10 Skunks
2 Foxes	43 Squirrels
1 Mouse	24 Woodchucks
11 Opposums	44 Birds
21 Rabbits	1 Turtle

# **\$20,000 Mars Petcare Grant Awarded to the Montclair Township Animal Shelter: “Keeping People and Pets Together”**

The Montclair Animal Shelter is implementing a program in collaboration with the Division of Senior Services, Humane Montclair, and local community stakeholders. Montclair Seniors will soon benefit from a pet adoption/foster program matching senior residents with senior dogs or cats, and cover animal care expenses for qualified and willing participants.

Studies show that owning a pet provides health benefits for seniors, such as increased physical activity and socialization, reducing feelings of isolation and reducing cognitive decline.

# Animal Control Priorities for 2024

## **Increase Dog-Related Signage in Local Parks**

In 2023, Animal Control Officers conducted a survey of all parks in the Township to ensure there is adequate signage informing the public about the Township's ordinances on dogs running at large and dog feces removal. In 2024, Animal Control will be working with the Parks Department to obtain additional signage needed for any local parks.

## **Promote Responsible Fishing and Other Outdoor Recreational Activities**

Animal Control Officers often receive calls regarding wildlife with fishing lines wrapped around their bodies, birds with fishhooks stuck in their beaks or legs, or deer caught in soccer netting. These situations could be avoided by making sure all fishing items are cleared from the area when done fishing, or by storing children's sports netting in a garage or shed when not in use. In 2024, Animal Control Officers will create an education campaign to bring awareness to the community about the simple steps that can be taken to avoid injury to wildlife.

## **Launch In-Person Animal Control Education Programs**

Montclair Animal Control Officers will patrol the neighborhoods and visiting the local parks to engage with residents to offer animal-related information and offer advice on animal bite prevention and reporting, leash laws, pet vaccination, licensing compliance and more. Plans for 2024 include holding information sessions with the Animal Control Officers and the public. Locations for these sessions will rotate throughout the Township to allow residents from each ward to participate.



# **SECTION 8/HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM**

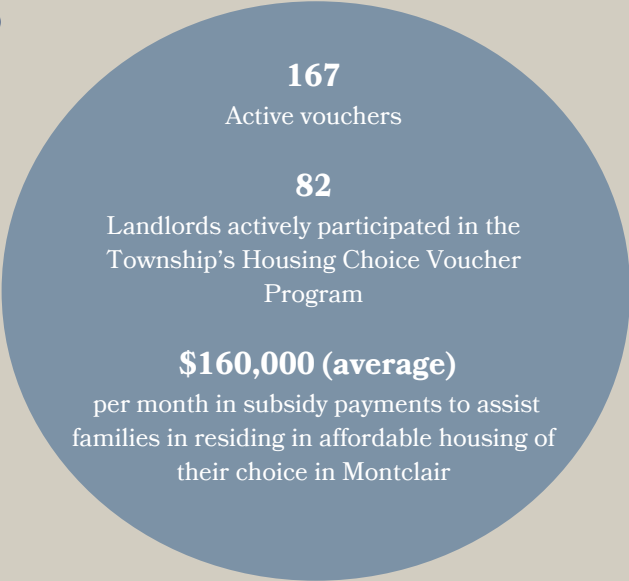
# Section 8

## Housing Choice Voucher Program

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program increases affordable housing choices for low and very low-income households by allowing families to choose privately owned rental housing. The public housing authority (PHA) generally pays the landlord the difference between 30 percent of household income and the PHA-determined payment standard - about 80 to 100 percent of the fair market rent (FMR). The rent must be reasonable as per the fair market value of the rents in the area. The goal of this program is to promote self-sufficiency for low-income program participants who do not have the means to rent at the market rate.

Through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, the administering housing authority issues a voucher to an income-qualified household, which then finds a unit to rent. If the unit meets the Section 8 Housing Quality Standards, the PHA then pays the landlord the amount equal to the difference between 30 percent of the tenant's adjusted income (or 10 percent of the gross income or the portion of welfare assistance designated for housing) and the PHA-determined payment standard for the area. The rent must be reasonable compared with similar unassisted units.

In 2023, an online portal was initiated for program participants and landlords. It allows for them to have access to their information regarding the Housing Choice Voucher Program at all times. It also allows for online annual recertifications. Residents that require assistance may come to the office to utilize the computer with the support of a staff member.



# Community Partners

- AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) West Essex Chapter
- Age Friendly North Jersey
- Aging in Montclair
- Alzheimer's New Jersey
- Arthritis Foundation
- B'nai Keshet
- Cancer Care Inc.
- Cedar Grove Senior Citizen Housing
- Chrill Care
- Clara Maass Medical Center
- Congregation Shomrei Emunah
- Essex County Division of Senior Services
- EZ Ride
- Family Service League
- First Congregational Church
- First Montclair House
- Grove Pharmacy
- Hackensack Meridian Health: Mountainside Medical Center
- Human Needs Food Pantry
- Interfaith Hospitality Overnight Shelter
- Jewish Family Services of MetroWest
- Lifeline Program
- Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris
- Montclair Ambulance Unit
- Montclair Community Farms
- Montclair Cornerstone Shelter
- Montclair Emergency Services for the Homeless (M.E.S.H)
- Montclair Fire Department
- Montclair Gateway to Aging
- Montclair Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Montclair Police Department
- Montclair Public Library
- Montclair Public Schools
- Montclair State University
- New Jersey Advocates for Aging Well
- New Jersey Aging and Disability Resource Connection
- New Jersey EASE (Easy Access, Single Entry) Essex County
- New Jersey Relay Services - AT&T
- NJ Self-Help Group Clearinghouse
- Partners for Health Foundation
- PineRidge of Montclair
- Salvation Army
- SAVE Program
- South End Gardens
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) Counseling
- The Arc of Essex County
- The Episcopal Church of St. James
- The Montclair Inn
- Toni's Kitchen
- Verona Community Center
- Verona Hillwood Terrace
- Veterans Affairs
- Wally Choice Community Center
- WIC Services
- Zufall Health - West Orange

This Annual Report was produced  
using funding from a New Jersey  
Department of Health Grant:  
Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity  
**OLPH24PHC005**

